

Small Group Instructional Feedback Summary

Duke Learning Innovation

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Course: Biology 531S: Plants and Climate change

This document summarizes the findings of Duke Learning Innovation consultant Andrea Novicki after visiting the course on February 24, 2022.

What's going well for your students in the course?

- Students are learning about a wide range of research techniques
- Like learning from recent papers rather than a textbook
- This course helps them think about how to do research

What do you think could be improved?

- Students do not feel they have enough background to present or evaluate papers,
- Would like more help on how to present papers.
- Instruction on topics is too separate in time from presentations.
- Suggested possible changes in course structure include either alternating "lectures" about the topics with presentations or spending half of a class meeting on information from instructors and half on presentations.
- Possibly add interactive activities to help learning (one group suggested case studies)

How has this course changed your thinking about plants and climate change?

- Opened up eyes and minds to the different levels that climate change is having effects (from ecosystem to molecular biology)
- Plants are under stress from climate change in many different ways
- Climate change problems are complex, yet there is hope
- Students learned a lot about modern research techniques and the scientific process
- Appreciate learning about research on plants rather than biomedical research