

From our students

Excerpts from Environment Corps Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) forms and student emails to instructors. (Last updated Spring 2023).

AY 2017 - 2018

- Also I just wanted to say thank you for all the hard work you two put in to make this class/independent study possible...Climate Corps had a huge influence on me, and for a while I wasn't super excited about the sorts of jobs I'd be qualified to do with a Geoscience degree (consulting and cleaning up hazardous waste spills somehow didn't appeal to me), but having this experience opened so many doors for me and exposed me to so many different things I could do. I'm really excited to start my new job because I've been able to combine a career with something I find super interesting, and I really have you two to thank for that. *(Climate Corps 2018)*
- I wanted to take the chance to thank you both for the last two semesters. I had a lot of fun working with my group and I learned so much about climate change and working with municipalities. This was an experience I will never forget. Thank you for everything. *(Climate Corps Spring 2018)*
- Since having begun my collegiate career as an environmental studies student, my particular area of interest has shifted quite a few times. I was struggling to find an area of interest that I could legitimately see myself pursuing for an extended period of time at some point in the future and, likewise, actively making a difference while doing so. My struggles ceased after taking the Climate Resilience and Adaptation/Municipal Policy and Planning course. As a student in this class for the first time ever, I was able to envision myself in a position in which I would be working in this field in the future/post-graduation. *(Climate Corps Spring 2018)*
- The most positive aspect of how Bruce taught the course was how he shared stories about talking to CT residents about climate change and their reactions to it. It taught me that you can't just shove information down people's throats and expect them to convert to climate change believers, but you have to realize that everyone has a different point of view, and that you have to use that to explain your position. *(Climate Corps Spring 2018)*
- The problem solving nature of this course made everything that we were learning seem relevant. The instructors regularly even engaged with current affairs to highlight the importance of the learning we were doing. What was truly wonderful to see in general was the genuine passion, interest and care for the material. It made me want to do my best. *(Climate Corps Spring 2018)*

AY 2018 - 2019

- I took the brownfields class in Fall 2019 during my last semester (graduated Dec 2019). I wish I had taken it earlier so I could have done the independent study portion as well. This was a fantastic class, I learned so much practical, real-world information, and I think it would be amazing if more classes like this were offered in the future. *(Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019)*
- I absolutely loved this class. The learning was problem solving based, the material was relevant to current affairs, the topics were interesting and varied, the projects were engaging and rewarding... though it was

daunting at times and made me overthink things, I wanted to do my best for this course and for things related to it in the future. It made me care more, which is always a nice (and scary thing) to have happen. (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019*)

- Keep doing these and expanding the courses offered, the professors are amazing and offer some of the most practical skills ever and make it extremely digestible. I have learned a significant amount of information from these classes formats that I did not in other departments or class. (*Climate Corps, Fall 2019*)
- I wanted to thank you for all of your help this year with the class and with my project. This project ended up being instrumental in me being offered an internship with a non-profit in Boston this summer. I feel like I left this class with a way better idea about what I want to do post-college! (*Climate Corps, Fall 2019*)
- I just wanted to say thank you again for such a wonderful semester and for all your help with the beach and park resiliency plan! I'm really happy with how it turned out and for being given the opportunity to do so! I really enjoyed everything, not just the independent study but Climate Corps as a whole so I was glad to hear that it's going to be continued for future students! (*Climate Corps Spring 2019*)
- I also want to take the time to thank you both for a wonderful year. It was an honor learning from and working with both of you. This class was not only fun, it was also really helpful for me and has shaped the goals I want to pursue in the future. (*Climate Corps Spring 2019*)
- You have been a great influence and have made a huge contribution to my decision to advance my academic career in the environmental field. The structure of your classes helped me think outside the box on many occasions and contributed to my success in and out of your classes. (*Climate Corps Spring 2019*)

AY 2019 - 2020

- This course was my favorite one I've taken in my undergrad career. I think I've learned so much more in these past two semesters than I have in any other class. It has prepared me for the professional world and gave me the feedback to improve my skills along the way. A lot of topics related to brownfields, assessments, and remediation was taught in this class that was not taught anywhere else in my undergrad career. I'm very excited to watch all of the incredible things to come from this class. (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019*)
- This was one of my favorite courses I've taken at UConn. It was really fun to learn about the things that were taught, and the teaching style was great. Not many courses take advantage of group work and I'm really glad this class did. (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019*)
- ...due to the small number of students in the class it felt as though I was able to actually stand out and make an impression on you..., unlike many of my other professors. Finally I just want to say how much I really enjoyed your class. I loved that it was engaging and interesting, but that we knew we were not going to have to stress over exams. I honestly enjoyed the projects... Thank you for making this semester more bearable than it otherwise would have been! (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019*)
- Thank you for...designing a course that I could actually look forward to each week, that was just as valuable online as it would have been in person. I have learned so much with you this semester! (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019*)

- Your course was among the most beneficial courses I have taken during my time at The University of Connecticut and I was able to gain significant real world experience from the independent study project... *(Brownfields Corps, Fall 2019)*
- I really enjoyed the hands on, project based approach. I always find it easier to learn something by putting it into practice versus memorizing theory. *(Stormwater Corps Spring 2020)*
- Working in groups and doing group activities. In particular, going out and working as a group to find areas to disconnect impervious cover and making the pervious concrete. These activities really promoted working together and working as a group to learn and understand the material. Seeing the LID practices in person was great along with the homework assignments. I felt the assignments were real-world problems that I may encounter if I were to work in this field. The small class size was also nice. *(Stormwater Corps Spring 2020)*
- This was one of my favorite courses I've taken at UConn. It was really fun to learn about the things that were taught, and the teaching style was great. Not many courses take advantage of group work and I'm really glad this class did. *(Stormwater Corps Spring 2020)*

AY 2020 - 2021

- I really enjoyed this course and feel like I learned a lot about topics relevant to the field which I plan to pursue. The applications of the content of this course, I believe, extend far beyond those of typical courses. *(Climate Corps Fall 2020)*
- I signed up for the class expecting it to be another "read out of this book" type of class, but it turned out to be the best class I have taken thus far in college. *(Climate Corps Fall 2020)*
- Professor Barrett is a very kind and encouraging professor in addition to being extremely knowledgeable and experienced. She taught in an interactive, fun way and allowed me to have many laughs while learning a great deal about very important issues. In addition, she encouraged students to look beyond issues to their possible solutions, which was exciting and hopeful, as well as beneficial to our future fields. Professor Barrett was always available to help students and made sure we were aware of this. I am going to miss this class and Professors Barrett and Hyde! *(Climate Corps Fall 2020)*
- The course was highly interactive and facilitated communication and cooperation that is critical in real-world situations, especially in the field of environmental science. Professor Hyde is knowledgeable, helpful, funny, and motivational. He encouraged us all to step outside of our comfort zones and become immersed in the issues of the field, which was such an impactful way to teach the course. He also offered kind and constructive comments on assignments and other work and often built students up by commending efforts and outcomes. *(Climate Corps Fall 2020)*
- [Professor Hyde] was just very enthusiastic about everything. He tried to make the class fun and interesting and engaging without adding to the stress levels for his students which was really really refreshing and I cannot express how much I appreciate that. *(Climate Corps Fall 2020)*
- I really enjoyed the lectures and also learning from the guest speakers about what you can do with a future career in environmental science and environmental engineering. I also felt that Dr. C prepared us very well for grant writing and was extremely helpful with presentation skills. *(Brownfields Corps Fall 2020)*
- The instructor was very engaging and was always interested in what students had to say. The course remained interesting throughout the course of the semester because of the way she taught and the

presenters that often gave relevant lectures to the class. This course was more impactful than most, if not all courses I have taken to date. Information and knowledge was applied in a practical manner, making it easy to remain motivated. *(Brownfields Corps Fall 2020)*

- I enjoyed the course thoroughly. It was a great example of how a course should be run – without pointless and lengthy assignments that are only semi-relevant to the material. Everything we learned was important to our task as learners. It was easy to grasp concepts while furthering my understanding of education through service to a cause larger than my individual self. *(Brownfields Corps Fall 2020)*
- I enjoyed the varied format/use of class time. It was nice to not just sit in a lecture and watch a powerpoint. I really appreciated that Professor Dietz took advantage of the fact that this course met in person and that we were able to apply the content of the course to GSI around UConn and be able to see/ experience it in person. It really helped me understand the design process by having the opportunity to be in the field. *(Stormwater Corps Spring 2021)*
- Professor Dietz and his squad are a wealth of knowledge. His applied work in the field has definitely made this awesome, and he has a way of making class fun. I did not think water would be fun to learn about in this sense. *(Stormwater Corps Spring 2021)*
- I appreciate the welcoming environment that the instructors created by encouraging questions and always be available for extra help. *(Stormwater Corps Spring 2021)*
- By far my most valuable experience at UConn. How higher education should be, but some departments fail to recognize. *(Brownfields Corps Spring 2021)*
- Dr. B is patient and always willing to engage with students by encouraging them to ask questions. Lectures were gone through at a good pace (beginning of semester) and helped prepare me for the following project. I always felt supported in this course when communicating with the instructor(s). *(Brownfields Corps Spring 2021)*
- I loved the way we were able to have a lot of our own free time to manage doing the work in this class. It was difficult, but a great learning experience. *(Brownfields Corps Spring 2021)*
- Everything was very hands on in this internship, I learned so much about a field in environmental science and say that I have gained experience and got to know the field very well. *(Brownfields Corps Spring 2021)*
- This internship was a great experience for me. I enjoyed being able to work collaboratively with professionals in the field of brownfield redevelopment on a legitimate project. Peer collaboration was heavily involved in this internship, which was very useful. It helped me to be more accountable for what work was to be done and at what times. Not only this, but the internship honed in on my abilities as a group member while working with specified technical data. I was able to see that not all the information is provided to a student at all times. You have to do some digging while being guided by experts. It was real-world experience, that's for sure. *(Brownfields Corps Spring 2021)*
- Dr. Chrysochoou is always willing to explain things I don't understand, encourage me, and support me in my work. Dr. C treats students with respect and goes out of her way to assist whenever she is asked. I felt that the work assigned to me was appropriate and geared towards what I am capable of. Dr. C is very adamant about being responsive to communications through email, which helped me get through this course. I didn't feel any disconnect between her and I in regards to the project I was working on. *(Brownfields Corps Spring 2021)*

AY 2021 - 2022

- I like how it was very skillset focused – learning the tools on how to develop a vulnerability assessment, etc. I also like how it overviewed many topics areas within climate change adaptation – I got a full range of knowledge. (*Climate Corps Fall 2021*)
- I loved the guest lectures which introduced us to people who are carrying out the projects that we are studying. It really helped to show that what we do in the classroom exists outside and is something we can make a career out of. (*Climate Corps Fall 2021*)
- I feel that the content was a class that related very well with actual preparation for what to expect when working as an environmental engineer. (*Brownfields Corps Fall 2021*)
- This course is very beneficial for the intended majors to take, as it provides real–life experience in the environmental field that serves as good exposure. (*Brownfields Corps Fall 2021*)
- The level of engagement and closeness in this class exceeded every other class I have ever taken here. I always felt that I was included and actively participating. professor Dietz gave helpful feedback on any assignment he did, and he valued the idea of hands on learning and actually took us outside on several occasions. (*Stormwater Corps Spring 2022*)
- The hands–on experience with the different green stormwater infrastructure that we learned about in class made our learning translate into real–world observations. By making our own pervious concrete and touring the different practices around campus, students were able to see and feel what we were learning about. By having us create solutions for stormwater issues on campus, we have the ability to positively impact student life for years to come, and that is something very unique that is hard for other courses and instructors to accomplish. (*Stormwater Corps Spring 2022*)
- Honestly, when I initially signed up for this class I was expecting it to be a boring class that I would take just to get the credit. But I ended up loving the class more than I thought possible. The professors made the topic really interesting. I could tell that they really cared about the material they taught. Their humor, easy–going attitudes, and the fact that they seem to be friends with each other made the class very enjoyable for everyone. I just had my last class of the semester during which I talked with several classmates who all agreed that they loved the class, loved the professors, and were very glad that they had this experience. I've been recommending it to anyone who has asked me for course suggestions and I've been giving out unsolicited recommendations to anyone who will listen. I really couldn't give higher praise to this class or to the professors who taught it. I hope this course continues to be taught for years to come. (*Stormwater Corps Spring 2022*)
- This is definitely one of my favorite classes and I'm really glad I chose to take this. In a way, this class has inspired me with a topic that I can see myself going into as a profession and I really enjoyed it. I look forward to going deeper and learning more about LID's in the practicum course this fall. it was a great course and the group of professors really made it better. I don't know if it would have been as good with any other professors. (*Stormwater Corps Spring 2022*)
- This course is an amazing one that should be taken by every student. The amount of learning that was accomplished and the real–life impact the material has on the students is vital in creating a generation that is aware of environmental issues regarding stormwater. (*Stormwater Corps Spring 2022*)

AY 2022 - 2023

- Fantastic course. Gives valuable experience to students (resume-worthy) and has a positive impact on the surrounding community. (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2022*).
- I enjoyed having guest lecturers who provided different perspectives and experiences. Allowed me to gain insight into different career paths. (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2022*).
- Fascinating course that has an undeniably positive impact upon the surrounding community. Engaging with town representatives made this project exceptionally rewarding. (*Brownfields Corps, Fall 2022*).
- Overall, the Climate Corps independent study program provided an experience for me that is incomparable with the rest of my time at UConn. It gave me the opportunity to work with a real organization that has their finger on the pulse and is making a difference in climate adaptation. I also learned valuable lessons on working with others, in both educational and professional settings. If I ever needed validation for pursuing the major I did, I think this is perhaps the best indicator so far that I have made the right decision. (*Climate Corps, Spring 2023*)
- Thank you for a great semester! This honestly was the best college course I've taken. (*Climate Corps, Spring 2023*)
- The way the teacher actively used many different elements of life to teach this course. I felt at home whenever in the classroom and that only help my learning opportunities and made me eager to go back to the class. Making a positive environmental effort while also building relationships in class through fun group collaboration made learning this material fun. (*Stormwater Corps, Spring 2023*)
- The hands on component of the course was especially valuable. I really enjoy the "field" components and the ability to apply what we have learned in the course to the real world. (*Stormwater Corps, Spring 2023*)
- I found that the real world applications of the topics that we were learning about drew me in further into the material that was being presented on each week. We often went outside to actually see and test the things that we learned about. I particularly liked that there was minimal homework for this course, which allowed me to spend more energy engaging with the material in the class rather than stressing about work done outside of class. The homework that was given was meaningful and promoted learning the material of the course and reinforcing what I knew. (*Stormwater Corps, Spring 2023*)
- This class is truly one of the best classes I have taken at UConn and I am looking forward to applying all I have learned to the practicum semester. (*Stormwater Corps, Spring 2023*)
- Working on this project with my partner Sydney and our community contact Megan, has allowed me to become confident in my abilities as a contributor to climate action. The best part of this project has been seeing how my impact and presence can affect real-world situations. It's easy for us to put ourselves in this bubble of being young and [in]experienced and that what we say and do doesn't matter. My greatest takeaway has been that every individual's voice matters and that if we are going to make change happen we must all be assertive and ambitious in the fight for our futures. (*Climate Corps, Spring 2023*)

- Overall this internship has been amazing and the things I have learned are unforgettable. I enjoyed spending time with my peers discussing our project as well as the others in our class. We all had projects suited to us and it was great to see them develop and come along as ours did. Trying to solve real-world problems from your college apartment seems kind of unfathomable but when you communicate with your mentors frequently and check in on how the expectations change as new information comes along it is very manageable. *(Climate Corps, Spring 2023)*
- This was the most fulfilling course I have ever had the pleasure of taking. *(Climate Corps, Spring 2023)*
- The best part of this independent study must have been working collaboratively with an organization working to get things done. I was able to feel good about dedicating so much time to this project, knowing that this more so than any assignment would contribute to something productive and real. *(Climate Corps, Spring 2023)*
- This class gave me something that I have never experienced in other courses. When we learn theoretical knowledge in school, this knowledge is acquired through classroom instruction, reading books, reference materials, etc. Although this knowledge is essential, they are only a conceptual understanding and lacks application in real scenarios. Therefore, we need to translate this theoretical knowledge into practical skills in our internship to meet workplace challenges truly. *(Climate Corps, Spring 2023)*
- I went into this semester hoping to gain skills that would help me to be successful career wise pursuing something in this field, and after completing this project I feel much more confident in my skills. *(Climate Corps, Spring 2023)*
- My favorite part of this project was navigating the socio-cultural factors that influence such decisions...As I've continued to encounter more opportunities in university, the projects that tend to be the most impactful are also the most applicable. These projects may take more effort and patience, but the payoff is worth far beyond a course grade or bragging item on a resume. I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to assist in influencing and guiding an impact that will be sustained by generations long past my own. *(Climate Corps, Spring 2023)*