Teaching at University College Dublin: Student Feedback

Student Nominations for UCD Teaching & Learning Award 2016-17

"Barbara is passionate about the subjects that she teaches and as a student, this makes attending her classes both interesting and enjoyable. She is always available to help you if you need advice on an assignment and offers a personal approach to her teaching allowing for discussion and participation during her classes."

"Contagious passion for, and knowledge of, subject. Excellent teaching and communication. Friendly, helpful, approachable and encouraging."

"Barbara Hillers' modules are always a joy to attend. Her knowledge and enthusiasm make study simple and enjoyable. At the end of semester one always feels certain of what the objectives of the lectures were and that these objectives have been realised. Superstar."

Courses Taught at UCD: Student Evaluations

UCD evaluations ask for answers to five questions, each of which rates the class (from 1-5, 5 being the highest). The results for the 5 questions have been amalgamated to get an overall average for each class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRFL 10030</td>
<td>Traditional Storytelling</td>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRFL 20020</td>
<td>Material Culture</td>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRFL 30030</td>
<td>The Life Cycle</td>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRFL 30060</td>
<td>Folk Religion and Belief</td>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall average over 11 courses</td>
<td></td>
<td>(2013-2017)</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample Student Comments about Individual Courses

IRFL 10030 Traditional Storytelling 2015-2017 (Large lecture class)  
Excellent lecturer.

Clear teaching in a relaxed way.

Great lectures - passionate delivery and content.
Comprehensive knowledge.

Brilliant engaging lecturer whose love of the subject rubs off on students.

Visual and listening elements, concise structure.

Excellent reading material supplied and updated regularly on Blackboard.

I really enjoyed the first assignment.

The assignments were relevant to the module and allowed me to do some independent learning.

IRFL 20020 Material Culture 2015-2017 (Seminar-style class)

Can't recommend this module enough for people looking to learn more about Irish culture. Very informative and physical objects seen first hand in the class.

The wide scope of the course was fascinating and gave a great introduction to the subject.

Probably the single best course in my university career. Brilliant lecturing, wonderful guest lecturers, fascinating field trip, incredible primary and secondary sources.

Lecturer who is very enthusiastic and passionate about the subject which made me love it more.

The way the teacher talks to the students was very fun and interesting... She is a great speaker, keeping the attention of her students.... [it] felt like a group.

Knows what she's talking about.

Barbara's passion and interest … marvelous.

I really enjoyed the class trip to the museum, the presentations were very interesting and enjoyable, the use of other media not just print was very interesting, pictures and films really deepened my understanding of Material Culture.

Creating new ways to help students really get a feel for what material culture is... fantastic.

Stimulating classes delivered by informative and enthusiastic lecturers.

Using the schools collection at Duchas.ie and visiting UCD's experimental archaeology fieldwork.

I enjoyed the hands-on teaching style of this course. It was very nice to learn about something and then be able to see it first hand on our field-trips.

Thoroughly enjoyable.
**IRFL 30030 Life Cycle 2015-17 (Seminar-style class)**
Learning about the importance of custom and ritual for Irish society.

Great lecturer ... made the course very interesting and engaging.

Excellent Lecturer.

Barbara's ability to explain complex concepts in an easily applicable manner.

Enthusiastic teacher.

Wonderful lecturer. Excellent lectures and support. Relevant assignments.

The dúchas-based assignments were an enjoyable and enlightening aspect of the course.

**IRFL 30060 Folk Religion and Belief 2015-17 (Seminar-style class)**
A good, broad course exploring aspects of Irish fairy legends and folk faith... fascinating subject matter taught with passion, wisdom and conviction... left me thirsting for more.

Excellent lectures and thought-provoking theoretical readings.

An outstanding lecturer, very good primary sources, excellent class environment and discussion.

I really liked the conversational aspect of the module mixed with the theoretical approach. I think it is really helpful for learning things!

Seminar style lectures, great for discussion & throwing ideas around.

Discussions of the texts in class were always interesting, especially with the amount of international students; it allowed us to learn more about several cultures, not only Irish culture.

The lecturer was very helpful and understanding.

Nice, open atmosphere in class.