THE SUBJECTIVE COMMENTS ARE LISTED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND WERE COMPILED VERBATIM BY SUE BEAN, OUR DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATOR TO AVOID CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Course Name: Research Methods
Course Code: ENVS 201
Instructor: Saleem Ali

A. Please comment on the strengths of this course:

- Instructor was amazing, facilitating class with ease, intelligence, and poised practice. In Saleem’s approach his ability to teach was conducted and proven without question.
- Good building block for thesis work – helped me to organize thoughts and learn new research methods.
- Get organized for thesis.
- Properly prepares you for thesis.
- Good structure, organization, content, good use of time.
- It helped guide us through the difficult proposal process.
- Prepares for thesis, gets literature review and methods done (or at least started...)
- Classes were focused and content contributed appropriately to things we needed to accomplish.
- Get organized for thesis.
- Time to plan.
- Well organized, good timeline for prep.
- Methods really helped to narrow and clearly identify my thesis topic and objectives by outlining the thesis project. Also oral presentations and public speaking skills were essential to functioning in the real world so it was a good idea.
- It helped me to organize my thesis.
- It helped me develop stronger writing techniques.
- Helps students get involved in something real! Good research opportunity!
- Instructor is excellent.
- Covers necessary material for Major.

B. Please list/comment on the areas that would improve the course:

- More structure.
- Less classes, more independent work
- More brainstorming would have been helpful – using the class to work with our topics throughout the semester.
- Too much busy work.
- 3 days a week.
- The annotated bibliography did not help me at all.
- Better explanation of assignments, perhaps in syllabus.
- Stricter due dates (self discipline isn’t usually a strong point among college students... or maybe it’s just me).
- Too much busy work – classes sometimes made of pointless 1
- 1/2 hr sessions.
- I think the overall course was fine. It allowed me to home in on my field of study and specific subject matter.
- Have class one time a week. The other time have to meet with Saleem or other teacher that is teaching course. No need to have class two times a week.
- I can’t think of anything, it was well organized.
- Nothing.
- More on Social Science methods.
- I thought there was too much emphasis on Natural Science methods when a majority of the class was working on Social Science research. Some readings were very educational, others were too technical for students that haven’t studied scientific method before. Class needs more relevant structure. Need more field work methods.

C. Additional Comments:

- Saleem rocks!
- It’s hard to evaluate this course as it is a requirement and most of the work was done outside of the classroom, actually it all was. Saleem is an awesome, knowledgeable resource and teacher.
- Saleem was a great teacher. He is able to present information without bias better than anyone I know.
- Yeah!
- Very fair and empathetic. Always prepared. Entertaining. Too focused on Natural Science methods.
Course Name: Environmental Conflict Resolution
Course Code: ENVS 296
Instructor: Saleem Ali

A. Please comment on the strengths of this course:

- Good range of topics – examples – theory. The web dialogue was great.
- The field trip was an invaluable experience. Saleem is incredibly knowledgeable.
- Great course content.
- Harboco experience; dialog; Danby.
- Were great applications of theory.
- Saleem is great. I think he knows everything about everything. He put together a great reading packet!
- Dr. Ali is the smartest prof I have ever had and he was able to present complex ideas so I could understand them and he could draw almost any country in the world off the top of his head.
- A lot of the readings were really interesting. Also, Saleem seems to know a lot and adds to class discussions with his knowledge.
- Interdisciplinary set of readings – well rounded.
- Professor very knowledgeable on subject.
- Small class size.
- Good field trip.
- The interdisciplinary nature of the course – science, biology, ecology, political science.

B. Please list/comment on the areas that would improve the course:

- Fewer readings per week, assignments returned.
- Less lecture – more discussion.
- Although the material is tough so lecture would probably have to change first.
- A little more direction on the assignments.
- I should have committed more time to the course.
- I would like to have more assignments and have them be spread out throughout the semester.
- Much more class discussion needed and less lecture. Maybe have ½ of each class lecture and the other half led by a student discussion leader. We needed to react to the material more to really learn it.

C. Additional Comments:

- Everyone should take a course with Saleem.
- Viva life

Textual comments from courses taught
Course Name: ENVS 295 Indigenous Sovereignty, Environment

Prepared by: Susan Bean

A. Please comment on the strengths of this course:

Saleem was very knowledgeable and made topics clear.

Very well informed instructor. Interesting topics.

Instructor very knowledgeable about subject and very prepared.

PowerPoints were well constructed and covered vast amounts of material. Saleem is well versed in all the material and offers detailed insight to the course topics.

Good professor, well-prepared, fair amount of work.

Breadth of applicability, legal aspects.

Instructor is very knowledgeable.

B. Please list/comment on the areas that would improve the course:

More organized group discussion.

Beginning lectures were a bit tedious.

More assignments relevant to theory in readings.

More guest speakers with in-depth familiarity of cases. Better match of readings & discussion.

Don’t use lectures from another version of this course. Update before each class.

C. Additional Comments:

I enjoyed participating in this class!

Course Name: ENVS 295 Conflict Resolution

Prepared by: Susan Bean

A. Please comment on the strengths of this course:

Saleem is a wealth of worldly knowledge and experience.

The readings were very informative and covered a lot of different subjects. Saleem was incredibly knowledgeable and he created a comfortable and rich environment for dialogue to occur.

The integrated approach to teaching/learning. We had not only great readings but panel talks, exercises, guest speakers as well.
Saleem is very knowledgeable and dedicated to topic.

The content of the course and the lectures were excellent.

Personal, and few people, brilliant professor.

- Knowledge of the teacher
- Discussions
- Videos

Instructor is incredibly well knowledgeable on the subject matter. Subject material particularly relevant in a contemporary sense.

All material was relevant. Extremely knowledgeable instructor.

B. Please list/comment on the areas that would improve the course:

More discussion for key aspects of the course. I feel like some more parts of the class passed me by.

Have a graduate level course only.

3 classes a week. 3 hours long is tiring especially with this intense of a class.

There were a significant amount of readings assigned, but not reviewed – cut down the reading list.

Diversifying exercises in class a little more.

C. Additional Comments:

Smartest teacher I’ve ever had.

Good course.

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Sampling of Student notes of commendation (transcribed from handwritten notes by Susan Bean of the Environmental program). Student names have been redacted to maintain their privacy.

________________________________________________________________________

Dear Professor Ali,
I want to thank you for making my time at UVM truly memorable. I really enjoyed the class I had with you, and feel I learned true wisdom in them. Thanks to your wonderful recommendation that you gave me I have been accepted at Johnson State College, and am well on my way to a meaningful career, few teachers have taught me to learn with the inspiration that you have. You helped me with my thesis in great detail and in the process, helped me to become a proud UVM graduate. I hope one day that our paths will cross again, thanks for everything, thanks to you I truly understand the environmental activism in detail. You made my education here at UVM something that I will never forget and that I will always take with me. I will miss you Professor Ali when I leave UVM, but will always rember the influence that you have had in my life, thank you for helping me see the value of activism, environmental education and all education in the power of the heart. I hope one day our paths will cross again until then may the angels fly with you.

Hi Saleem,

I didn’t have a chance to properly thank you at graduation. Given your hectic schedule these past semesters, I appreciate the career, academic and life advice you have given me all the more.

My interests have changed from Ecological Design to Stormwater Mitigation to Microfinance over the past two years, thanks in no small part to your lessons about the environmental and social imperative of empowering the poor and disenfranchised. Good luck to both of us in our future endeavors.

Dear Mr. Ali,

I wanted to personally thank you for the time and effort that you put into the Udall Scholarship. Having someone invest their personal time into this made me feel confident, both about myself and my chances for getting it. I found out the other day that I didn’t receive the scholarship. However, I still greatly appreciate your time and energy.

Greetings Saleem. I had wanted to thank you in class but sensed your urgency to push forward with the presentations. This is my final ‘official’ semester at UVM, in the Environmental Program. Last year I was disappointed to learn that Amy had not gotten the position, she remains a close friend and mentor to this day. And yet, I could not have envisioned someone as qualified as yourself. Though my words are scribbled on a piece of scrap paper, in this informal letter – please accept my gratitude to you, your work, and your unswerving ability to teach. In the Hawaaiian culture the title Kumu denotes all ‘teachers’ and in English translates to mean “the root” or “the source”; thank you Kumu Ali.
Dear Saleem,

I would like to thank you not only for the graduate school recommendations but also for your hard work and dedication during my senior year at UVM. I really enjoyed getting to know you as one of your TAs for ENVS 1 and working with you as one of your thesis advisees. You have always been extremely supportive and encouraging of my future educational and career plans, and for that I am very grateful. Thank you again for all of your help and interest in my work.

Thank you for your ENVS 295 class, Saleem, which has given me more light to shine upon difficult dilemmas such as these which will be unavoidable in my local, national and global battles to restore clean water to the masses.

Commendations from community members regarding my involvement  (transcribed by Susan Bean of the Environmental Program)

Dear Mr. Ali:

On behalf of the Lamoille Valley Osher Lifelong Learning Institute we wish to let you know that your presentation at the Stowe Free Library was most inspiring.

In particular we appreciated your handling of questions and answers. Your “interaction” with the audience was excellent.

Your perspective on the economic emergence of multinational corporations in Asia is one that our steering committee and your audience can help promote in our community. Environmental impact of globalization is a very timely subject. You have helped us better understand this very complex topic.

Most of your audience was made up of people 50 and over. We would like to think that more knowledgeable members of our age group can make a beneficial difference in our community.

The topic that you addressed is helping us to keep well informed on matters that will impact the social and economic future of our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for helping us to make our program happen.