

Teaching Reflections Fall 2014

Again, fortunately, a very good term.

Some of the things I think we did particularly well this term were:

- Integrated Edward's new position in the department. The TAs seemed to be really happy to be able to draw upon his experience and his advice. His support for the students in Soci 100 was also exceptional.
- Provided much more support for students on their tutorial assignments and exam preparation.
- While students continue to perceive our grading standards as very high (which I believe is both a legitimate observation and a conscious one on our part) I am confident that the variation between TA grading is diminishing and our grade distributions remain incredibly stable.
- My course evaluations continue to reinforce that students appreciate my passion for sociology and my animated lectures.

Some of the things that I continue to struggle with, and will continue to work on, are:

- Tracking student grades over the term. While I am confident that MySocLab scores are accurate there is a clear need to integrate all course scores throughout the term. Also, given my experience over Christmas I had very little confidence that I had all the course scores that were adjusted by TAs over the term. From now on all course score changes will have to be approved by me and posted on ravelli.ca.
- MySocLab is not achieving what I would like it to. Therefore, I have dropped the minimum that must be completed by students. If a student chooses not to do them and simply forfeit the 15% I will let them. I will also seriously evaluate the pedagogical benefits of continuing to use MySocLab next year.
- I need to assess TA's performance in their tutorials earlier on in the term. I also need to be more vigilant in tracking TA hours throughout the term. This semester I will implement a mandatory meeting with all TAs to ensure that they are getting all the support that they require and are not exceeding the number of hours we have allocated to them.

Fall 2014 was another solid term for me and the vast majority of the TAs. Yes, there is more work to do but we are definitely moving in the right direction.