

## Excerpts from Kimberly Acquaviva's UVA course evaluations

### Diverse Opinions Are Welcomed, Valued, and Respected

"I thought Professor Acquaviva was going to be another UVA 'woke' faculty member with an agenda to push. She is the opposite. She values everyone's opinions and gives everyone equal respect. She challenges students to see other's points of view for professional and personal reasons." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2021

"I initially believed that Professor Acquaviva would be intolerant or resistant to discussion about my points of view. Instead, she was truly inclusive and made me feel comfortable with the fact that we disagreed. I feel that academia should respectfully challenge how we think and this was very much an example of that....Professor Acquaviva navigated uncomfortable conversations gracefully and in a manner that was extremely productive, informative, and inclusive. The writer of this review is politically more 'right' than the perceived average at UVA and I include this because I want to further emphasize her skill at creating an inclusive environment for those of all political beliefs." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2021

"No matter your stance on something, Professor Acquaviva wants to hear it all. She cultivates an environment where her students feel safe to talk about potentially controversial/hard subjects, and she makes everyone feel heard." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"When talking about difficult topics such as racism, Kim always made sure to provide an open space for dialogue, encouraging those of all views to share their thoughts." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"She was very open to all opinions, but also made me as a Black student feel heard, understood, and respected in her classroom. More than any other classroom I have been in." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"During syllabus week, Kim created a foundation for our learning environment that welcomed diverse opinions. I remember that we had to do an activity where we had to log into a collaborative JamBoard — the JamBoard had different types of political standings (i.e. Conservative vs. Liberal) and we had to anonymously place ourselves in the standing that we best identified with. Of course, there was a wide range — some people were very left-leaning, while others were very right-leaning, and many people were somewhere in the middle. Despite this, Kim validated everyone's standing and did not make people feel ashamed for their placement. This created a foundation where everyone could feel safe to speak out during discussions for the rest of the semester." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Kimberly Acquaviva created an environment that respected differences and welcomed diverse perspectives by actively encouraging participation from all students regardless of their backgrounds, experiences or opinions. She also acknowledged and validated the experiences and perspectives of marginalized groups and actively worked to create a safe and inclusive space for everyone in the class." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2023

"Professor Acquaviva regularly facilitated discussion that welcomed diverse perspectives and discouraged 'silencing' of other classmates." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Summer 2022

"In our discussion on Roe vs Wade, she encouraged us to be honest and upfront about our views. This discussion challenged us to respect the strong opinions of others while sharing our opinions on the topic. She guided us through asking various questions and redirected us by asking straightforward questions." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Summer 2022

"She was clear at the beginning of the semester that she really valued other perspectives/ideas, and that it often adds to the class rather than takes away from it." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"She laid out at the very beginning of the semester that all perspectives were welcome, with the exception of hateful ones." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Kim made it clear from the first class that this class was a safe environment to express our differences and diverse perspectives." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Kim is the best professor at creating a safe, respectful environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and individuals." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"From the first day of class, she made it clear that she recognized her privilege and that her perspective was influenced by it. She also created an environment in which all feelings (except for hate/disrespect directed at one another) were welcome and could be expressed." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"I never felt so comfortable and welcomed to be present until this course. As a minority, this speaks volumes." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Actively brought up systemic inequalities and racism in discussion and lectures." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"It was made very clear at the beginning of the class that we all have different perspectives and attitudes about things and that unless the thought was hurtful, it was a valued perspective." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

## **Students are Challenged, Supported, and Empowered**

"Dr. Acquaviva is especially thoughtful in facilitating whole-class discussions. She creates an extremely safe space to express opinions and ask difficult questions. I never felt scared to speak my mind in her class. I also learned invaluable communication tools. She has inspired me to communicate with less judgement and seek understanding of viewpoints that differ from my own. This is particularly important in health policy and I have already begun to put some of these communication skills to use in my full-time job. I am inspired to make positive changes in the healthcare community – something I once thought to be an impossible feat. Thanks to her discussion facilitation I learned so much from my fellow classmates as well who all offer their own unique gifts and life experiences to the conversation." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2021

"I completely and totally appreciate your desire and ability to empower nurses to be the voice of power in our health care system. Your expertise and passion is palpable. Thank you for an amazing semester!" -- Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2021

"I have never felt more empowered by a professor. Kim is such a great role model and is someone who leads by example. She is always challenging us to enter difficult discussions, to challenge policies that may hurt individuals, and to strive to change the way things are done. She has given me the confidence and the power of knowledge to seek out change in my community. Kim is respectful, supportive, and a phenomenal professor. UVA is lucky to have her and I am lucky to have been taught by her." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2020

"I have tried to be a non-judgmental and patient person but professor Kim has set an example unlike any other of what kindness and non judgement looks like. I am so thankful to learn from her and even though I know I differ in politic[al] views, her attitude to go about having difficult conversations is one to take as an example for Congress and the entire world. I have never met someone so willing to quietly listen to opposing political views from ones own and be so respectful and polite to any view. Even though I do not have the same views, I wish more people were like Professor Kim and this world would be a more understanding and kind place. Thank you for being my professor!" -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2020

"Kim made it clear from the first class that this class was a safe environment to express our differences and diverse perspectives. She is one of the few professors that made this explicitly clear from the beginning. This is crucial for the nature of the class and Kim did a great job facilitating complex discussion and respecting multiple viewpoints." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"It was made very clear at the beginning of the class that we all have different perspectives and attitudes about things and that unless the thought was hurtful, it was a valued perspective." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"I do not have the same views, I wish more people were like Professor Kim and this world would be a more understanding and kind place. Thank you for being my professor!" -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2020

"Kim was absolutely phenomenal at facilitating a learning environment within her classroom, whether it be virtually in discussion posts, in person in the large class setting, or in small groups. Her brief 'lectures' were extremely informational, and she also strongly encouraged the model of students learning from each other, with the classroom sort of 'teaching itself.' This is an idea that at first sounded like a train wreck to me, but after taking her courses realized it is possible and can be so fruitful." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2022

"Kim is AMAZING!!! She leads the class with kindness and compassion and a genuine passion for both the subject matter and the wellbeing of her students. She greatly impacted my life not only in my understanding of the subject matter but also how I view the world, look at problems, and approach solutions." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2022

"I absolutely loved and appreciated all of the opportunities given to engage in conversation in a comfortable environment. Learning in a stress-free environment was a breath of fresh air and allowed me to learn and participate in a subject I wasn't too familiar with. I can honestly say I have taken knowledge and strength from this class that will be with me forever. Thank you!" -- Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2021

"I am so grateful for Kim's honesty and humor throughout the entire year, but especially once we transitioned online. She is so encouraging and uplifting, and makes a task that feels impossible something that is actually achievable. It is so evident how much Kim cares about her students and wants to them not only do well academically, but to also do well as people--genuinely taking care of ourselves while doing hard work. I loved getting to learn from and work with Kim over the past year!" - Student in NURS 4951, Spring 2020

"This course is more than just a class on health policy. Professor Acquaviva encourages her students to consider what it looks like to be a responsible nurse and citizen of the world who engages with people, political issues, and everyday life respectfully and honestly, while teaching us (her students) health policy." - Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2020

### **Feedback is Genuinely Valued -- in Both Directions**

"She always welcomed feedback even if it meant that students in the class were giving her feedback in a way that was not polite. She remained calm and thanked them for their input and engaged in that conversation rather than become upset and react negatively. She also actively sought to foster communication between different perspective[s] rather than conflict." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2021

"Kim is an amazing professor. She is always open to student feedback, encourages whole-class discussions, and makes everyone feel welcome in the classroom." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"It was phenomenal. I actually feel guilty (the totally normal guilt haha) that I did not speak up much or email the professor just how much I appreciated her class, her teaching, and herself as a person. Dr. Acquaviva presented herself and her class as the most open, accepting, and safest space that I had EVER seen in an academic setting. I appreciated her comments, her assurances, how she spoke with my classmates when they presented any opinion (whether they agreed or disagreed), the brevity and humor, and the material she presented for teaching. I must also point out that I love it when professors use their classrooms to bring up topics of injustice against BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ because it makes me feel safe. I also really, really, REALLY LOVED how she asked how we were doing, asked for feedback, and then LISTENED to and CHANGED things (because I was incredibly stressed this semester) based on that feedback. It actually empowered me as a student and person and for once I felt like I don't have to accept things as is but can speak up and change things. I don't know if I can find the words to explain how HUGE that is, especially as a nursing student who was feeling very powerless myself. She listened and changed things and so weird as it is I trust her as a professor and a professional." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2021

"Dr Acquaviva is one of the most engaged professors I have had the pleasure of learning from at UVA. She provides timely feedback, that is actually helpful and insightful. She understands the demands on students and is willing to meet them where they are to be successful. I wish I had more classes with her!" -- Student in GNUR 6056, Summer 2020

"I love how inclusive this course is and how the professor thinks about the students learning needs. I appreciate how she doesn't force anyone to do anything they aren't comfortable with and is extremely receptive to feedback." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Professor Acquaviva always made me feel welcome in her class and I really appreciated that she gave me personalized feedback on my assignments because I could tell she read them and appreciated my hard work." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

### **One of the Best**

"Professor Acquaviva is one of the best professors I have ever had at the University of Virginia. And this says a lot because I got my undergraduate degree at UVA. She is able to make everyone feel welcome and is consistently open to different ideas and perspectives. As a Black woman, it is easy to go unseen and unheard in classes at UVA. Professor Acquaviva not only made me feel seen and heard, but she encouraged me to make sure I shared my ideas with others. She encouraged me to be the best version of myself and I am forever grateful." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Dr. A is the best professor I have ever had, hands down. She genuinely cares about each of her students and makes the course material so interesting and applicable. I was nervous about a 'policy' class when I saw it was required but it ended up being my favorite class I have ever taken."  
-- Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2021

"She is just the best. She herself leads the class with honesty and isn't afraid to read the room and not shy away from the ugly." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Kim is the best professor at creating a safe, respectful environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and individuals. This class welcomed tough conversations and encouraged everyone to share their thoughts. She established class guidelines and led by example on how to respect everyone and their opinions. She acknowledged all responses and feedback in a respectful manner." - Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Kim's approach to online asynchronous learning ought to be canon."-- Student in NUCO 4559, J-Term 2021

"This was my favorite class of graduate school thus far. Dr. Acquaviva is so kind, compassionate, caring, and inclusive to her students and always made space for us to speak our minds. I am so thankful she was here for us this semester and taught me so much in regards to health policy and LIFE."

"I believe that as an undergrad alumni and now graduate student at UVA, that this was my absolute favorite class I have ever taken at the university. I absolutely loved learning from Kimberly Acquaviva. The projects that we did were very helpful to our learning and I felt they allowed me to use my creativity to thrive and also learn better. Thank you for such an amazing class and semester." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2020

"Kim is the best professor I've ever had at the School of Nursing, and she cares so much about her students. Her actions prove that, and she treats everyone equally and equitably. This course is designed to make you question your own sense of self and how that is correlated with American politics and consequential health disparities and implicit (sometimes explicit) discrimination. Not all courses are designed with this kind of humility, so I think we should all learn from that." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2020

"I have had many classes during my time here... and I have yet to experience an online course like this— where the professor is able to engage the entire class. Dr. Acquaviva is a great role model, I cannot find the words to describe how truly amazing she is. She is an example of a great leader. I have never met her [note: it was an online class] but I feel like I know her so well by how real and transparent she is. There need to be more people like Dr. Acquaviva then maybe the world would be a happier place. WOW, I am lucky to have had her as a professor she is so understanding and easy to talk to. She responds to emails and grades in a timely manner (very fast)! During the course, I felt like there was a good balance in the amount of work we had." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2021

"This has been one of my favorite classes and class structures I have had over my last four years here at UVA." -- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"The professor was extremely supportive, passionate, and intelligent. I would recommend this course to anyone. Kim is seriously the best!" - Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"I would highly recommend making this course a permanent staple course—far too many students leave the university not knowing how to adequately communicate about sex and intimacy, both of which are facets of life that reach us all." -- Student in NUCO 4559, J-Term 2021

"Dr. Kim Acquaviva is truly an inspiring and passionate instructor. She created a safe space right from the beginning while encouraging us to challenge her and each other in order to developing our ideas and advocating for change. She offers so much to us students and always checks in with us, knowing and understanding that the pandemic has affected all of us in many different ways." -- Student in GNUR 6056, Spring 2021

"This class really made me think about public policy and how I could become more involved, not only in my future career but also as a normal citizen. I feel like this class was one of the first classes I have taken that I can see myself using all of the information I learned in the future." -- Student in NUCO 4056 Spring 2021

"Kim is the best professor at creating a safe, respectful environment that welcomes diverse perspectives and individuals. This class welcomed tough conversations and encouraged everyone to share their thoughts. She established class guidelines and led by example on how to respect everyone and their opinions. She acknowledged all responses and feedback in a respectful manner."

- Student in NUCO 4056, Spring 2023

"Kim is an amazing instructor! She is passionate about the topics she teaches and makes other students feel her passion! Her passion and experiences inspire me to be involved in health policy! This was my favorite class and she truly cares about her students." - Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2021

"When I saw I had to take this class, I was dreading it!!! This course quickly become my favorite class and one I would look forward to each week. Dr. A kept the class engaging and fun. She provided a classroom environment that was respectful and non-judgmental which was crucial as we discussed many controversial topics in medicine and policy—making as it relates to healthcare. Dr. A also genuinely cares about her students and is very understanding. This made a huge difference to my overall mental health and grad school experience as this was my first semester at UVA. - Student in GNUR 6056, Fall 2021

"This class has been amazing in opening my eyes to new perspectives and insights on sex and intimacy. Kim was understanding, kind, and greatly knowledgeable about the topics discussed. She was very particular about making sure we were comfortable engaging with the material. There was never a dull moment in this class. She couldn't have been a better teacher. Even though this was an asynchronous class, we were able to have an open and honest dialogue about things that are rarely discussed in real life. All in all, this class has been my favorite and most engaging class at UVA and I hope that Kim continues to teach it." -- Student in NUCO 4559, J-Term 2021

"This has been by far my favorite course at UVA. Professor Kim was absolutely amazing and was the best professor I have ever had." - Student in NUCO 4559, J-Term 2021