

Compilation of ESP Students' Appreciation
(students' names have been withheld for privacy)

Fall 2020

Faculty members recognized:

Paul Bubbosh

H. Travis Gallo

Daniel Sklarew

Vivek Prasad

Jennifer Sklarew

Susan Crate

Esther Peters

Jennifer Salerno

Paul Bubbosh, J.D.
EVPP 490 Principles of Environmental Law

I have completed the course evaluation and would like to thank you for an engaging semester. I have thoroughly enjoyed the structure and can easily say this was the best online course I have taken. This content of the course provided a far more provocative law experience than PRLS-501. I had also started the course thinking I would loath the virtual classroom aspect of the course but over the course of each session, I found that it was one of the best parts of the class. I hope my evaluation assists in establishing this as a permanent course. I believe it would assist any student working towards a degree in environmental science.

I also enjoyed your final presentation on bridging the political gap in environmental science and look forward to the completion of your book.

I just completed the course evaluation for the course and send this email for your information. And I once again really want to thank you for teaching us and making this course so interesting. Even though it was challenging and intensive course for me but at the same time it also was

interesting and enjoyable to learn each material. Prior to this course, I thought the environmental law was interesting but intimidating as the image of the law only seemed super complicated. But now I really enjoy to learn more about it.
Thank you so much! Hope you stay well and have a good and warm winter.

I've completed the course evaluation and provided a screenshot.

I want to thank you again for the time and effort you put into teaching us the complex environmental laws this semester. I've taken a few online classes and yours was by far the smoothest and less intimidating one. This semester has been difficult for everyone with everything being virtual but thank you for taking the time to talk to us and offer advice.

You were an awesome professor and I hope to take another class with you in the future!

I know that the university has modified its course feedback policy this semester, but I wanted to share with you my thoughts for the Energy Law and Policy Course.

I wanted to express my immense satisfaction with the Energy Law course. I know this was your first semester testing the waters with this course. I'm one course shy of the completing the master's, and of all my courses, this course was the epitome of what I have come to envision as a "policy" course. Given the range of materials the semester covered, the course succeeded in providing the material coherently and with the right flow. Every chapter provided the historical, legislative, and legal context needed to truly understand the respective sector's policy, not just the "law."

Each week provided the right level of depth. Based on some of your announcements, it seemed the textbook wasn't everyone's cup of tea, but I can't imagine this course's success without it. As I reviewed the material for the final, I realized just how much detail the course provided. I appreciated all of the curated supplemental materials; I don't think there were any extraneous supplemental materials.

Please don't change the lecture formats, to include providing the transcripts. They were the needed primer to help set the stage for the week's material, and provided good reference going between the book, cases, and weekly questions. On the questions, I found your questions for both the legal case studies and group activities to be pointed, concise that helped me pull the "so-what" from case or reading.

If I had one critique, it would be more of a suggestion. I know I was guilty of posting late, given my time constraints. If you were to require alternating sets of students to a larger, weekly post (e.g. A-M one week, N-Z the next) at the beginning of the week (on Mondays) to

help prompt discussion throughout the week, that could inspire smaller, but more frequent discussions during the week. That I said, I am very thankful for the course's flexibility between my full time job and another master's course to boot.

All of this is say, thank you for this course. For next semester, I wouldn't change a thing. Your online format and structure inspired a greater sense of learning and interaction with the material than a majority of my in-person courses.

On a personal note, I intend to transition from the Marine Corps in the near future, and this course helped with a field direction. I've been studying energy law/policy/infrastructure in my spare time, and I enjoyed the course's breadth of material. It confirmed a lot of my suspicions that I like this area of law.

Thank you again.

Dr. Travis Gallo
EVPP 301 Environmental Science: Biological Diversity and Ecosystems
EVPP 505 R Programming for Environmental Scientists

I know everyone is busy and schedules are chaotic, so I'll do my best to keep this short.

I just wanted to thank you for a fantastic and accommodating semester. I understand that teachers bear the full brunt of the pandemic just as students do, and I appreciated all your engaging lectures. I didn't get to attend all of the in-person virtual meetings, but I watched all the recordings and learned a lot.

Thank you for everything you've done and I'm sure all of your future students will love your class.

Please take a long and relaxing break this winter and I hope I will see you around during normal times soon.

Dr. Daniel Sklarew
EVPP 322 Business and Sustainability
EVPP 480 Sustainability in Action
EVPP 490/505 Energy and Climate Action Planning

I have heard a lot of amazing things about your classes as I have moved through the EVSS program at Mason, and now in my senior year, I am finally getting the privilege of having you as a professor.

I really want to say a huge thank you to you for your attention to accessibility and inclusivity in how you speak to our class, even on the first day. Paying attention to what's going on in the world and taking time to acknowledge them in class (the [BLM] vigil you organized), acknowledging that a student MAY have an issue seeing colors when explaining the SDGs, and presenting your pronouns to the class (and NOT calling them preferred pronouns) are the examples we have already witnessed. Accessibility and inclusivity have become something I have been pushing myself to learn more about throughout my time at college. While this should be the norm in other classrooms and really in daily interactions with everyone we meet, that is not yet the case, so I just want to say that I really appreciate that you are doing your part to make GMU and the field of environmental science a more accepting place.

I'm super excited to be learning with you this semester.

Your class was awesome! Great collaboration across the Mason Community.

After being in your classes, my life has been forever changed for the better.

Your knowledge, your expertise, and your passion for change is admirable and worthy of continuous recognition. Additionally, you are someone that, when I engage in sustainability, I seek to emulate. I so respect you and thank you for allowing me to be in your classes.

In being part of your classes, I grew more into who I am and who I want to be. Sustainability has become part of me. I seek to teach and live my life as sustainably as possible. Your classes call for and encourage active participation in a field that demands nothing less, for without active participation, the energy of the movement will die and all that we have worked so hard to achieve will crumble.

The projects that I embarked on in your classes led me to grow in time management, project management, and they humbled me.

Thank you so much for being so supportive always. You were not only an advisor, you really worked with me as a friend to make it happen. I cannot say thank you enough for your contribution to my Ph.D. journey at mason as well as in the USA.

I would not be where I am if it was not for you and your network that you generously shared with me.

I wanted to say that I enjoyed this class and I'm disheartened I couldn't take it in person. Even through virtual engagement, I still found the content to be enlightening, and I especially enjoyed incorporating the pandemic into our topic discussions. [...]

This class reminded me that my college career is more than just completing all my coursework to earn a degree; it about the knowledge that you learn along the way so you can go out into the world and help make it a better place. For that, I want to thank you. I hope I get the opportunity to take another class of yours when things have started to return to normal.

Thank YOU (Dr. Dann + Greg) so much for giving us an opportunity to be student leaders on sustainability! This class was unlike any other I've ever taken. Also, shout out to all of my peers for doing amazing work this semester, especially while in a pandemic!

Thanks everyone, this was the best possible class I could have taken for my final semester!

Thank you for your time and thank you again for the most exciting offer to keep working on this CAP in the Spring! You have given me a renewed sense of purpose, as I finally feel like I am contributing something positive to the world in terms of significant action to combat Climate Change! I have been spending many years refining my lifestyle to be as green as can be, but helping to influence change on a much larger scale is where the real impactful difference can happen. I am overjoyed, and I appreciate you both (Dr. Dann + Greg Farley) sincerely for allowing me this chance to take part!

Dr. Vivek Prasad

EVPP 430/505 Fundamentals of Environmental Geographic Information Systems

EVPP 436 The Human Dimensions of Global Climate Change

Thanks for all your support and guidance this semester. I've learned a lot and now hope to utilize ArcGIS in my postgraduate studies. I will even be able to take another course from you. Again thanks.

I just wanted to say thank you for teaching this course! I learned so much and enjoyed GIS. Thank you for making it very understandable and showing us how to use the software by walking through it properly. Also, for being patient and kind with us. Appreciate all that you do.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you have a good rest of your day!

I am submitting my final project for the course. Although it took a long time, what I was doing for the project was really meaningful time. Thanks to the class. I am so glad that I had a great opportunity for learning a good program. But, I have one regrettable thing. In the mid-exam, I should have done only "reclassify", but it was a bit unfortunate that I lost 3 points (13, 14, 15) because I did Solar Radiation Analysis before "reclassify". I saw the word, "wattdir", and thought that I should naturally do Solar Radiation Analysis. Other than that, I have really enjoyed the course. Thank you so much! I hope that I can see and meet you someday again!

I enjoyed it a lot professor and I think I learned a lot from it too. Thank you for a great semester!

Dr. Jennifer Sklarew
EVPP 432/533 Energy Policy
EVPP 434/534 Food-Energy-Water Nexus

I really enjoyed the class and I think you did a fantastic job of conducting the class given the challenges with COVID. In contrast to the other classes that I took this semester your class was engaging and provided a ton of value with the speakers and virtual networking with industry professionals. Thank you so much! Can't wait to take your Food, Water, Energy Nexus class in the spring.

Thank you for an amazing semester!

Thank you so much for teaching us and making this semester so great. I enjoyed to learn more about energy policy during your class and thank you for being so thoughtful and helping me throughout this semester. I really appreciate!

I just wanted to thank you for an incredible semester, your flexibility and constant check-ins were a godsend, and you were definitely one of the most accommodating professors I've had this semester. I loved every part of this class and wish I could have participated more, but circumstances were always challenging.

Thank you for a very interesting course, and I look forward to taking energy policy next term.

Thanks again for a great year of learning!

Thank you for the great feedback. I am very pleased that I took this class, as it really opened up my eyes. I had never considered food, energy, and water in the nexus context before, but now I always find myself looking at the interconnections.

Our discussions were often the highlight of my week. I learned so much - both from our readings and from the other students. I really enjoyed being in your class!

I thoroughly enjoyed this class. The expectations were made very clear in the beginning of the semester, our papers were returned very quickly with lots of helpful comments and Dr. Jen was always very fast in replying to emails. The 3P's/3E's framework was perfect for understanding the course concepts. One of the best classes I have taken at Mason, even despite being completely online.

The reading assignments that Dr. Jen assigned were very interesting, informative and relevant to the energy industry. Having synchronous class sessions really helped to engage with the material and synthesize the readings. Despite the challenges with COVID Dr. Jen provided a

stimulating and engaging learning space and added additional value with engaging industry speakers. I really enjoyed this class.

This is the best class structure I have ever had!

Dr. Susan Crate
EVPP 637 Human Dimensions of Climate Change

I want to thank you for teaching this course! I have learned a lot from our class discussions, the readings, and presentations regarding the human dimensions of climate change, as well as the field of anthropology. This course has given me a new perspective on how I should approach science communication in my graduate and professional careers. I am very grateful for having the opportunity to be a part of your class!

Dr. Esther Peters
EVPP 427/527 Conservation Medicine
EVPP 490 Histology

I hope this email finds you well. I just wanted to take the time to say THANK YOU SO MUCH for a great semester! You have been nothing but helpful and I am grateful for coming across not only informative but caring professor. I genuinely appreciate all the hard work you put in to making sure your students, including myself, have the resources they need during distant learning to succeed. It truly makes a difference!

Stay well and enjoy the holidays!

I wanted to thank you for such a great semester! I was initially nervous about online courses, but I was pleasantly surprised. I have not taken many ecological based classes, and this class opened my mind to taking some more in the future. I really love how this class combines a variety of subjects. It allowed me to be able to refer to so many different types of sources that all gave various perspectives. I particularly enjoyed the scientific commentary the most. It really helped me to step back and pull the main idea in all my readings I do now (vital for the upcoming MCAT). I wanted to thank you for all your help, and I hope you have a happy holiday!

Dr. Jennifer Salerno
EVPP 305 Environmental Microbiology

I just wanted to say thank you for teaching these courses! I really learned a lot and have a newfound appreciation for them little microbes. Thank you for being so kind and understanding with us. I am amazed by your ability to juggle your responsibilities. Your presence is very inspiring and powerful, and it gives me hope that I will somehow find things to apply my knowledge and skills to better help this world.

Thank you for your time and all that you do. Hope you have a good one!
