

**Classroom Observation Form**  
**George Mason University**  
**Department of Social Work**

**Instructor:** Erica Waithaka                      **Observer:** Daphne King  
**Course Number/Title:** SOCW 653 Immigration Policy  
**Class Size:** 23 Students  
**Location:** 2409 Petersen Hall

**Pre-Observation Comments:**

Syllabus: The syllabus clearly provided information on assignment due dates and readings, contact information for the instructor, office hours, and rubric for grading for assignments.

Blackboard Site: The blackboard site made good use of course announcements and content to provide information to students and schedule of readings and assignments. I would suggest looking at ways to use the discussion board more and in varied ways as another tool to engage students.

**Please note in the "Comments" section if there was not an opportunity to observe a particular skill.**

**SCALE: E = Excellent; S = Satisfactory; RFI = Room for Improvement; NA = Not Applicable**

<b>PART 1: Content and Organization</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>RFI</b>	<b>NA</b>
Started and ended class on time		x		
Presented overview of class and learning objectives		x		
Presented & defined key concepts		x		
Presented current material		x		
Presented information in an organized manner		x		
Presented material at a level appropriate to students and the course		x		
Used relevant examples to explain major ideas		x		
Made efficient use of class time		x		
Followed through with class overview and learning objectives		x		
Provided engaging conclusion for the class				x
<u>Comments:</u> The instructor did well with connecting the course materials and information for the class session I observed with current events.				

<b>PART 2: Creating a Classroom Environment Conducive to Learning</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>RFI</b>	<b>NA</b>
Greeted students at the beginning of class		x		
Maintained a comfortable classroom presence (e.g., moved easily about the room, established eye contact, maintained students' attention, used humor appropriately)		x		
Varied communication style to hold interest (e.g., pace, tone)		x		
Demonstrated enthusiasm for and interest in subject		x		
Responded appropriately to a range of student classroom behaviors		x		
Ensured that students interacted civilly/respectfully with each other		x		
Listened carefully and respectfully to students' questions		x		
Answered questions appropriately and restated students' questions or comments as necessary		x		
Encouraged a classroom environment conducive to learning		x		
<u>Comments:</u> The instructor remained engaged with the class and students using eye contact, open discussion, and lecture with power point presentation. The instructor seemed knowledgeable about the course topic, but I suggest using activities or techniques to pull students into the discussion/lecture more by asking students to recap the previous class session as a way to check what information the students retained from the previous class and check their knowledge.				
<b>PART 3: Developing Critical Thinkers</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>RFI</b>	<b>NA</b>
Asked questions that lead to a deeper understanding and questioning of the material		x		
Asked students to apply their learning to authentic problems or scenarios		x		
Asked students to identify and/or question assumptions (e.g., about the field, the text, the material, themselves)		x		
Encouraged students to answer difficult questions by rephrasing or providing cues		x		

Encouraged students to make relevant connections among course ideas, their academic experiences, and their own lives		x		
<u>Comments:</u> I would suggest a few knowledge checks throughout the course. Students were encouraged to make connections with the course materials and current events, but a few knowledge checks is another way to engage students in the lecture and class session.				
<b>PART 4: Teaching Methods</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>RFI</b>	<b>NA</b>
Used lecture effectively	x			
Used student engagement techniques effectively (e.g., discussion, small group work, active learning strategies, etc.)	x			
Incorporated technology effectively to enhance student learning (e.g., PowerPoint slides, course websites, YouTube, blogs, videos, etc.)		x		
Managed classroom learning environment effectively		x		
<u>Comments:</u> I observed the instructor encouraging open dialogue and participation from students in the course. My suggestion is to use technology in more varied ways to have a more interactive approach to the class that would promote students to think critically.				

Respectfully Submitted,

*Daphne L. King*

*Source:* This example Peer Observation Form is based on the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing Peer Evaluation Scale (2003), found in Berk, R. A. (2006). *Thirteen strategies to measure college teaching*. Sterling, CA: Stylus Publishing.