

# Fall 2012 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS\_1004\_93384\_201209

## Results of survey

Started: November 30, 2012

Ended: December 13, 2012

Reply rate: 59% ( 60 / 102 )

## Fall 2012 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

Please provide constructive feedback by responding to each of the following items. While you are encouraged to express your thoughts and opinions freely, keep in mind the Virginia Tech Principles of Community which support open expression within a climate of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect.

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.

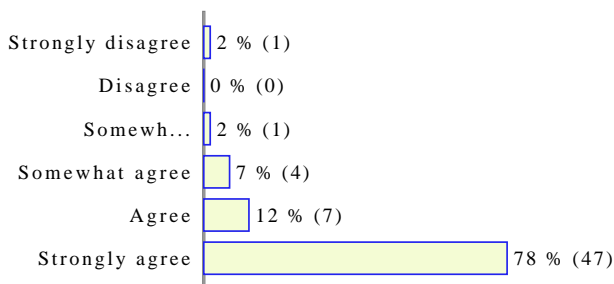
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluated: Neil Johnson

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

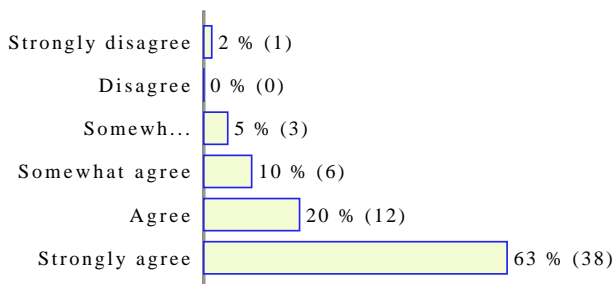
### 1. The instructor was well prepared.

60 answers, mean = 5.62



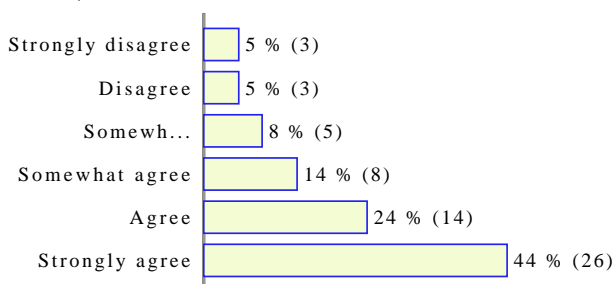
### 2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

60 answers, mean = 5.37



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

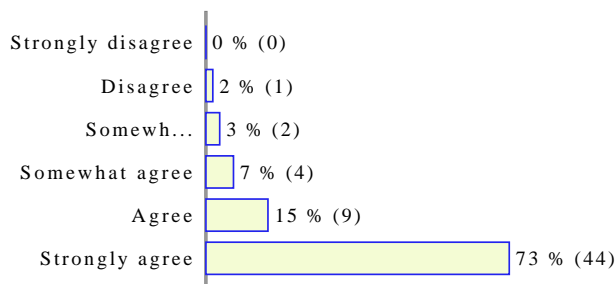
59 answers, mean = 4.78



### 4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual

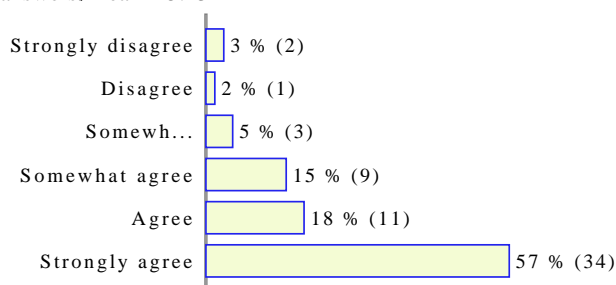
### respect.

60 answers, mean = 5.55



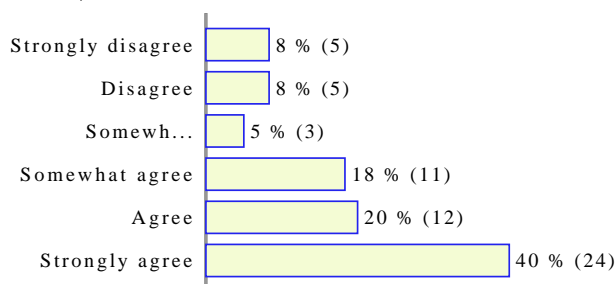
### 5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

60 answers, mean = 5.13



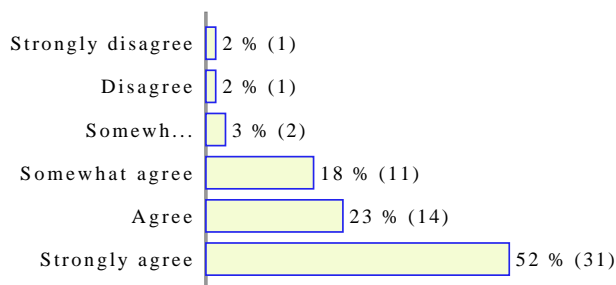
### 6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

60 answers, mean = 4.53



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

60 answers, mean = 5.15



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

- Gave online quizzes that were not timed which led to more in depth reading and understanding of the chapters.
- He told small anecdotes occasionally to illustrate his point. He put a lot of pictures into the slideshows, which worked very well for this course. He was friendly and approachable, if one had a question.
- Excellent power point presentations.

- Please include some different approaches to teaching. Maybe you could find a short video clip to show every once in a while.
- He was well prepared and his lectures were interesting and fun.
- the slide shows
- He provided practice exams, which were the same format to the actual exams, for us to use as a study tool.
- He is so enthusiastic!!!!!!
- Had small quizzes throughout class sessions
- He came very well prepared to class and encouraged questions.
- He posted the power point slides, days before class so that students could already have taken notes on the subject and just add certain topics he would include during lecture.
- I love how this class was conducted, how quickly it was paced, and how efficiently I was able to learn as a result.
- He answered my questions clearly, and helped me figure out a good way to study for exams.
- Dr. Johnson's lectures were very straight forward and clear. I always knew exactly what was on the exams and there were never any real surprises.
- there were a lot of sources to prepare us for exams, like clicker questions, mastering geology quizzes, and practice exams.
- The Mastering Geology quizzes forced me to read, which greatly helped.
- He gave us clicker questions, practice exams, and quizzes to help us understand the material.
- First of all, the instructor lectured in the way, which makes you listen to him: he was funny, emotional, clear and interested in his subject. Secondly, he gave very nice visual presentations, so you could follow his thoughts and remember the material better. Thirdly, the professor uploaded all his presentations on the Scholar, so that everybody had access to them and could go through the material heard on the lecture again before exams and quizzes.
- The professor was very approachable and answered E-Mails in a timely fashion. He met with me on several occasions to discuss test scores and material covered in class. He was very knowledgeable in the subjects.
- introducing the material but knowing for actual content for the exams are from textbooks.
- Related topics to current events or phenomena.
- He made the powerpoints available on scholar so that we

could print them out and follow along with the lecture. That was so wonderful.

- He made an effort to keep us interested in the material.
- Very effective PowerPoints, and less focus on the textbook.
- valuable teaching aids such as power point, iClicker questions and practice exercises
- spoke loudly and clearly
- Clearly explained everything
- was nice
- Posted the notes before class so I could write additional information.
- i-clicker questions maybe
- Detail power points, review quizzes
- no

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

- Spend more time reviewing the chapter topics to keep everything fresh in my memory.
- Studied more before I took the online quizzes.
- More detailed notes.
- make the class more interactive
- I could've read the book for the online quizzes we had to do weekly/biweekly.
- Ask more questions
- Payed better attention
- Had I received my answer scripts back, I would've understood my mistakes better. I strongly recommend the returning of answer scripts especially in a course that's based on remembering facts.
- Read the book more so than just listening to lectures and power point slides.
- I started off the semester really strong in terms of reading and studying with the online resource, but that waned towards the second half o the semester.
- I could have tried to keep up with the readings in the book better.
- I could have studied more for the exams.
- read more of the text
- Gone to bed earlier to wake up in time for this 8am.
- Gone to class more often.
- I could have payed more attention in class better and asked for help when I didn't understand something.

- I should have studied better for the first test, as I did for the remaining ones. However, I know I will achieve a good grade because I am working hard to do so.
- Read the text more in-depth
- Asked more questions and read the book more.
- I could have taken more detailed notes.
- Attended more lectures.
- Remembering to take my online quizzes on time
- study ahead of time
- stayed awake more
- gone to class more.
- got more help outside of the class
- not fallen asleep
- Studied outside of class more
- outside reading
- nothing
- To pay more attention in class
- no

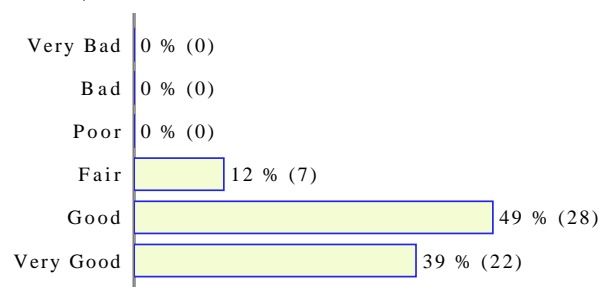
- I think that the tests were a lot harder than the material we learned because we only went over the notes in class, not the textbook and there were questions from both, which gave me a hard time.
- I liked the way everything was presented. It all worked out.
- Don't ask tricky worded true false questions. each test they account for over half of my points taken off when i know the question being asked, i just dont understand the wording clearly.
- He was a very nice guy! Really he made me not mind that this was a class at 8 in the morning. Actually, I liked him as a professor so much that I am taking his Earth's Natural Hazards course next semester.
- Very effective course, and sparked my geologic interest!
- no

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

- I enjoyed this course very much.
- This was a great class.
- good class
- He is extremely good
- Loved the class. Johnson was awesome
- I wish that if certain material would be on a test it would be either mentioned that it was from the book instead of assuming that every question would be from the lecture and power point slides like mentioned in class.
- I recommend this class to anyone who talks about needing a science class. He's a great professor, a great educator, and almosst makes me want to go into the field of geology (even though I am a marketing major.) I worked my tail off in that class and still only pulled a B, but I'm comfortable knowing that I worked and saw the fruits of those efforts.
- Instructor made the subject very interesting, and was very good at relating ideas to everyday things to help us better understand.
- he was very enthusiastic about the topic
- I didn't realize how much I enjoyed learning about geology until this course.

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

57 answers, mean = 5.26



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

- The rows were too close together and made it uncomfortable to sit for long periods of time without adjusting posture.
- Seating was a bit cramped
- all good
- The professor makes the class
- Good feel
- I liked that I was in a 100 person class in a 300 person room, I had lots of space, which is quite nice at 8 am in the morning.
- Hancock is a good lecture hall and there was never a time when I could not hear Dr. Johnson or read his notes from his PowerPoint.
- The air conditioning was always on, which isn't a big issue but made the room colder during the winter season.
- hancock is a good location
- Classroom was just fine.

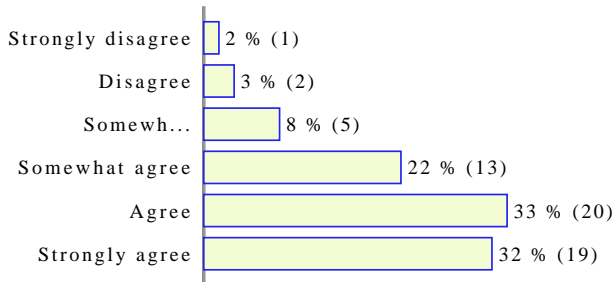
- no

## 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):

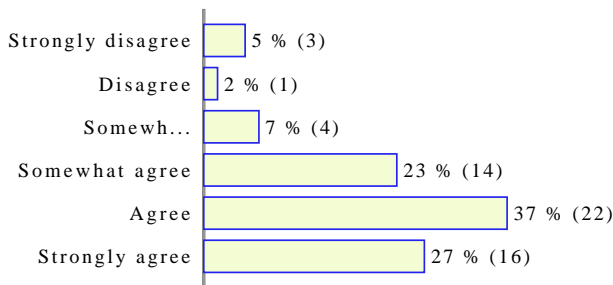
### 13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

60 answers, mean = 4.77



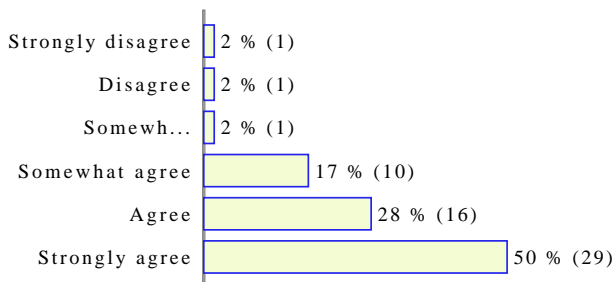
### 14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

60 answers, mean = 4.65



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

58 answers, mean = 5.17

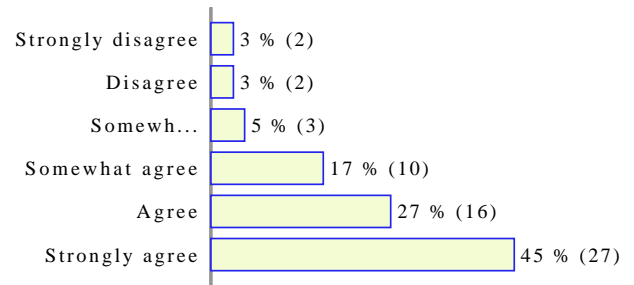


## Geosciences

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):

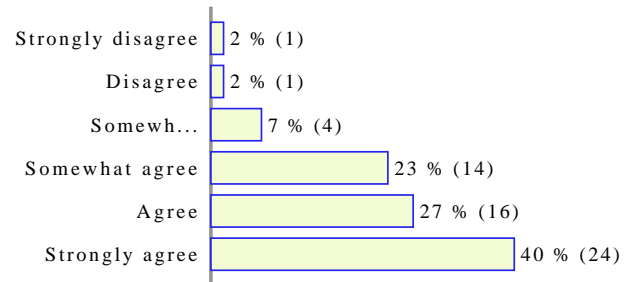
### 16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

60 answers, mean = 4.95



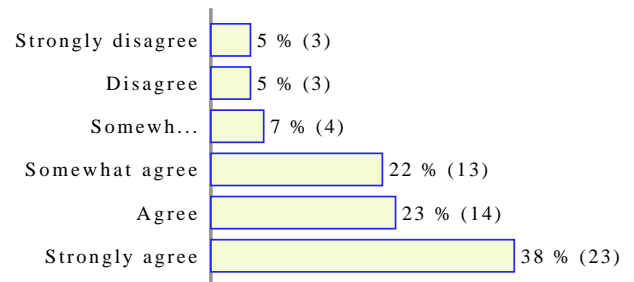
### 17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

60 answers, mean = 4.92



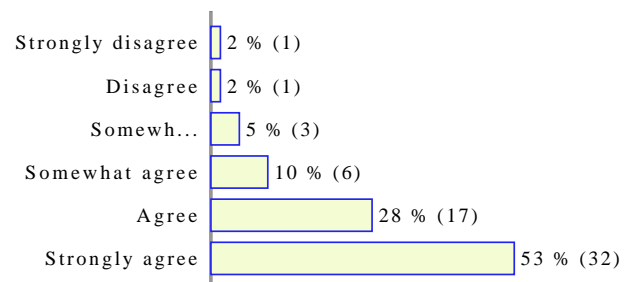
### 18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

60 answers, mean = 4.68



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

60 answers, mean = 5.22



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

60 answers, mean = 5.18

