Evidence of Excellence in Teaching - Student Testimonials

For me, this course has been an absolute treasure. I started off thinking, they are kidding right – design a website! After cursing and grumbling, we started; we made mistakes; we grumbled some more; we continued; we made more mistakes… the final design is ready now. But you know, the road I have travelled to get to where I am with my web design has been the most stimulating, educational experience I have had since starting my degree. …thanks for the challenge and the learning experience, this is precisely why I want to teach, to offer challenge, stimulation and excitement – which you clearly set out and attained with this student. (Student Comment)

Course evaluation data are also supported by analytic data gained from students about the learning environment, teaching, course content, resources, use of Learning@griffith, the variety of assessment techniques, and the organisation and communication provided by the convenor/lecturer and the tutors constituting the teaching team. A specific set of challenges are presented in teaching ICT at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels as students present with a wide range of prior knowledge. In particular, there are students with little or no computing background, some students who are resistant to embrace the new ICT, and some students are cyberphobic and/or technophobic. This requires care and sensitivity in strategically responding to that wide range of needs. Qualitative data gained from students in course evaluations provide strong evidence of my effectiveness in sympathetic guidance and advising students in their growth. For example:

- This subject has taught me about the ways in which technology can be used in schools as well as what will be expected of teachers by the time I’m teaching. I’ve had a computer for 3 years and I’ve learnt more in the last semester with Glenn than in the whole 3 years at home. A very informative subject and well taught.

- I wish to commend you on your positive teaching style. There is a general feeling amongst many students taking part in this subject that your teaching style has a positive effect on the outcomes of our achievements. Thank you once again.

- Just a note to thank you for the time you devoted to us this semester. I enjoyed your Computers in Schools subject, and have learnt a great deal. The difference with this subject was that you were very approachable and genuinely showed your love of the subject and desire for us to learn. I definitely will use a lot of the resources you showed us in my Internship and future career!

- Glenn, you have been a breath of fresh air for me in my degree. You bring a school’s background and real teaching experiences as well as an academic approach to the course. From a personal point of view, I felt that you cared for my learning and was always to push me to the next level and demonstrate new and challenging ideas in teaching technology.

- Glenn = excellent.
Further Examples of Student Testimonials for Specific Courses

1074EPS Learning with ICT

• The lectures were highly informative, and the tutes are structured well to assist us with what we are expected to learn and what we are expected to do with what we learn, Glenn you do a fantastic job!!!

• Your lectures were very memorable and fun to attend. What a good role model.

• Ability to recognise and know the names of students quickly. Examples were always provided of the current topics. Emails responded to quickly. Lectures not intimidating, use of humour, therefore a relaxed learning environment.

• The entire course was done well and presented very well, it was great fun and I learned a lot. Concepts of constructivism especially were of great interest to me and I continue to use the notions and theorists from this course in my other subjects.

• I believe that the discussion boards were excellent because it allowed the students to converse easily to discuss key issues in the lesson. I myself were able to understand some components of the lectures through this means.

• Glenn has inspired me in improving my ICT skills thank you. You are inspirational and obviously love what you do. This has helped me in not being so scared of computers. I have found Glenn to be approachable and helpful. All lessons have obviously been prepared with a lot of thought this has certainly come across. You are an excellent teacher who does make a difference. Keep up the great work.

2139EPS Technology Education

• The course was well laid out and effectively scaffolded us, moving from the basics, to the essentials, to the very pinnacle of what constitutes technology practice (including materials, systems and information).

• Physically designing and creating a design challenge allowed me to see what students would be expected to do, as well as becoming familiar with design considerations and processes involved. The unit plan provided a deeper understanding of these aspects and has also given me confidence in designing unit plans as this is what would be required when we are actually teaching.

• Enthusiastic about teaching Technology. It rubs off. Well done.

• Has a wonderful rapport with students which helps to motivate students and allows students to interact with him in a postive [sic] manner.

• The tutorials were done very well. Glenn is exceptional in explaining ideas and assessment and caring for students.

• Design challenge is a brilliant assessment piece to assist in our understanding of the technology practices Forum is great to enable us to hear other points of view about the learning within the course.

• I liked the assessment for the Design Challenge – that was done well.
4075EPS Computers in Schools

- Both Kevin [tutor] and Glenn were fantastic. Loved the way both always made sure the whole class understood concepts before moving on. There are many lecturers at Griffith who could learn a lot about teaching at University level from Kevin and Glenn – perhaps they should be made sit through a few lectures to see how it can be done right!!!!!!!!

- I think all assessments were very relevant and should stay in the course. Teaching in this course was of the highest standard.

- No improvements needed – great as it is.

- Continue the webquest it is a very helpful tool for classroom teaching and learning. Learning about the Ed.Qld new strategies Smart Classrooms and the Learning Agreements were interesting.

7075EPS Computers in Schools

- The sharing of webquest resources.

- Information given on the course and assessment pieces was given right at the beginning, and that was excellent. Love that.

- You learned our names straight away, which I think is excellent. You are also very passionate about the subject matter which is obviously a positive thing.

- I found the course interesting informative and useful as I could transfer the learning to other areas of interest to me.