Unedited results of an online survey given in early January 2018, requesting feedback on out-of-class workload for the fall term of second year of the VIU Forestry Diploma. Below are the responses of 23 students, grouped by course.

201 - Research & Communications
Too short for full research, would prefer not to take this course.
Although things worked out in the end with this course, at certain times it felt like we were climbing a huge hill. I feel like a bit more direction or one on one time with Bill would be useful. Nailing down a topic that would actually give enough results to do a presentation and report on, in such a short semester, was difficult.
It was nice to be given lots of class time to work on our research projects.
Workload was adequate
Workload was good. Lots of class time to get the majority of the project done. With four people in the group, this class was manageable.
I found the workload to be fine, because since it was mostly self-directed, it was whatever you made it. Working in teams made it easy to split up the work and helped the term run pretty smoothly.
The workload for this course was reasonable. Much in class time was given to get work done.
Stats class should maybe be integrated with this course.
The sophistication level expected of our topics was way too high considering we are 2nd year diploma students. We're not researchers and most of us will never be, many topics were shut down because they weren't good enough. It was especially frustrating because no further guidance was given other than "no".
This class is essentially a repeat of the second year English, but with less guidance. I think it should be removed or the methods should be altered so they do not require presentations.
Fair workload, plenty of time to finish. Hard to get over the fact that your experiment might be messy and unprofessional. Good learning curve, but lack of experience in application of stats and development of experimental design made it hard to produce a good project start to finish
Good amount of time. One assignment for the whole term (research paper) so there was plenty of flexibility to plan for the workload.
There was a lot of overlap with the research English class that we took the term before but we were thought to write in a different format MLA. But then in this course it was CSE and for the first bit there was no set guide for it and when looking up CSE on the internet there was a lot of contadictions which made things difficult. There wasn't much guidance on an appropriate subject (which sucked because at the time we hadn't been taught of some really big things in forestry and with that it really lead the project into a tight spot on why it was important/why it mattered, and this was one of the things that was marked). The amount of work and expectations were too high for a 2nd year class. And I felt it inappropriate that when doing presentations in front of the class the teacher would heavily and sometimes passive aggressively critique students in front of their entire cohort. I feel these comments would have been more useful and appropriate to have in a private setting.
I feel that this course requires too much time and effort to complete all the tasks for the amount that we learn in the class
The workload was heavy at the end of the class which bonked with the other end of year things we were doing... don't know if spreading it out would work at all. The course itself, I feel, is important for

students to take. Concepts within our vocation are generally scientific and it good to be able to understand and speak that language.   I'll say this here... I think people in class are a little too "whiney" about the work load. I would not consider myself a good a good student and I did fine. Therefore, I don't know if I am the best person to be commenting about work load. I thought it was fine, and that people complain too much. We knew what we were getting into and it certainly isn't medical school, it's not that hard.   But Ill finish the survey anyway

Bill was very fair in giving us plenty of class time to complete this project. The few classes on presentations would be best left to be time to work on the project, and have the presentations made available on D2L. A class on the stats portion and scientific design would be helpful.

Amount of work was reasonable and there was lots of class time given for field work and writing the paper, but I spent a lot of that time doing other work but it all balanced out.   More clarity around statistical analysis would be useful since none of the people in our group had no experience with that. Professor feedback was very useful for improving design and writing.

Fair workload, schedule well distributed, teamwork was a good idea, maybe a bit more explainations about the final paper would have been good. Overall good

Workload distribution was fair in my opinion. The clarity on what was expected and how to do certain things was lacking though.

211 Forest Biometrics

Trip to a log dump and meeting scalers
we didn't have very many classes for this course. It felt like we didn't cover much material in this course
Workload was fine. A study guide would've helped for midterm and final
All work is done in class time. Except a few hours during the semester. Amount of work could be rise, class would end a hour or two early at least twice a month.
Workload was good, but I found it very unclear what material was to be on the exams. I spent multiple hours studying what was apparently the completely wrong material for tests!
Workload for this course was reasonable. Ample in class time given to complete labs.
Still confused about CGNF as it relates to grading
Assignments and what is expected of us to know is usually fairly unclear.
It needs more work, there was not enough marks and what did get marked did not get returned to us fast enough. This class was not difficult but my marks were low because I was not getting enough feedback to respond and improve. Needs to be set apart from roads and harvesting, they melted together one to many times.
All good, fun, usfeful material to learn and know. More hands on combined with lectures would be nice... more practice then lectures perhaps
Good.
There were minimal hand ins that were worth marks and this lead to height really in the dark on where you were learning and grade wise. Clarity was lacking on labs and givin assignments.
Good amount of work, and good distribution of the work. More specific instructions regarding labs, assignments would be great
Biometrics was a little awkward, we learned things in chunks at the beginning, so by the mid term we'd covered CGFN but not completed it which threw us off.
Overall the workload for this course is fair, Jim always gave us sufficient time in class to complete our assignments. There were some confusing points during the course, when Jim wasn't sure how to do something the first time (CGNF) and then would contradict himself when teaching us. Would of appreciated more field time doing CGNF, to have a better understanding of the process. Midterms and finals were not consistent with what the main focus of classes were ie CGNF was a big focus for the first few classes, and there wasn't anything about CGNF on the midterm. No study guides.
CGNF was a mess, it was explained in I think three different classes and eventually in a way that made sense but with a lot of time spent doing nothing to get there.   Work was well distributed, and there was a good amount of it.
Amount of work was fair, well distributed, well explained
Good class, fair marks distribution. I could have used some better explanations on certain things however, lessons seemed to move a little too fast, though that could have had to do with the fact that we only had it on the Monday. So, the urgency is understandable.

231 Silviculture
Hard to know what he wants. Labs were very time consuming and frustrating
Clarity for this course was lacking. Michel has a lot of knowledge but I do not feel really engaged in teaching anymore. Things that came up on midterms were not explained to full understanding during class time.
Could have used some more clear guidance on labs...
Well balanced class. Maybe have two midterms instead of three though
Labs were very frustrating, unclear and time consuming. Tests were all fair.
The extra readings were abit much in this course. Asking to read 20+ pages of a report. Other then that the workload is good.
The labs were very extensive, time-consuming, and on material that wasn't always covered during class. I found the excel labs to be complete hell to complete. More elaboration during class on how to use specific excel formulas would be beneficial to future students, as we had to consult the professor multiple times during each lab and share the information between classmates to understand how the heck to do them. Other than that, there was fair warning and some leniency on due dates which was much appreciated.
The workload for this course was slightly heavy. No in class time given to complete labs. However, it was very nice not to have to prepare for a final.
Time spent on lab assignments could have been reduced if explained.
Labs were rather complicated with little to no indication on what was expected for formatting and content. Difficult to understand the assignment write-ups and in those write-ups there were many errors that were sometimes incorrect to a point where the answer would be affected negatively.
No complaints the labs were informative but sometimes needed clarification. Tests were fair, and notes were great!
Labs unclear and inconsistent with certain expectations from lab to lab. Hard to follow Lecture content, and identify useful study material for examinations. Lecture content seemed to underprepared for questions and too much learning of new content before being tested on old stuff...
For some labs it was not 100% clear on what needed to be done or how the lab is done. The workload was heavy but doable and was made easier by having an optional final.
The labs were very heavy and I found that the most time spent on them was trying to figure out finicky things in excel that wasn't taught in class. Some individual consepts were not clear and seemed to change lectures to lecture
Labs required me to go out and learn how to do things on excel that I did not know how to do with any certainty. This lead to countless hours of trouble shooting and made the labs take forever to complete. More clarity as to what we will be tested on for exams would be great. Spent many many hours studying concepts that weren't even tested, while being tested on seemingly unimportant aspects
It was fine
Overall the workload for this course was fair. Would of appreciated direction when labs were assigned as to what was expected and what the learning outcomes were. If was very difficult to connect A to B, and I understand Michel wants us to do that on our own, but we require a bit more direction to get there.
I liked having a number of smaller tests instead of bigger content heavy midterms, made studying a lot easier.   Labs were all good but a couple were done out of order which made things confusing. So

more explanation of necessary assumptions would be good, a slight difference in interpretation could lead to wrong answers with no way for us to recognize our error unless we consulted with numerous colleagues.
Workload a bit higher than expected especially with the labs but very interesting and instructive. Liked how the marks were distributed throughout the assignments. Some of the labs could have been better explained sometimes but good overall.
This class taught me a lot. However, it lacked good explanation often and I felt a little left to my own devices to figure most things out. I understand the desire to use self directed learning, but a more thorough explanation of expectations and processes could have been used. Midterms were a little confusing at times, but that lead to better studying habits, so no complaints there. The instructor could have perhaps been a touch more understanding when answering questions, I felt a little talked down to on occasions when presenting problems I had which didn't really help my learning much. People learn much better in a positive and environment without put downs, even if they are in jest.

235 Forest Ecology II

Good quizzes, fun course wouldn't change anything

This class was really good for work distribution and clarity.

Workload was fair. More clear instructions for TEM map would've been appreciated.

most work was done on tem map and group mapping project.

The workload was good.

One of the excel labs took extensive work (I'm talking 8 hours on one lab), which was a very painful experience, especially when we had a lot of other assignments due. However, other than that, the workload etc. was quite far.

The workload for this course was very reasonable.

Was hard to make TEM map look ok without iPad stencil. Also a bit redundant with eco diagnosis course

Pretty good. I felt the focus on grammar and spelling to be a little inappropriate, I understand it's important to be able to communicate well, but we're forestry students, not English majors.

Needs to be more than once a week, I would often forget the previous lectures. The notes contained to many pictures which made studying for tests difficult. The labs need to be clarified more, often I Found students just following the instructions but having no idea what they learned or got out of it.

Great class, always fair, and easy to understand expectations and standards. Labs were engaging and easy to follow while being provided an oppertunity for critical thinking to produce an educated answer on concepts that have been explained thoroughly

Good.

I feel like this course was reasearch 2.0 with most topics explained were difficult to understand because the examples were always about previous research and I found the ideas could be more clearly expalained if they weren't muddied with research passion

 Perfect amount of work, no clarity issues. However the TEM map did feel redundant.

Bill is smooth

Workload was fair, Bill gave us time to complete most assignments in class and then towards the end of the semester, allowed us to complete a field lab with no additional report. He reviewed the labs in detail before assigning them, so you fully understand what the expectations were. Frequency of quizzes was acceptable, and covered what needed to be reviewed. Study guides for midterms and finals were accurate and to the point.

Probable to most reasonably balanced course of the semester. Not too many quizzes, I don't like quizzes.   Everything was spaced nicely, with breaks in between assignments which was nice because there was always something else to work on from another class.

Workload was fair and well distributed. The assignments were well explained and very instructive. Very interesting class.

Good class, great instructor attitude. Good workload distribution, perfect exams in my opinion. My only issue would perhaps be that there was not a lot of material to study, which lead to a lot of google searching at times. Nothing too serious though.

261 - Harvesting

More field time, getting to see more equipment out in the field
Good distribution of work load.
All work was fair
Only a few hours spent outside of class and it would end early a lot. The workload could rise.
It was not at all clear to me what was to be on each exam, but other than that I felt that the workload was fair.
Workload for this course was reasonable. Lots of time given to complete work in class
Cable logging configurations confusing as heck
Difficult to decipher what knowledge was pertinent and what was just stories about logging in the good old days. Hard to study for tests, expectations were rarely clear.
It was well laid out, I like the small assignments. They related to the notes and lectures and always clarified things well.
Learned lots, and really enjoyed the exercises and field trips/labs.
Good
Much the same as Biometrics. More clarity on field labs as everyone was confused out at the Woodlot. And it would have been nice to know exactly which concepts (excluding the math questions) we would be tested on
Workload was fair, Jim gave us lots of class time to complete assigments and labs. Continuity between classroom, and what is being tested needs to be addressed. No study guides.
Time to do all labs in class which was great, also partly due to scheduling large blocks of time for potential field trips.   No quizzes.
Workload was fair and well distributed. Labs were very instructive and interesting. Everything was explained clearly.
Great class, very interesting. Workload was well distributed. Instructor was very well equiped to teach this topic. However, getting marks back a little sooner would have been helpful. And perhaps slightly longer time slots for the exams, ie, use the 2 hour block not the 1.5 hour block for exams. Exams were perhaps too heavily weighted on a per question basis, being that there were only 4. This caused significant impact if one question was done incorrectly.

271 Roads

Good course, learned a lot. Wouldn't change anything
Same as harvesting. Good distribution of work load.
Everything was fine
Overall workload was good.
Not clear what was on exams, but fair other than that.
Worlk load for this course was reasonable. Lots of in class time given to complete labs.
Expectations are often not clear when it comes to pertinent knowledge course and tests. Labs are difficult when the professor can't answer questions properly.
This class could be combined with harvesting, maybe half beginning of the semester and the other in the end. It sometimes confused me and I found other students didn't know which class was being taught.
Good stuff. Nice to have class time to work and get help with things
Good.
Much the same as Biometrics and Harvesting. More clarity on field labs as everyone was confused out at the Woodlot. And it would have been nice to know exactly which concepts (excluding the math questions) we would be tested on
Workload was fair, time given in class to complete assignments and labs. Concern of mine is when over 75% of the class fails a question on the midterm, that question needs to be review with the class again.
Time to do all labs in class, great. Lots of time between labs, assignments. Great that the final projects for harvesting, roads, and biometrics were meshed together, allowed time out of school to be spent very efficiently working on all three together.
Workload was fair and nicely distributed. Labs were very instructive and interesting. Everything was pretty clear and well explained.
Challenging, but at the same time simple to understand, just what I had hoped for in a class about Forest Roads. A little more explanation could have been used on some projects, and the exams are perhaps too heavily weighted on a per question basis, being that there were only 4. This caused significant impact if one question was done incorrectly. Though the instructor was very fair with informing us of what the questions would look like which made studying easy.

328 GIS
Make some of the first labs markable, DWR was a frustrating project but worth it in the end. Perhaps do an actual map of something rather then a "fake" setting
Grrrr
It would be nice to spend more time with teachers on the lab assignments.
Workload and marking were fair
I wasnt able to finish the smaller labs during the alotted time, needed a couple hours of extra time to work on each one.
Workload was based on the grade you want. The more time you put into it the higher grade you would get. The workload is good.
I found the lab portion to have quite a fair workload, and plenty of time to work on assignments. The lecture portion was a bit heavy, and I found that it didn't click with the lab portion in my head as much as I had hoped. I felt fairly confident in my ArcMap abilities by the end of the semester, but wasn't clear how it connected with the lecture material.
Workload was fair.
GIS theoretical stuff is hard to get excited about
Sometimes a question doesn't need to be answered with another question. Sometimes we just want to know the answer because we're GIS babies and have no clue what we're doing. The self-directed learning at the beginning was pretty useless. I couldn't remember any of the tools we were told to use because there wasn't enough time in each block think about what we were doing, just get er done and get kicked out when the next class arrived.
The amount of time spent in here was fine, but the method of the labs was terrible. Already roadeng is going through the labs as a class and I actually came away with something. The gis labs were just a shamble of asking questions just to finish the work not to understand what was being done. The lecture was too extreme and could have been combined into the lab where examples could have been shown and explained better. Needs definite work on the labs....the time management was fair though.
Love or hate it. It's and interesting learning curve
Problems with computers was frustrating and slowed down productivity with some labs where the problems arised. Workload was good. Hardware or network issues were the biggest drawback.
Clarity on some labs and output expectations were contradicted teacher to teacher
Smaller labs took many hours of trouble shooting. Greater explanation on lab write up would have made things easier.
Long answer quizzes every class is too much. Make it every other class for long answer, or every class for multiple choice. Lot's of time given for labs. More continuity between theory and labs would be appreciated. Study guides were nice, but need to be narrowed down, the amount of content is too much.
Honestly I thought the deer winter range would be a lot more demanding time-wise. If it weren't for the computers/networks screwing up it wouldn't have taken any time out of class to do.   So yeah, very reasonable class.
I think the workload and the class itself should have been more centred on the practical side of GIS. Everything would have been way easier to understand if explained at the computer lab with GIS

running. The marks for that class should have been at least 50-50 between theory and labs if not more for the labs. Overall, things were all right but there is room for improvement for that class.

Good course, taught me a lot. Weighting of grades could be better though. It may have been better to focus more of the grade percentage towards the actual application and less on the theory. However, I did appreciate understading what everything I did on ArcGIS due to the theory portions. Instructors were a pleasure to learn from though, very positive and easy to get along with.

351 Forest Pathology

Cool projects enjoyed the collection and the wiki. Less tests !
This class was the dominant time cruncher.... I feel that too much focus was on memorization with the amount we were expected to know for each quiz/exam. The ratio of time spent to percent grade earned was totally disproportionate. Interesting class but I think people would benefit from paring it down a bit
Lots of quizzes. The final was very large with lots of content.
Workload for this class was overkill. All of the wiki edits and plant collection were very time consuming. Plus all the quizzes, midterm and final!
lots of work was done on the collection and the wiki articles.
Heaviest course for work load. Only 6 quizzes were scheduled and the class agreed to do 11 that put the workload over the edge a bit. Other then that work load is good.
Quite a heavy workload, but I didn't feel that it was unfair. It was clear what was to be on every test, and it was obvious when we were having quizzes (always).
Workload for this course was very heavy.
Information overload on all fronts. Wiki and collection were lots of fun but the majority of lectures were like being shot by Doug's machine gun of knowledge. Also with the rest of the workload studying for the quizzes was an afterthought.
Would be nice to see a marking rubric for the collection... why did we get the mark that we got? What were we missing? The collection was difficult. Especially identifying so many fungi when we really only got to identification at the very last part of the semester
Waaaaay to much work for too little marks, the wiki was good but required to much time outside of class. The time spent outside of class was huge, I was in the library till late because of this class, but I don't want to belly ache because I enjoyed the class but it was too extreme. The notes need a little work it is very difficult to study from what I can scramble down in class. I really liked the class and the teacher is great but silviculture lecture notes are a great example of constructive notes.
For a huge load, it seems pretty painless. And the assignment are enjoyable and completable within the time Always made the learning part interesting and understandable. But interruptions from questions regarding unrelated stuff through off momentum
Workload was heavy, hard to decipher notes from some sections of the prezi. If something was missed in class it was hard to find the answer at home. Very heavy workload for the final as it contained a lot of content and was cumulative. Lots of big projects in one class; wiki, collection, continuous quizzes, cumulative final... manageable assuming everyone passed but it was very stress inducing.
Super heavy course and potentially large picture ideas were missed when trying to keep up with all the quizable fine details
Most time spent on this course by a long shot. It was a heavy amount of information to learn but I knew what I signed up for
Long answer quizzes every class are too much. Multiple choice, or long answer every 2 or 3 weeks. The pathogen project, wiki, quizzes, midterms, and a final, plus the amount of content to learn is a large workload. I found each had it's benefits, but because of the amount of time spent on other things, I was unable to appreciate and learn what i was working on. Study guides were great!! Students know the expectation up front which is fantastic.

I don't like quizzes so really didn't like those.   Wiki was a pain in the ass largely because of the wiki platform. Felt like I spent too much time struggling with the platform and not working on content. Given the amount of time the wiki required I Felt it should have been weighted more marks. Overall the course just seemed extremely content and memorization heavy compared to other classes and really it was the amount of content which was the most overwhelming, not the assignments or tests.

Workload was fair. Maybe less marks should have been allocated to the final exam and more for the wiki. Also, maybe the ID exam could be in the future, separated from the final exam so that it feels less like 1 massive exam and more like 2 separate and distinct evaluations. Overall, things were clearly explained and I found the class very interesting. One last thing, maybe another format than prezi would be better in the future to present the lectures. Things seemed pretty crammed to me often, looking at these lectures. Also, prezi is really not the best when operating it on iPad.

This course was busy, but also probably my favourite. There was a lot of things to do, but this made the grade distribution very accommodating. As always, I'm a major fan of doug's teaching style, if I were a professor, I would teach this way. I don't always appreciate quizzes, but I do see the value they have. It's made me realize, however, that quizzes only really help with learning when they are relentless and consistent. My only other comment would be with the collection. Maybe make the sample amount more like 15 instead of 20, as it is hard to find time to go out and collect, as well as I noticed most people were hung up for samples around 17. Overall, great course.