

Nebraska

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

Instructor

Instructor Note: *The following are the actual, unedited evaluations of AECN/NRES 883 Ecological Economics (it was numbered as 896 at that time) provided by the Spring, 2006, class which involved 14-students... with about one-half of these students in each group (on-campus and off-campus/distance ed). We have added a "Comment" at the end of each section to help in understanding the Evaluations. We will do our best to address the concerns expressed herein, as well as offered by you during the time you take the class. As you will learn when you see our "metaeconomics," the notion of empathy... walking-in-your-shoes and modifying instructor behavior accordingly... is prominent in the economics and the approach in this class. If you have specific questions/concerns after reading these materials, please feel free to contact me directly (Gary Lynne, glynne1@unl.edu; the approach of the course is described at <http://agecon.unl.edu/lynne/evolecon/evoleconsyllabus.htm>)*

INSTRUCTOR: What are your general comments about the instructor(s) in this course?

I feel the instructor was very knowledgeable on the subject but sometimes forgot that some of the students were not very economics-savvy. That's just part of taking an online course though, its harder to say, "could you slow down a bit and explain" like you can in a classroom.

open mind, carefully select the teaching content, encouraging everyone to think from different perspective.

I think the instructor is very knowledgable about the subject matter. He is extremely enthusiastic, however I am not sure that he understands that not everyone enrolled is nearly as excited. Granted, most of those enrolled had an interest or purpose for taking the course, but several of my peers dropped the class stating "that the course work was like have another full time job". I can't say I disagree. I worked more in this class than all of my other classes I took this semester combined, and I am still likely to receive a C grade.

I miss the classroom... well, actually, a coffee shop or quiet bar would do even better. The discussions would be better held in darkened rooms (OK, no smoking anymore) with passionate arguments among interested people - Gary Lynne among them! Wonderful to have his knowledge to help us through this!

He has been very influential and really liked his approach of teaching.

Dr. Lynne is a very capable, well-read, and enthusiastic instructor who definitely has command of the subject matter in this area.

Fine. However, for those persons that took the class from a distance, I felt the requirements of the instructor were a bit "overboard", especially for a distance education course.

He was very flexible, responded quickly to email. He also was quick to respond to requests like making his .ppt's printable, very helpful for me. He spoke slow enough so that he was easy to understand in his audio presentations, but not too slow. Just right.

Dr. Lynne and Donna did an excellent job of interacting with students.

Despite it was an on-line course he used an excellent interaction reflected in direct communication with students, easy to reach all the time either by email or phone. In my case, being a non native English speaker, listening his weekly presentation was not difficult at all because his pronuntiation.

Comments by the Instructor(s):

Both Donna Woudenberg (the Teaching Assistant during Spring, 2006) and I very much appreciate the many kind things said here: This is an area of science that very much intrigues us, such that our own study of it is quite enjoyable! Regarding expectations for a distance ed course, we can only say that we do our best to not distinguish the on-campus from the off-campus student, trying to ensure the highest quality offering no matter how it is delivered. Also, we all need to keep in mind that this is a graduate level course, with the expectations for self-study, self-education by the student much higher than that generally expected of undergraduate students.