

June 5, 2019

To: Matthew Chmielewski  
Re: Summary of Mid-Quarter Feedback Session

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for inviting me to facilitate a Mid-Quarter Review with your students. This letter summarizes students' feedback, organized in themes that emerged from their comments.

If you would like to schedule a time to meet to discuss how you might interpret this feedback and use it to make adjustments in your course, I would be glad to set up a meeting. Let me know if there's a good time in the next couple weeks.

**Student Feedback organized by theme:**

**What about this course is helping you to learn?**

- Hands-on elements. Analyzing data that we've collected in the field is much more useful than analyzing random #'s.
- We've learned a lot about the challenges of field work and turning ambitious ideas into sensible data and results.
- Matt is an excellent teacher: friendly, approachable, and creates a positive learning environment.
- The field research helped to really understand what we were learning, and assisting us in data analysis and understanding what this means.

**What about this course could be changed?**

- Pre-lab instructions could be clearer and more thorough.
- Weaving in the final paper and data analysis throughout the duration of the course would have been helpful.
- More specific details on how data should be collected (ex. how to measure trees with many trunks).

**What specific suggestions do you have to bring about those changes?**

- Physical demonstrations before field work.
- Plant ID lessons (these could be worksheets w/ photos to look at, due to in-lab time constraints).
- Weekly verbal reminders + inspiration to think about the final paper and data analysis
- Include more specific details on handouts for fieldwork; only a few portions we had trouble figuring out, but just some clarification on worksheets would be helpful.

I hope this gives you some initial insights into this particular class, and I look forward to working with you to further discuss the implications of this feedback.

Best,

*Jaime R. Wood*

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