

## SELECTED QUALITATIVE COMMENTS

2011-2013

Although it was a required course (and I heard plenty of complaining about it before this semester), I found it fascinating. It seems absolutely essential for any future library job you may have, so don't let other people's negativity influence your opinion. Saunders is an excellent teacher; I also recommend taking reference with her. (403, 2011)

This class is a tough one, but Laura is really organized and an excellent instructor and that significantly helped my understanding of the material. She's approachable and never makes you feel like the question you're asking is stupid, which is a definite perk in a class with such unique, sometimes confusing content. (403, 2011)

The instructor is excellent. She is knowledgeable, generous, and enthusiastic. She makes what has the potential to be dry material engaging and interesting. (403, 2011)

Laura is so bright and really a lovely person. She goes out of her way to be available and helpful. She is incredibly organized and able to present abstract concepts and information in a way that it can be understood. I highly encourage that you take this class with her -- or any others -- Simmons is lucky to have her! (403, 2011)

Laura showed enthusiasm for and had an upbeat attitude about a potentially dry topic, and was eager to demonstrate how the material covered in the course would be valuable in our future careers as information professionals. (403, 2011)

Nothing will change the fact LIS 403 is hard or frustrating. It asks students to perform work which, in my case I had never done before. Literature reviews, library science research reports, but Laura's sense of humor and upbeat presentation style in lecture makes it all bearable, and she is very open and willing to offer help outside class. In addition there are plenty of opportunities to revise work, and she allows students to do so. (403, 2011)

The instructor really cares about teaching... she uses time wisely, doesn't spend the entire session lecturing at us, breaks up the class with interesting exercises. / Laura Saunders really makes an effort to engage us, encourages participation and conducts many different class activities which kept us alert and thinking and learning on many different levels. Really good course. (403, 2011)

Laura Saunders is clear, an engaging speaker, approachable, funny, smart, and thoughtful. Her feedback on assignments is honest and helpful. I couldn't imagine a better professor for this course. (403, 2011)

403 in general (not taught by Laura) is a course I have heard a lot of people complain and/or express trepidation about. Laura made it interesting, engaging, and approachable, without decreasing its utility. (403, 2011)

Ms. Saunders was very excited and knowledgeable for each class. This is what I was hoping for when I started this program. (407, 2011)

Laura is organized, thoughtful, and enthusiastic--her class was a pleasure. I was not overly excited to take this required course, but I enjoyed the assignments and lectures more than I expected. (407, 2011)

She's been one of my favorite professors. Clear, concise, engaging, devoted to the field and interesting. The lectures are engaging, laid back and encourage participation. The assignments are fair and clearly explained. (407, 2011)

Laura is enthusiastic and thoughtful. Her assignments and feedback encourage growth and she is very accessible. (407, 2011)

Laura is clear, interesting, and well organized. She made a class that could have been painful very engaging and intuitive. (407, 2011)

Laura was enthusiastic, knowledgeable and professional. She has great insight into the field and it's clear she cares about her students. I hope to have more classes with her in the future! (407, 2011)

I loved that she always had assignments graded early. (407, 2011)

I really enjoyed this class. Laura did a great job of making the subject engaging and interesting. The assignments were practical and actually helpful. (407, 2011)

The subject was presented in a way that made the topic interesting and fun. I feel I have a good understanding of reference now and am confident to use the skills I learned in a library setting. The assignments were very helpful and actually highlighted what we learned so they were worth doing. (407, 2011)

She knows what she is talking about and has worked in a library setting doing the things she is teaching us to do. She is pleasant and easy to listen to in class. Sometimes an instructor can really kill a class, but Laura is FANTASTIC! (407, 2011)

Prof. Saunders is a very engaging teacher and her enthusiasm for the subject is contagious. Beyond this, she is a fair grader and is very understanding/accommodating of students' diverse interests/academic concentrations. (407, 2011)

Saunders is wonderful. She conveys the information in a challenging but thoughtful way. She challenges her students without overwhelming them and has an excellent mix of hands on, class discussion, and outside class activities to make the student as familiar with the subject as possible. I learned so much about reference in this class that I never knew. My search technique has significantly improved. (407, 2011)

She cares about her students and their understanding; she encourages everyone to express her ideas (407, 2011)

I felt confident in Professor Saunders's knowledge of the topics covered, and felt that all of my questions were answered clearly and extensively. I felt that class time was well-spent and that her discussion questions facilitated a better understanding of the material covered. (407, 2011)

Professor Saunders is a great teacher who asks that you think critically. (407, 2011)

She has a strong background in reference and shares her experiences with us to connect course content to practice. Her lectures are entertaining and her enthusiasm is inspiring. (407, 2011)

Laura Saunders is an amazing instructor. She is extremely organized and explains everything clearly. In general she is very knowledgeable about the content she taught. (407-OL, 2012)

Laura Saunders is an amazing instructor. I feel extremely blessed to have taken one of my core courses through her. I hope that I get to take more classes from her in the future. (407-OL, 2012)

Laura is a great instructor. She explains things clearly, is patient and thorough in answering questions, and is flexible in adjusting the course content/deadlines if something's not working. She's also just really enthusiastic and nice to work with. (407-OL, 2012)

SHE MAKES THE WORK IMPORTANT BECAUSE SHE CARES ABOUT IT. (530J, 2012)

This course allowed me to be excited for being a librarian again. Most of the courses I took to obtain my degree left me frustrated for a variety of reasons; didn't pertain to real-life librarianship, outcomes weren't clearly communicated, or professor seemed completely clueless as to what life outside of grad school is like. This course was AMAZING in that we had great discussions about all of the trials that are facing librarianship currently and presented different ways of thinking about the solutions. I will look back on this class fondly./ AMAZING CLASS (530J, 2012)

Laura is amazing. She is the most encouraging professor I have ever taken. She creates an amazing and comfortable learning environment. She is kind and treats everyone with respect. (530J, 2012)

This is the most enjoyable class I've taken at Simmons. I feel more prepared to address the needs of underserved communities as a professional librarian. (530J, 2012)

Laura is incredibly committed to the social justice foundations of this course, and supportive of both our learning and our practice. I'm thrilled that she resurrected this course after a hiatus. (530J, 2012)

Professor Simmons was organized, timely with information, offered updates, extra resources and was available to the class. The discussions were often animated and that is due in no small part to her interest in the subject, the fact that she could draw from practical experience and her facilitation skills. (530J, 2012)

She is wonderful at leading discussions and getting everyone involved./ I recommend this class to anyone. It deals with very important issues and it is interesting and thought-provoking. (530J, 2012)

Laura is incredibly well-spoken and open to discussing different ideas. She encourages her students to think critically but makes a point of being respectful of opposing views. (530J, 2012)

Laura so clearly knows what she's talking about and is very organized. She is good at fielding difficult questions from students and presenting what can easily be a dry topic in a way that's easy to understand and digest. (403, 2012)

Laura is very kind and consistently breaks down the class content that is conducive to all styles of learning. She was very helpful in fleshing out my ideas for the proposal and had great wisdom to give. (403, 2012)

Laura is a super understanding and approachable person. She makes herself available to help students whenever they need assistance, and is very caring about the responses she makes. Her feedback on assignments is both encouraging and helpful. (403, 2012)

Laura is fantastic--enthusiastic about the material, extremely knowledgeable, and very approachable and accessible. I wasn't looking forward to taking this class, but Laura made it interesting and stimulating. (403, 2012)

Prof. Saunders is a great instructor and made the class as interesting and engaging as possible. Though the topic itself was a bit dry, Laura made it easy to understand and absorb. This is my second class with Prof. Saunders and I would certainly recommend her to other students. (403, 2012)

The class was a great experience. I did very well, took all of my professor's criticism into consideration and I even decided to turn my proposal into an Independent Study next semester. (403, 2012)

The class was well-organized. Intelligent, relevant discussion was the norm. This was one of the best-taught classes I've taken at Simmons. (403, 2012)

The instructor was very knowledgeable about the material and taught it in a way that was easy to understand. The assignments related well with the topics and encouraged me to think critically and learn many resources available i had not previously known. (407, 2012)

The instructor was VERY enthusiastic and passionate about her subject, which is obviously good. She had a real working knowledge of the Simmons library. I would encourage anyone thinking of going the academic library route to take this course from her. (407, 2012)

Well-defined expectations, knowledgeable about the various reference issues, approachable, and provides constructive, timely feedback. (407, 2012)

She is enthusiastic and makes the course work relevant to real life. It was a pleasure to come to class each week. It was mentally stimulating and made me grow. (407, 2012)

Laura Saunders is a great professor. It is clear she cares deeply for the welfare of her students and her teaching style is thorough and accessible. She is well organized and thoroughly knowledgeable in the subject area this course entails. I will make it a point to take another class with this professor whenever it is possible. (407, 2012)

She has a special talent for taking dry material and bringing it to life. Plus she has a great sense of humor. (403, 2013)

She listens to students and values our input. She creates useful in-class exercises, encourages discussion and input, and varies her tone enough to keep people's attention over an extended period. I would recommend that other students take a course from this instructor (403, 2013)

Laura's enthusiasm for research makes this class. Her outcomes are communicated very explicitly and she makes productive and effective use of Moodle. She encourages questions and brings a dry sense of humor to what is sometimes dry content. I enjoyed this class far more than I thought I would. (403, 2012)

Laura's deep well of knowledge on the subject being taught is clearly evident and her excitement for learning is contagious. Her style of teaching also is clear concise and straight-forward in a way that is easy to understand without oversimplification of the topic of study. I highly recommend this professor as she is very good at what she does and it is obvious she enjoys it as well. (403, 2012)

Laura is very awesome. This was also one of the few classes I've had in the GSLIS program where I actually feel like putting in many many hours and doing my best got me the grade worth all that effort. It was extremely motivating to be rewarded like that, and I ended up liking the class despite the boring nature of the material. (403, 2013)

Laura is a great teacher. She is so enthusiastic on her topic. She is fun to take classes with and responds very quickly to emails and questions. She looked over every single assignment I worked on and gave helpful feedback that allowed me to increase my grade. (403, 2012)

I really appreciate all the time Laura put in to responding to our discussion posts each week, individually and as a group. Her comments were always sincere and thoughtful. (407-OL, 2013)

Saunders was a delight and always positive with her feedback and instructions. Her class was well planned and adequate time was given for weekly assignments and ongoing projects. I feel I learned a great deal from Saunders in this course and would encourage others to take a course with her. (407-OL, 2013)

I thoroughly enjoyed having Professor Saunders for 407-OLC. She always brought a sense of enthusiasm along with the content and challenged me to think more critically. (407-OL, 2013)

She's great. She made a topic that could be uncomfortable and made it easier to delve into and hash out. Also she has some great experiences and really cares about the issue. She also explains topics very well and is very responsive about the assignments. (410, 2013)

This course has been one of my favorite course ever taken at Simmons! I think the aspect of discussion played a major role in my enjoyment of the class because we really got to cover material and topics we were interested in by discussing them with out peers. (410, 2013)

Useful, engaging course, and well-thought out by this prof. She approaches topics with sensitivity and awareness/transparency about our limitations, etc. Really brings together a lot of concepts from other parts of the GSLIS curriculum as well. (410, 2013)

Laura is incredibly enthusiastic and knowledgeable about her subject. She encouraged participation and discussion by all class members. She supported class members who didn't speak up as much in getting space to speak./ I found this course to be an incredibly valuable addition to my experience at Simmons. I believe all librarians should be educated in working with diverse users. (410, 2013)

Laura is an exceptional teacher, and I feel very lucky to have taken a class with her. (408, 2013)

Laura is clearly excited about the subject matter, it shows in the way she teaches and gives feed back. She is very knowledgable about the topic and that shows as well. I feel like I gained skills about instruction from this class and others would too--regardless of their incoming level of instruction experience. (408, 2013)

I have really loved this class. It has definitely been my favourite class and I feel the assignments have been really helpful. I hope she continues to teach this class and in this way. (451, 2013)

Professor Saunders was very well organized, the class was interesting, and she was always enthusiastic and engaged. She is one of the best orators and teachers I've had./ It was a great class and it confirms that having the right teacher, one who is prepared and engaged, really makes a difference in the class. I looked forward to coming to class each day. (451, 2013)

Laura is an excellent instructor. She is personable, relatable, practical. Fosters interesting conversation in class. shows much respect for her students, which in turn garner her respect. One of my favorite classes at Simmons to date. (451, 2013)

I loved the practical assignments from this course and feel I at least have a solid idea of what is included in an academic librarian field. Laura is great! (451, 2013)

I would absolutely recommend that others take a class with Laura, because she is great! She is fun and makes topics clear and I thoroughly enjoyed her teaching. I have nothing negative to say about my experience with her as the teacher. She is wonderful. (401, 2013)

Laura Saunders is a fantastic teacher, and one who wants every student involved in discussions. She is more than available to all of her students, and is always eager to help. (401, 2013)

Her lectures were entertaining, she was informative, clear and engaging. Gave good feedback on assignments quickly. Was very patient about orienting us to Simmons as new students and made herself very available on topics about class and as a general resource for the program. I can't say enough nice things about prof. Saunders. (401, 2013)