Course Feedback Custom Questions

Overview
Faculty may add up to two open-ended custom questions. These questions will appear on different sections of the students' course feedback questionnaire: 'Teaching Methods' and 'Course Structure and Format.'

When composing your custom questions, please try to ensure that the questions are concise, impartial, and useful for improving your teaching.

Custom Question Examples
Following are examples of custom questions written by Smith College faculty members.

TEACHING METHODS

Pedagogy
- What teaching method did you personally value the most? (e.g., silent-board discussion, read around, doubting and believing squares, human barometer, unstructured discussion)
- What specific suggestions do you have for me regarding grading and evaluating your work?
- Which teaching strategies can best motivate you to exert significant effort in this course?
- One of the challenges of this course is striking the right balance between covering a sufficient breadth of topics while also going into sufficient detail on each one. Please comment on how successfully the course handled this tradeoff.

Learning
- How has the course and instructor affected your understanding of the subject broadly conceived?
- How do you think differently from when the course began in early September/late January?
- How has your outlook on (or appreciation of) the subject changed?
- What was the most difficult concept in the course for you to master?
- What did you learn in this course that will be most valuable to you in the future?
- Do you have suggestions for changes in the class that would have improved your understanding?

COURSE STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

Structure
- What experiences/structures in this course (e.g. specific assignments, in class activities) worked best in ensuring that you were included in the learning process?
- In regards to the structure of this course, where is there room for improvement?
- What did you think about the pacing of this class?
- Was there an aspect of the class format that worked well? If so, please explain why.
- Should the balance of lecture, field work, and both small and large group discussion be changed?
- Please list aspects of this course that you think should be eliminated or modified.

- If you could change one thing about this course to make it more rewarding, what would it be?
- *Guest Speakers*
    - How did the guest lecturer contribute to your understanding of <<topic>>?
    - Do you have any feedback about the guest speakers?
- *Related Resources*
    - How helpful did you find <<resource>> to be in furthering your own learning in this course?
    - How effective and beneficial to your learning was the integration of <<strategy>> into the course?
    - How helpful were resources such as faculty office hours and the Spinelli Center tutors to you?

Assignments
- How well did the problem sets match what we taught?
- How well did the problem sets help with you with your learning?
- Was there a particular assignment that worked well in this course? If so, please explain why.
- Please comment on your experience carrying out the course-end project.
- What aspects of the writing assignments helped you improve as a writer?

Lab/Discussion Sections (for courses where the instructor is the same for lecture)
- How effective was the time spent in <<lab/discussion>> for your learning? Please offer suggestions for improvement.
- How did your experience in the <<lab/discussion>> section integrate with your experience in the lecture?
- What are your thoughts on the division of time in the class between lecture and <<lab/discussions>>?

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