

Fall 2011 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS_1004_97999_201109

Results of survey

Started: November 26, 2011

Ended: December 8, 2011

Reply rate: 81% (100 / 123)

Fall 2011 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

If a course was taught by multiple instructors, you will be asked to respond to the same items for each instructor. For course-related items, please consider the nature of the course as it was taught by each named instructor.

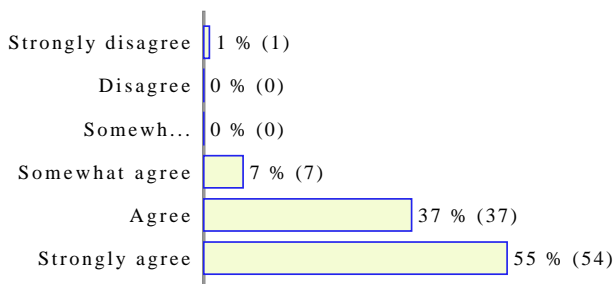
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech!

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements:

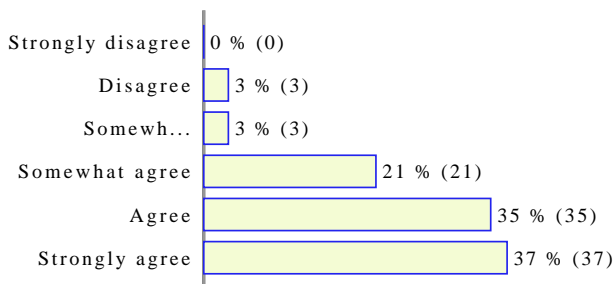
1. The instructor was well prepared.

99 answers, mean = 5.43



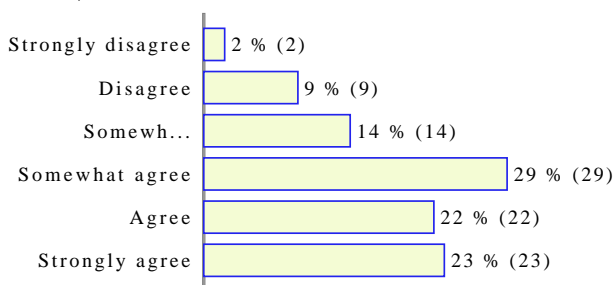
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

99 answers, mean = 5.01



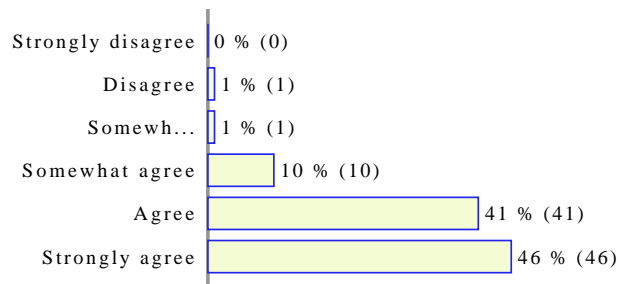
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

99 answers, mean = 4.30



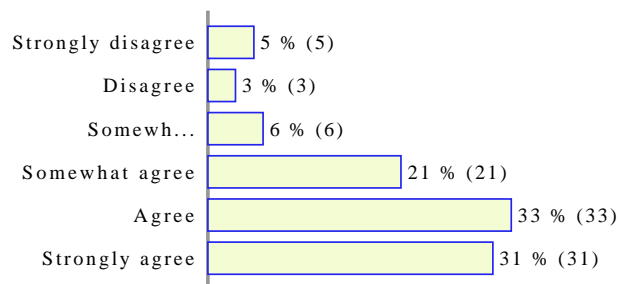
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

99 answers, mean = 5.31



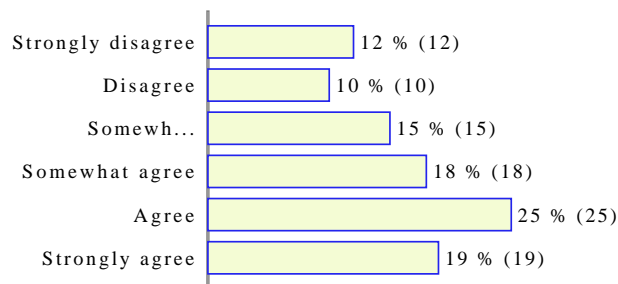
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

99 answers, mean = 4.69



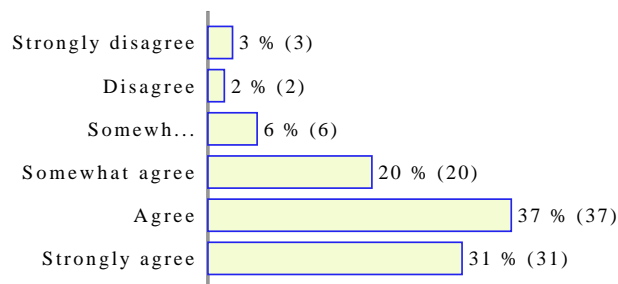
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

99 answers, mean = 3.92



7. Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.

99 answers, mean = 4.81



8. What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

- Visuals for notes.
- I-clicker questions
- The iClicker questions help because they reinforce the material that we just learned to see if we were paying attention or not.
- using the iClicker to estimate the understanding of the material in the students.
- The tests are on the lectures.

- very good at instructing and conveying the topic information
- Showed real life pictures and compared subject to everyday examples.
- He presented the material in a manner that kept me attentive. The use of iclicker questions helped in particular.
- Posting slides online.
- Used visuals and spoke clearly
- He was fantastic! I was struggling in the class and had a meeting with him. He is very approachable, available, and positive. He offered study suggestions for material as well as varied explanations of the subject. In the classroom, he is engaging and passionate about what he is teaching, making the lectures interesting and enjoyable. I want to stress one more time how positive and approachable he is as a teacher; he made me feel comfortable with asking him questions as well as talking about grades and success strategies.
- His powerpoint were very simple.
- Not much, lectures were rather boring.
- had pictures in the powerpoints
- He posted all notes online relatively quickly and was always prepared for class.
- Mastering Geology Quizzes- didn't actually read the Chapters but they helped.
- Provided PowerPoints to go along with the lecture.
- Dr. Johnson's lectures were very interesting because he incorporated examples (sometimes humorous) of geology at work.
- provided online notes that matched the notes in class
- good lectures, gave almost all information in lectures so if you attended and took good notes you should have it all.
- Was very open and encouraged questions.
- Good explanations
- He had an engaging method of presenting information
- If anyone had a question, he would really go in depth to make sure we understood a topic. Also, the iClicker questions helped him get a better understanding of what we understood or did not understand, so he could do more in depth on an issue we may not have fully understood.
- his lectures are engaging
- keep a positive attitude
- I like the lecture format.
- Created the powerpoints and posted them on scholar.
- Posted the slide shows online
- Kept me interested during lectures.
- I clicker questions
- During his lectures he would put a lot of effort into making the subject interesting.
- The i clicker questions helped me out a lot.
- He taught effectively using PPTs which gave me a clear understanding because there were visual aids.
- Provided study guides before the exams
- iclicker questions, comprehensive powerpoint presentation, use of effective examples in order to clarify the material
- The i - clicker forced students to pay attention.
- gave good examples about the topics
- In addition to the textbook he provided and explained the subject material in a more concisely.
- Had a broad base of knowledge, just couldn't communicate effectively.
- posted notes online
- Before the exams he gave out practice exams.
- He knows the material well. He used powerpoints to emphasize his points, but his explanations were clearly stated.
- Practice Tests
- cracked jokes to help lighten the mood
- He presented the matter clearly on a powerpoint and went over it in detail
- His passion for the subject made his lecture interesting to listen to.
- Provided diagrams and practice tests.
- He used the iclicker to ask interactive questions during class to make sure we were understanding the material.
- explained the powerpoints in depth, answered any questions I had
- His explanations of the power point notes clarified the information, and the iClicker questions reinforced what I was learning.
- He was always more than willing to help with any questions we had and was accommodating of our schedules.
- Nothing.
- His lectures were very interesting and informative. He is an excellent lecturer.
- He presented his information on powerpoint presentations, and gave ideas throughout the way.

- Knowledgeable in the area
- provide a slideshow
- iClicker questions
- He had iClicker questions that were exactly on the exam.
- Put the lectures on scholar
- He presented the material in a very easy to follow way.
- Put the notes online
- Powerpoints were always well organized and easy to follow.
- his lectures were interesting
- used iclicker
- Explain certain things, I guess.
- Posting lecture notes on Scholar
- Consistent structure in all classes
- Provided many pictures in his slides which helped me visualize what we were actually talking about.
- The iClicker Questions, along with the chapter quizzes really helped me learn the matter.
- He was always prepared and the iClicker questions were helpful to keep you focused during class.
- Explained the content very well.
- Practice test questions
- told jokes to keep the mood light
- online quizzes
- Explained things very well, and had iClicker questions that made sure everyone was paying attention.
- He always answered emails and was very helpful in meeting with people to help them.
- Told us exactly what to study for the exam
- Dr. Johnson is a wonderful guy - he is passionate about the material and wants everyone to do well. He is also helpful during office hours.
- Some examples he provided were good.
- iclicker questoins
- Iclicker questions really focused what I needed to know
- evenly focused time on all material for exams
- Review the book more.
- payed more attention to lectures in class
- Paid better attention in class and studied more.
- I could have read the textbook in more detail to give me more information on the subject.
- Write everything down from lectures.
- Studied more for tests
- I could have perhaps asked more questions in class about specific slides.
- Nothing, he was great.
- paid attention
- Gotten more sleep so I would have been able to always stay awake during class.
- Pay better attention, sometimes got a little dry in classes.
- Came prepared for class.
- Asked more questions.
- studied notes more, read the textbook to reinforce information learned in class
- read the book, stayed awake in class
- Read more from the text book
- Probably payed more attention in class, sometimes I have a tendency to zone out
- Make the lectures more engaging. Some of them were dull.
- take better notes
- take better notes
- Better time management.
- Made it a more interactive class- ask questions, incorporate students
- Studied the material more in depth
- Paid better attention during lectures.
- read the textbook
- I could have payed more attention in class and taken better notes.
- Taken better notes and listened to his examples.
- Study more, I guess.
- I could have read the text more closely
- focused during classes more.

9. What could you have done to be a better learner?

- Read instead of skimmed the chapters.
- Study more
- I could have read the book more.

- Take better notes.
- Read the book more.
- Spread my reading out over a couple weeks.
- Notes
- not brought a laptop
- Paid more attention.
- Sometime he would forget the iClicker technology so thusly the students would not receive credit for being there for the day.
- More interactive than just lecture.
- Stayed more focused during class periods.
- Focus more on reading from chapters in the book.
- gone to visit my professor during office hours, talked to him about how I could improve my grade
- I could have dedicated more time to study on a regular basis rather than just before exams.
- Probably kept up with the textbook reading better.
- Nothing. I show up to almost every class and diligently take notes. Afterwards, I read the textbook and take notes on that too.
- I could have been more prepared for class.
- Made myself more involved in the material.
- Made tests easier
- not allow technology (laptops). it was a huge distraction
- taken more thorough notes
- I could have payed attention more in class.
- Payed more attention
- Studied more
- Attended class more regularly
- More feedback from tests/exams and assignments.
- taken better notes
- taken adderall
- Paid attention in class more.
- Reinforce what was learned in the class by reading from the textbook
- Been more aware of online quiz deadlines, read the book more
- I could have stopped myself from getting on facebook during lectures.

- To be a better learner I could have seen the professor more for certain subject matter I didn't understand.
- I could have paid better attention and given the class more effort. Being a CLE requirement class, I kind of overlooked it to focus more on my major classes.
- Paid more attention in class.
- study after each lesson
- taken better notes
- Focus more and trying not to be distracted by the large number of students in the class.
- Payed more attention in class.
- flashcards
- Actually read the chapeters assigned
- I did everything in my power to understand this material and nothing helped at all. I've spoke to the professor during office hours, I've studied the online quizzes, the book, the powerpoint slides, and I still manage to fail every exam.
- I didn't realize I was a bad learner.
- studied more
- I tried very hard throughout the course

10. Please add any additional comments regarding the course here:

- He could be a little more intriguing and make the course content more fun to learn about. It's pretty dry. But by no means is he a bad teacher.
- questions in test can be misleading, but overall i thought it was a pretty good class.
- N/A
- Fantastic course with a great teacher. Highly recommendable!
- Nice guy- can't help geology is dull.
- N/A
- A solid course with a fantastic teacher.
- I am struggling on the exams despite the large amount of time I am spending studying. I am having difficulties with the amount of detail on the exams.
- Relatively boring subject
- class was made way to challenging for a intro level course
- Read directly off slides which is not a very effective way of teaching. Also, very monotone which made it hard to stay focused. Another thing was that Johnson stated the exams were based off of the slides in class, they were not. The

exams were extremely hard and very detailed, which is borderline ridiculous because the material for each exam is over 100 pages.

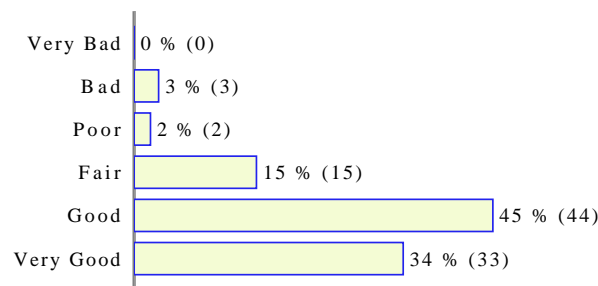
- somewhat boring....
- Dr. Johnson was a good teacher who was understanding and tried to make class fun and interesting.
- Rocks are boring to learn about.
- I thought that my instructor was a very good teacher, and showed a intelligence on his subject.
- The professors sense of humor and how he taught the material kept the class interesting for me.
- Very nice guy. Very helpful if you wanted to talk to him before or after class.
- This course was exceedingly boring and never truly captured my attention. With that said, i found it hard to study the content for the quizzes and tests.
- he told us it was his goal to have the class average be a 75. he basically made the class much harder than it should have been.
- Dr. Johnson is a great guy, but I do not care for him as a professor. I found the subject matter of this course EXTREMELY difficult. I did very well in high school and I have A's and high B's in my other classes this semester so that is proof I am not a bad student. However, geology is obviously not my strong suit. But this course is not in my major and I am only taking it to fill a CLE requirement so I do not understand why it is so extremely difficult. I don't think it's fair, as a communication major who struggles with math and science, that I was forced to take this class. It severely brought down my GPA and I honestly don't know if I will pass the course. When I go into a test I know what every question is referring to, but the questions are so tricky and I end up getting them wrong anyways. Please don't make people take this class anymore - there have to be easier sciences to fulfill CLE requirements.
- Johnson made geology probably about as interesting as it could be. I mean I wasn't really interested in the class (requirement), but it could sometimes be interesting. So cheers to him for that.

Oh yeah man one more thing: Rock on.

- Need to focus on the important info more, very ambiguous what to focus learning on

11. How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?

97 answers, mean = 5.05



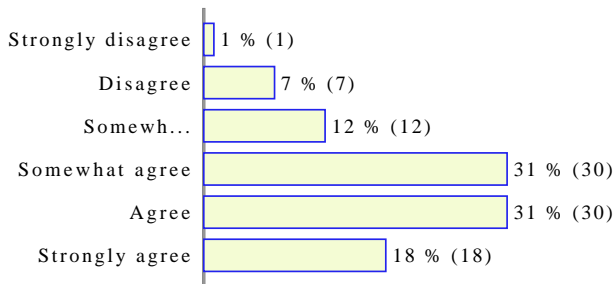
12. Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

- Sitting up near the front of the auditorium helps.
- always had a good view. the environment definitely impacted my learning abilities in a positive manner, hancock 100 is a great lecture hall.
- Easy to get distracted.
- N/A
- Hancock 100 is a nice lecture hall. It is comfortable and easy to hear the teacher from any seat in the room.
- Huge class so not a lot of participation.
- N/A
- N/A
- HAN 100 was a very nice auditorium...no complaints
- N/A
- It was very quiet but there was no participation so the class was very dull and put most to sleep.
- Very hard to focus.
- The lecture wasn't too big, so I could always see and hear really well.
- Sometimes there were difficulties with the projector that made seeing difficult.
- It is a large classroom, but it has not affected my learning experience in any way.
- distraction of laptops
- I don't like lecture halls.
- Nice place
- From my seating the physical environment was very good, but some days when I sat in the back of the classroom it was much harder to concentrate.
- no comment
- I enjoyed the lecture setup of the class.
- Sometimes there was trash in that room.

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

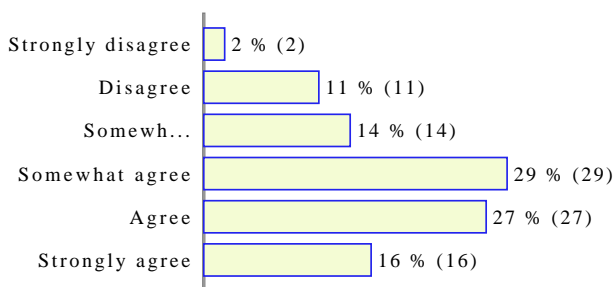
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

98 answers, mean = 4.38



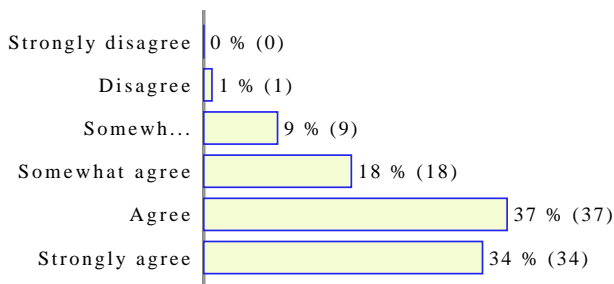
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

99 answers, mean = 4.17



15. The instructor used a scholarly approach in presenting content (referencing theory, research, and debates in the field).

99 answers, mean = 4.95

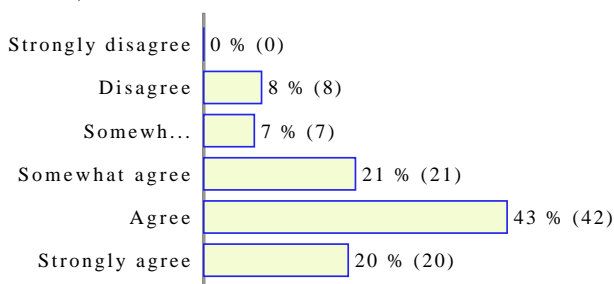


Geosciences

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statements.

16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

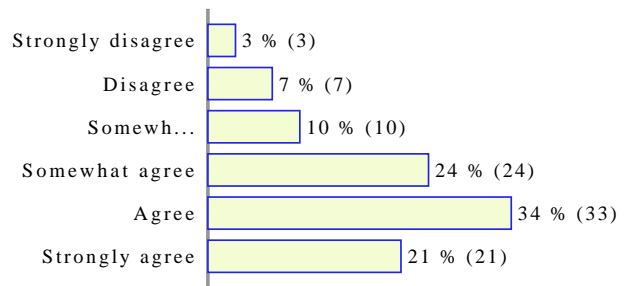
98 answers, mean = 4.60



17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on

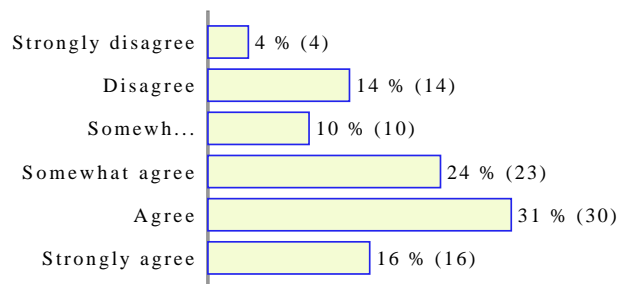
issues in this field.

98 answers, mean = 4.43



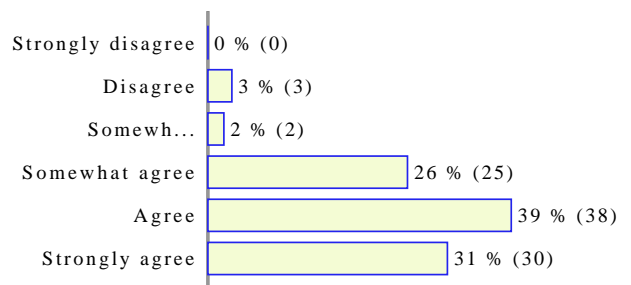
18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

97 answers, mean = 4.12



19. The instructor clearly defined students' responsibilities related to the course.

98 answers, mean = 4.92



20. The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

97 answers, mean = 5.04

