

Spring 2012 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS_1004_13469_201201

Results of survey

Started: April 18, 2012

Ended: May 3, 2012

Reply rate: 72% (101 / 141)

Spring 2012 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.

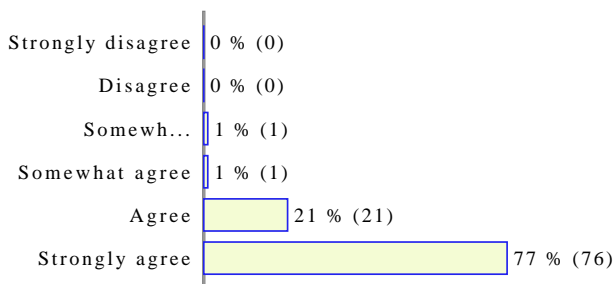
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

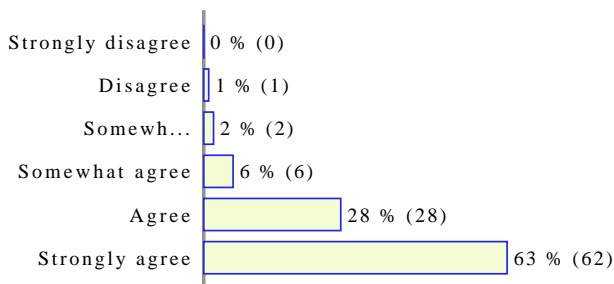
1. The instructor was well prepared.

99 answers, mean = 5.74



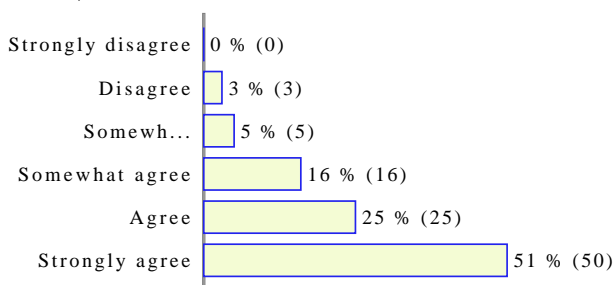
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

99 answers, mean = 5.49



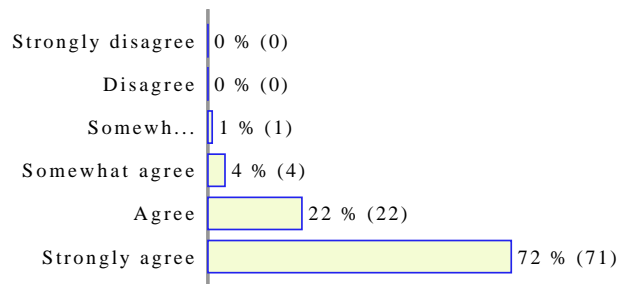
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

99 answers, mean = 5.15



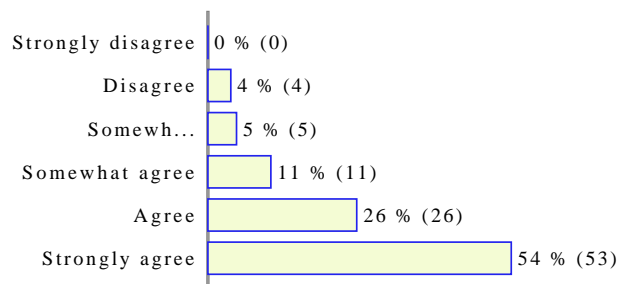
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

98 answers, mean = 5.66



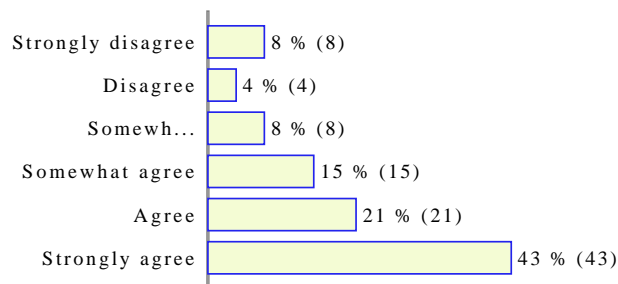
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

99 answers, mean = 5.20



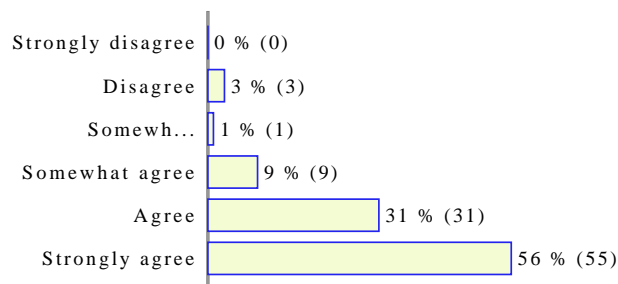
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

99 answers, mean = 4.68



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

99 answers, mean = 5.35



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

- He always asked question after the end of each lecture and if someone had a question during the lecture then he would stop and answer them. The iclickers were super helpful for a mini review on the topic he just went over during the lectures. He also allowed students to see their tests and he would go over the ones that they got wrong and things like that. He also points out on the topics that will be on the exam throughout the lecture. You just have to be paying attention when he gives out the little hints!
- repetition

- Lectures
 - He gave a lot of iclicker questions that helped us prepare for the questions on the exam.
 - Lecture powerpoints
 - He provided feedback when you asked him directly or emailed him directly.
 - gave out practice tests
 - I had to take weekly quizzes
 - Breaking down the book
 - He provided outside resources
 - Had very clear and well-organized lectures
 - The use of iclicker questions during lecture was a good way of keeping the students engaged.
 - He would include in-class questions that would go towards our course grade and would appear on our exams. The trick was that the only place you could see the question was in class so it made you go to class... sneaky, but very smart.
 - Had good explanations and examples in lectures. Went beyond my expectations in trying to prepare us for exams with practice exams.
 - Made lectures interesting
 - His practice exams and the course material he uses in general made everything doable.
 - he went over the material well in class
 - Professor Johnson made the material clear and easy to understand
 - Interesting powerpoints
 - His lecture slides were very effective and understandable
 - He did a lot of Iclicker questions
 - He incorporated the use of the i>Clickers during the lecture, which made it more interactive.
 - Used personal examples and visuals
 - Spoke clearly and precisely
 - Explained topics clearly.
 - Related topics to real world things like spaghetti sauce, he'll know what I mean.
 - He spent plenty of time on each subject and followed detailed notes on a Powerpoint presentation during lectures.
 - hw assignments
 - He was a very effective lecturer.
 - Real world examples
 - good
 - Use examples of local geological features photos as examples. It made it more interesting/relevant.
 - iClicker questions.
 - The powerpoints that we uploaded online.
 - Had the class answer questions throughout lecture.
 - The posting of practice exams and study guides
 - organized well prepared lessons and powerpoints
 - Gave us iClicker questions in between every few of the lecture slides.
 - He gave us the slides and the slides helped with the test a lot
 - Quizzes and review guides
 - Nice Powerpoints
 - asked questions, reinforced important concepts, fostered an open inviting environment so that students felt more comfortable bringing up a question.
 - Used I-clickers to test knowledge
 - Practice tests and slides
 - Analogies were helpful.
 - I-clicker questions
 - Using i-clicker questions he asked in class
 - He spoke very clearly and he answered every student's questions even if that meant he had to stay past class.
 - Very helpful powerpoints. I liked that you had online quizzes and iclicker quizzes not only did they help with understanding the material better but it gave the opportunity to have more points in the course.
 - Clearly communicating the material.
 - Dr. Johnson's lectures were thorough and went well with each chapter of the assigned book. He also did a good job presenting the material during the lectures.
 - Very enthusiastic, also the online quizzes helped me stay on top of the material
 - Quizzes, lecture slides, iClicker work
 - N/A
 - The instructor provided detailed lectures and powerpoints that helped explain the material covered in the book.
 - Fantastic lecturer!
- 9. What could you have done to be a better learner?**
- Go to office hours to check my exams. I never go after a test because I'm usually satisfied with my exam grade, though it

would be helpful to understand why I got certain question wrong instead of just blowing them off.

- ask questions in class
- Studied more
- If I had been more enthusiastic about this class I may have enjoyed it more.
- Worked harder
- Tried to be interested in the subject, where I was not whatsoever.
- studied more
- prepare every class
- Read more of the book before tests
- Read more thoroughly
- Be more on top of the online quizzes
- I should have read the text book with a little more care.
- Read the textbook more thoroughly.
- read more
- I would have been a better learned had I had an actual interest in geology. Not really a fun exciting class, but only in my opinion, and I have to admit, I felt like the professor did a good job of making it not as horrible as it could have been.
- i thought i learned more than what i knew before, overall i wouldn't change of how i learned things better in this course
- Taken more notes instead of depending on the online lecture slides to study from
- Gone to class more
- read a few more of the chapters from the book.
- I could have studied for my first two tests more, so I could have a better grade.
- Studied harder
- Payed better attention in class.
- Listen more carefully.
- Taken more notes.
- Take notes in greater detail in addition to those provided in the Powerpoint presentations.
- pay more attention in class
- i could have paid more attention to the lectures
- Study textbook more
- good
- Be more interested in rocks.
- Taken better notes.
- studied more for the exams
- Come to class more often.
- taken more time to go over the material
- Read the book more frequently.
- paid more attention to the slides
- Studied More
- Paid attention to lectures
- Participate more
- Studied for the exams better.
- Tried different study methods. I feel that I just couldn't regurgitate the material when it came time for the test.
- Having notes that were not just pictures
- I could have asked more questions.
- Paid more attention during class.
- Test preparation a little further in advance would have helped.
- As always, I could have re-read the chapters in the book several more times.
- read more?
- Taken better notes
- I could have paid more attention.
- N/A
- I could have attended more classes.

10. Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

- He's a wonderful teacher and you can tell that he's very knowledgeable about all of the topics, but his jokes are a little lame. Most of the time I don't even realize he made a joke. I'm also taking Resource Geology with Dr. Chermak and I've noticed that some of the topics overlap which make both classes a little dull. Not to mention the fact that I have the classes in the same room which give me a sense of deja vu. Other than that, keep up the good work Dr. Johnson!
- This class was incredibly boring and I didn't really feel like I learned very much
- I wish that tests were not worth as much
- He is very enthusiastic about what he is teaching
- Loved this professor!

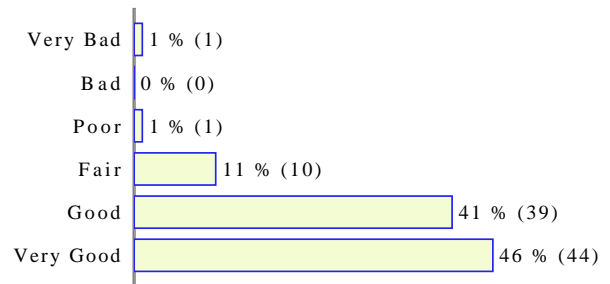
- Professor Johnson is a wonderful professor. He is very engaging and presents material that many would consider dull in an interesting and clear way.
- interesting class.
- Overall great course and instructor! Before, I wasn't very interested in natural sciences, but this course has changed my appreciation for that. I recommend this course for everyone.
- He wasn't clear on what would be on the tests until the third test came. Each test consisted of material from five chapters so I hadn't known what to exactly study for. I read through most chapters, took about four- five pages of notes on my own for each chapter, too notes during most classes, listened to most classes, took the chapter quizzes and got 70's on my test. I was very disappointed since I had put effort towards this class.
- I learned that i just have no interest in geology
- good class
- He is a good geology teacher. The iClicker questions during class helped me stay focused on his lecture.
- n/a
- The tests were very fair
- Interesting class.
- Class notes posted in Scholar and ones he goes over in class are a bit confusing and hard to follow once you get back home and are studying. No matter how much I studied for tests I still didn't do as well as hoped; confused.
- This class is terrible. It is a 1000 level class, but everyone struggles. The notes are terrible they are just pictures, so it is hard to keep all the details.
- He presented the material very well! He has great public speaking skills.
- Great professor. Really does his best to keep a somewhat dull subject as interesting as possible.
- swag.
- Dr. Johnson's enthusiasm for geology was very welcome!
- n/a
- Neil's the man.
- N/A
- Great, creative class.

Only suggestion would be that it would be more convenient for students to have the deadlines for the Mastering Geology quizzes be at midnight as opposed to 5pm.

11. How would you rate the physical environment in

which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?

95 answers, mean = 5.29



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

- It's a pretty quite class which is surprising with how the massive amount of students there. People actively ask questions in a respective manner and a few giggle at his jokes.
- The room was always very cold.
- good environment
- A fairly bland room
- The only downside was that McBryde 101 is such a large classroom it makes class participation difficult sometimes.
- sometimes hard to concentrate or hear with others having side conversations around me.
- Large lecture hall, but elevated stage so clearly visible
- I like that this class was held in a large auditorium (McBryde 100) that wasn't filled to capacity.
- It was just fine.
- It can be hard not to get on reddit all class when the teacher is merely explaining geological concepts.
- McBryde 100 has NO OUTLETS. my computer died on multiple occasions.
- mcbride 100 is a good room
- n/a
- Great.
- He has a booming voice which bounced off the walls quite nicely.
- the projector lighting often didn't display colors effectively.
- N/A
- Plenty of leg room - someone did something to the room about half-way through the semester - some of the chairs in the front row were missing for a week or so and there was a smell like urine after that... otherwise I liked the McBryde auditorium for classes.

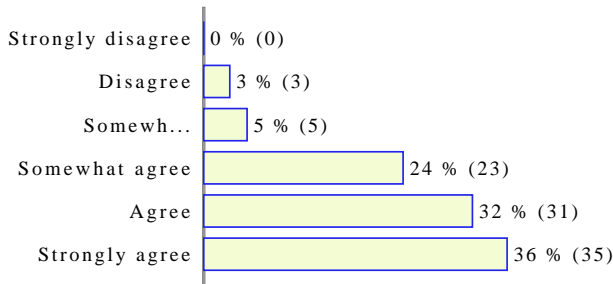
- n/a
- I just wish McBryde 100 had power outlets
- N/A
- It was often difficult to hear the professor unless I was seated in one of the front rows.
- McBryde 100 has an intense odor problem. It smells like urine. It is so bad that it's almost nauseating. Please fix this! I vow to avoid this room because it is just too bad to stomach.

College of Science

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (if an item is not applicable, leave it blank):

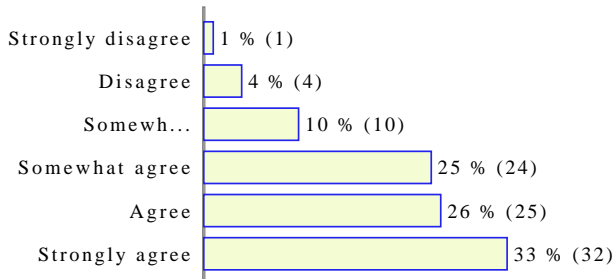
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

97 answers, mean = 4.93



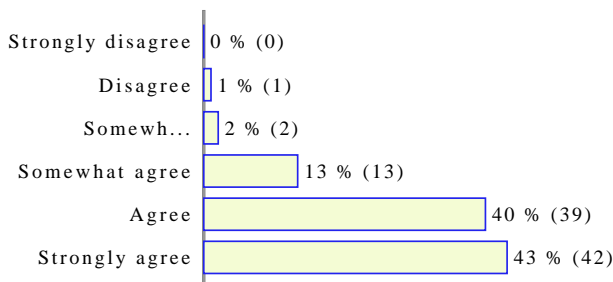
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

96 answers, mean = 4.71



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

97 answers, mean = 5.23

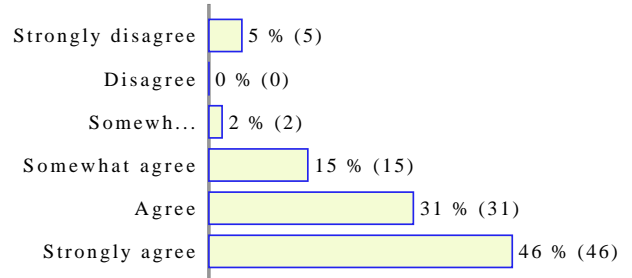


Geosciences

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (if an item is not applicable, leave it blank):

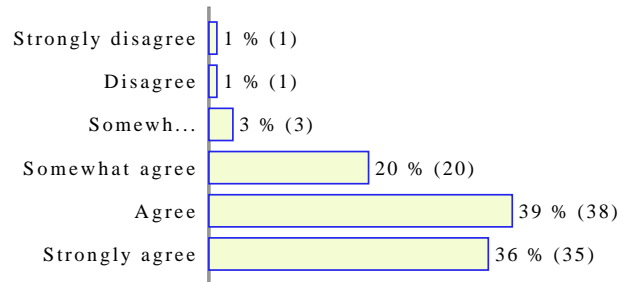
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

99 answers, mean = 5.07



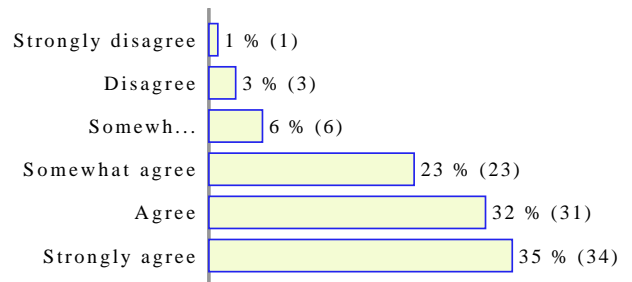
17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

98 answers, mean = 5.02



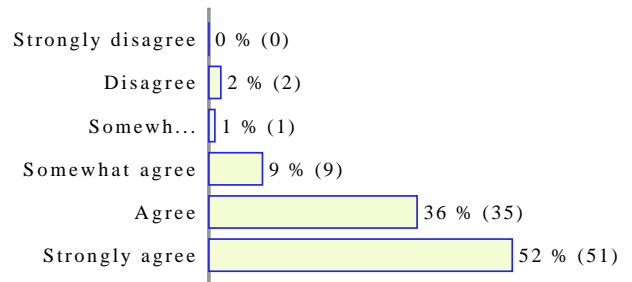
18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

98 answers, mean = 4.86



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

98 answers, mean = 5.35



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

98 answers, mean = 5.36

