

Dear Niki vonHedemann,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to observe your lecture on March 29, 2018 for the discipline GEOG303 “Field Study in Environmental Geography”. The lecture took place in the ENR2 building, room 230, from 8:30 to 11:00 am, and you taught from 9:30 to 10:30 am. There were approximately 25 students present in the classroom.

The classroom setup was very appropriate for group work. The long desks were arranged in a manner that the instructor could easily reach all the groups, and every student could comfortably visualize what was being displayed on the white screen. There was plenty of natural light and enough space between the desks.

You started by introducing the objectives of the lecture. The objectives were very clear and included action verbs, such as “evaluate” and “practice”. Subsequently, you introduced the topic by asking students about the elements that should be present in a map. The interaction with the students was very positive, and they were very willing to participate in the discussion.

You introduced the group activity of the day, providing information on how to approach it and giving some tips. As soon as you distributed the handouts, the students started working and they seemed to be very engaged in the exercise. The proposed activity involves the evaluation of maps in scientific papers. Students had to understand the purpose of the maps, evaluate if the maps contained all the elements, and reflect on what they would change to improve the quality of the maps. Each group of students worked with a different article. This activity was very appropriate and integrated with the learning objectives, promoting the development of the students’ critical thinking skills.

While the students were working, you were walking around the classroom, facilitating interactions with the students. Whenever students had questions, you promptly stopped by their desks, listened to them carefully, and helped them with the exercise. After working on the activity for approximately 15 minutes, the class got back together and you asked each group to share with the other students what they discussed about the maps. The discussion was very fluid and you demonstrated a lot of knowledge about the maps chosen for the exercise.

Following the discussion, you gave more instructions to the students about their individual projects. They had the chance to discuss about the map they had to generate with their group members before started working on their projects. Once more you were walking around the classroom to help the students and showed to be very approachable.

During the entire lecture, you fostered a very welcoming environment. Your tone was very friendly, and also respectful and professional. I believe you were able to create a great learning environment in which students were comfortable and really engaged in your lecture. Your communication was very efficient and your tone was very encouraging for the students to participate in the activities. The information was presented in a very appropriate pace and the lecture had a clear learner-centered approach.

If you have any questions about my observation, please do not hesitate to contact me through cmadeira@email.arizona.edu.

Thank you once more for allowing me to observe your lecture.

Best regards,

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