



April 27, 2011

Teaching Evaluation for Pam Karr-Wisniewski

This teaching evaluation was conducted for ITIS 2300. The day I observed was a student work day, where students were working on their assignments in class, getting help from Pam. I observed Pam's initial announcements and discussion at the beginning of class, then asked her to leave to get personal feedback from the students.

Pam began the class by making sure everyone understood the upcoming due dates and exam. She asked for questions, and students asked a few clarifying questions. One mentioned a problem he was having with his assignment, and Pam immediately suggested the likely culprit, clearly showing her knowledge of the assignment and any coding challenges they might be having with it. It was clear from those questions and the discussion that followed that the students were very comfortable asking questions and interacting with Pam, and that she had established a good rapport with them. Despite being in a very big lecture hall, the students mostly sat down front, talked back and forth with her, and were engaged with her during the discussions.

After I asked Pam to step out, I asked the students for feedback about Pam's teaching style, preparation, and any feedback for improvement. The students were very complementary, with general agreement that she is a better instructor and a more effective instructor than most they have had previously. Students made various comments about why they thought this way:

- Pam is understanding, both in class and outside of class. The students appreciated the opportunity to make up for any assignment mistakes through later assignments and extra credit.
- Pam replies back to emails quickly, which the students greatly appreciated
- She is not rigid in her teaching style, which has helped the students feel comfortable asking questions in class as it does not interrupt class
- She has good lecture slides, and goes over them in depth. They also appreciated that she made those slides available to students on the website
- Pam is very prepared for class
- She is very available, always staying 30 minutes after class to help students and always helping them during office hours.
- Pam grades fairly

The only feedback for improvement they could provide was changing the class back to two days a week, which was out of Pam's control. The class this semester is challenging for the students to only be offered one day a week, with lots of content crammed into one long lecture. They appreciated how Pam worked with that constraint, and was reasonable and understandable of those challenges, and had engaging and detailed lectures.

Based on these comments, it is clear that Pam is a very knowledgeable, prepared, and engaged teacher. Her students clearly valued her, and were incredibly positive about having her as an instructor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Lipford
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