Appendix H

Assessment

Data are taken from anonymous course evaluation forms completed at the end of the summer 2001 quarter. Thirty students responded, but not all questions were answered by all students. For some questions, an individual may have reported more than one answer. In these cases, all of the answers were used. Examples of statements were randomly chosen from answers that contained complete thoughts rather just a "yes" or "no" answer.

What are your career goals?

Medicine; dentistry; pharmacy	Research; graduate school	Other (teacher; ecologist; law school)	Undecided
10	9	5	3
(37%)	(33%)	(19%)	(11%)

How do you think this class will help you be successful in your career?

Developed better writing, communication, presentation skills	Learned how to approach research, evaluate data, learn complex material	Helped learn how to work in teams
12	9	6
(44%)	(33%)	(22%)

How did you initially feel about the focus of this class on team effort rather than individual effort?

Positive	Mixed	Negative
16	4	10
(53%)	(13%)	(33%)

I was initially excited at first with the idea of working in a team because I like working with a small group and thought that this would lighten the course work per person.

I did not like the format because I don't like depending on other people's performance for my own grade.

I didn't think it was as valuable as I do now. It concerned me a little about group work time that would be required—how that might work.

Liked it a lot; I enjoy teamwork to combine my ideas.

Initially I was a little worried since sometimes groups can be challenging and frustrating!

Part of me was stoked because there weren't any big tests, but another part of me was pissed because attendance affected my grade.

I liked it and I didn't like it. I liked it because I thought the class would be more interactive & I would learn more; I didn't like it because I didn't want my grade to depend on others' work.

I thought it was a relief!

I thought it would be interesting, but I was a little wary of working in groups because they can be hard to work with.

I liked the concept initially. It sounded great because it was unlike any other class I had taken here.

I was looking forward to it until we got our first presentation grade. At that moment, I wished we didn't work in group.

If you could go back in time to the beginning of the quarter and give yourself some advice about how to take best advantage of this class, what would you tell yourself?

Plan more effectively	Prepare to work hard; set aside enough time; spend more time in the library	Get to know other team members	Other (be ready to learn from diverse groups and people; concentrate on learning in depth)
12	8	7	2
(41%)	(28%)	(24%)	(7%)

What was the most important skill, attitude, or action for making your team work effectively?

Flexibility; ability to compromise	Positive attitude; having fun	Other (patience; hard work; respect)	Good communication skills
12	9	8	7
(33%)	(25%)	(22%)	(19%)

As we have discussed, we traded breadth for depth in this class. Please comment on the value and trade-offs of this decision.

Satisfied with decision; learned a lot	Wished there were more time to learn about other diseases and general cell biology; worried about preparation for other classes	Depth allowed learning how to read research papers and approach complex biological problem
18	9	6
(55%)	(27%)	(18%)

I liked the way it was set up because I think the skills and techniques I learned and making presentations and posters are much better than learning the facts about the diseases. Now, I can learn all about them on my own.

I think it was great. I never learned so much in one quarter, ironically, since we only studied one disease. But even hearing other people talk helped me learn about their topics.

I'm a little worried that I won't be prepared for the lab for this class. [a separate cell biology laboratory course]

By researching a more defined topic more in-depth, I learned the process of researching a complex problem/disease in addition to the problem [itself]. I would not have learned this if we had studied more for breadth. However, I am not very familiar with other organelles and diseases.

The value is that I *really* understand a disease and the processes involved. The trade-off is that I didn't get from this class a detailed, intense, overwhelming class in cell bio.

Most people in this class are seniors, some graduating. So, by now we should know the range of basics. It is more beneficial to refine social skills & many people could not use PowerPoint until this class.

I feel like I got a lot out of this class. Although I feel pretty fluent on my process, I didn't learn too much about the other groups' processes. Just getting ours down was work enough. If you wanted us to get more from the other groups, you may want to decrease on the workload.

What will you remember about this class five years from now?

Joy of learning or working in teams; my team members	Research, communication, presentation skills	Information about a specific disease	Challenging class; unique class structure
14	9	9	7
(36%)	(23%)	(23%)	(18%)

I will always remember the initial stress and grief of working in a team and the eventual improvement and ease of working with everyone after we communicated more on our problems.

The people, my group members, and the overall structure of the class; most important—how to make a poster.

It was very fun to talk in front of other people and explain like you are a scientist.

The stress that leads up to the final product and the accomplishment at seeing it done.

I learned a lot of molecular biology techniques that have already overlapped with other classes and readings.

The skills needed to interact in a team.

Now that the class is over, what do you think are advantages and disadvantages of learning and doing projects in teams?

The advantages are that people can compensate and cover for fellow teammates. Also, teams can brainstorm for really creative ideas and sometimes a person can research part of the project that interests him/her the most. The disadvantages are that there might be conflicting working styles and personalities. Furthermore, one would have to be willing to compromise on ideas regarding papers, presentations, etc.

Teamwork forces people to work a little harder so you don't let your team members down. The disadvantage would be, some members may skate by on the work of the more motivated members.

Advantages—you learn more, cover more ground than you could by yourself; something may be uninteresting to one but interesting to another in your team.

Presentation & how to write scientific paper was greate [sic] opportunity. Even the [sic] only one member of the group doesn't work seriously, all group member [sic] get worse.

Advantage: more people = more ideas and more knowledge; Disadvantage: hard to coordinate our schedules for meeting times.

It was a big weight off, since I wasn't responsible for everything. Also, I think the final outcomes were much more creative than I could have done myself.

I'm more apt to ask for and receive criticism of my own work in the context of a team. However, all projects take several times longer to complete. The projects, of course, are usually of better quality.

Advantages: Get more info & do projects faster and better; Disadvantages: some people care more & do a little more work & the teacher can't see that.