

Spring 2013 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS_1034_18064_201301

Results of survey

Started: April 26, 2013

Ended: May 9, 2013

Reply rate: 54% (84 / 157)

Spring 2013 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.

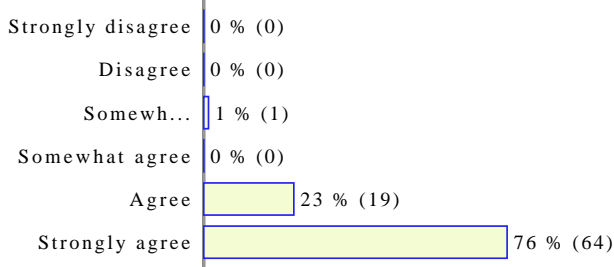
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

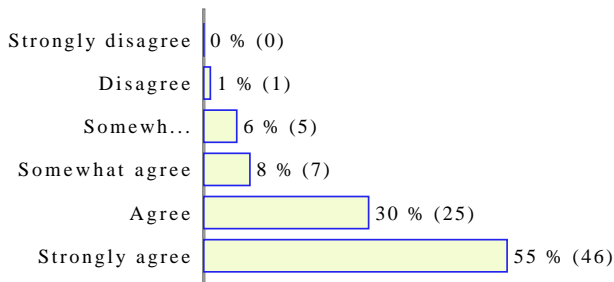
1. The instructor was well prepared.

84 answers, mean = 5.74



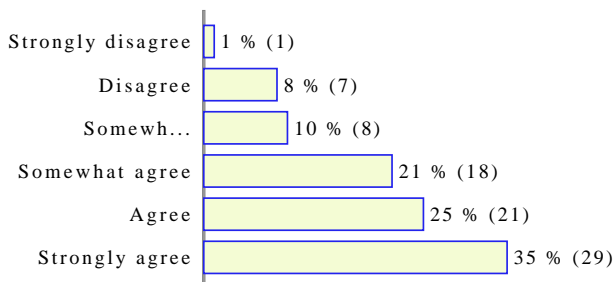
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

84 answers, mean = 5.31



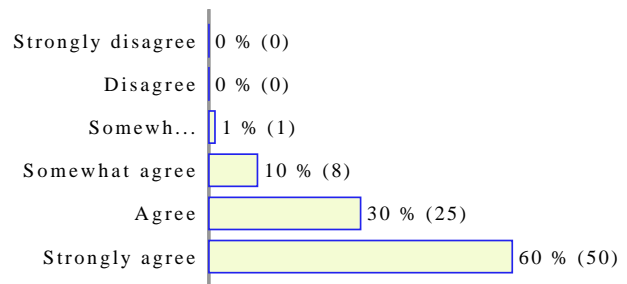
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

84 answers, mean = 4.64



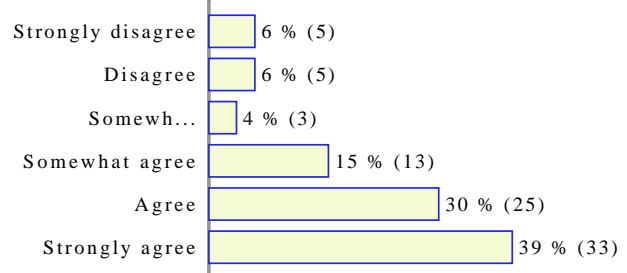
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

84 answers, mean = 5.48



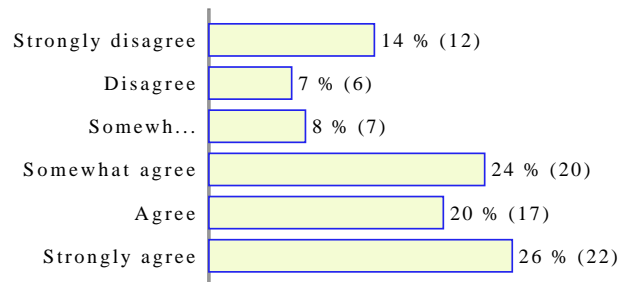
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

84 answers, mean = 4.75



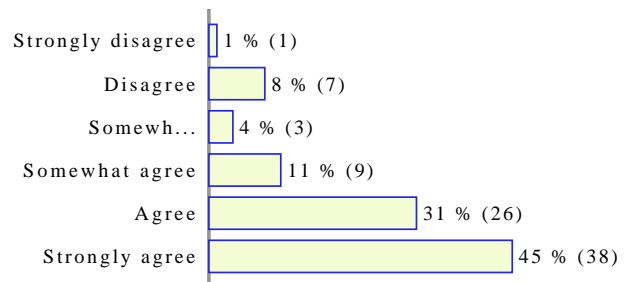
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

84 answers, mean = 4.07



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

84 answers, mean = 4.98



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

- Put slides on scholar to reference. Was always willing to answer my questions.
- Professor Johnson provided the lectures online ahead of time, giving students an opportunity to read through material at any point, which was helpful both before coming to class and while preparing for exams. He also tried to make the material more interesting and relatable, which helped students to remember the material.
- putting the powerpoints online was helpful because the lectures themselves are almost impossible to pay attention to

- He was very helpful during office hours. He was very enthusiastic about the subject matter.
- him putting the lecture power point online and the practice exam was useful
- Professor Johnson's powerpoints were very clear and easy to follow.
- Used visuals and videos to better explain the material.
- Lectures explained the powerpoints and the online quizzes were pretty easy.
- Putting the notes up in advance of the class.
- allowing the quizzes online to be taken twice and with no time limit. It took the pressure off.
- The teacher did an excellent job all around. The quizzes throughout the class were very effective because it helped you learn the material and then apply it to a problem.
- He uses jokes and funny facts in his lessons, that really make a Geoscience class really enjoyable for me. The use of power points and iclicker had been great, as the correct answer is then shown right after, and he can see if we understood or not. In case he will absolutely make sure that we understood everything.
- Posted powerpoints online.
- He used examples to compare to what we were learning about and I used those as reference points.
- Clicker questions
- good explanation of the slides in class. the iclicker questions were a good review of the information that we just learned. the videos were helpful too.
- It was helpful to have iclicker questions during the lectures.
- iClicker Questions during class were helpful because they made sure that you understand what the concept is.
- Posted powerpoints for later reviews.
- He would show videos along with some of the lectures and it helped me get a better understanding of what was going on
- He provided clear lectures that were easy to understand and not too technical when it came the geological processes.
- He had very clear powerpoint slides and went slowly enough to take notes. He posted everything on Scholar, including iClicker questions and practice exams.
- provided study guides for exams
- Online powerpoints
- I thought it was helpful that all of his lectures were on Scholar. Also, it was helpful that he did iClicker questions throughout the lectures. That kinda made me see what sort of things he would ask on the exam.
- had access to all information for the class online
- Provided power points that went along with his lectures that I often used to study with.
- He was very entertaining in class and very knowledgeable of his subject.
- He was very specific and gave a LOT of examples
- in class questions
- the quizzes and lecture were done well
- Slide presentations with pictures helped make the material easier to understand. Also, provided practice exams that helped study for exams
- N/A
- Dr. Johnson clearly loves to teach what he teaches, and he does it very well. He is engaging and not at all monotonous, and has a great sense of humor. He made me very interested in the material, which I never thought would happen.
- He was very straightforward with the material.
- His attitude was always wonderful. His manner of teaching was light and involved some jokes-- when learning about tornados, he hummed the "Wizard of Oz" music. It was a fun and relaxing environment which helped me do well. The way he went about the iClicker questions made sure that I was paying attention in class and helped my grade. I wish the iClicker questions were worth more though because attendance should be more important. Putting the powerpoint slides on Scholar was a great thing to do; I printed them every time and had the copy in front of me so I could make notes. Watching movies sometimes helped with the learning-- such as the Krakatoa video.
- The powerpoints were always very in-depth and easy to understand.
- opened up officer hours,
- His knowledge of the subject matter was contagious and inspired me to delve deeper into the subject matter to gain a better understanding.
- iClicker questions during class.
- The practice exams put up on Scholar were really helpful in making sure I knew what material would be on the exams. Also, the i-Clicker questions were helpful to gauge whether or not I understood what was just discussed during the lecture.
- Our instructor was very passionate about what he was teaching. This is always a helpful teacher attribute. He used a power point with many great pictures on it and even some video. Neil is also very knowledgeable with the subject

matter.

- photos
- Dr. Johnson is great! He used powerpoint presentations almost exclusively but he used them only as reference and not as a crutch. He presented information very clearly in a way that made it easy to take notes and learn the material. Every section of the curriculum was presented in a way that made compartmentalizing information very easy. He taught the course very effectively.
- The quizzes were really beneficial as they encouraged me to read in the book and not just the lecture notes.
- He was very friendly, and helpful at his office hours. He also made sure everyone had an adequate understanding of the material before moving on to the next topic.
- I liked the iClicker questions that we did in class because it gave us a chance to see if our understanding was correct and it gave immediate feedback.
- Powerpoints that went well with his lectures, it was enough information to write quickly and understand what he was saying for supplemental purposes.
- Using iClicker questions made me actually think about what we just learned instead of just writing it down and forgetting it.
- He provided power points for each lecture.
- Posted the powerpoint lectures online
- Provided the powerpoint slides online.
- Provided detailed instruction to go along with his powerpoints
- Provided interesting power points
- Powerpoint and actual lecture went well together-not too much on either side. Very balanced and straightforward.
- He went through everything on the powerpoint slides and showed examples of each.
- not much
- He went over the powerpoint notes in great detail.
- He had a lot of visuals to stimulate memorization.
- Videos and real life situations
- Created interesting slideshows.
- The i-clicker questions helped me stay on track with the material
- He explained everything really well and always was prepared for class.
- Presented many real-world examples of natural hazards and disasters. Also showed interesting movies. Putting the notes

online helped a lot with studying.

- afsd
- His jokes and references made in class really showed that he wanted us to learn the material and he wasn't just standing there lecturing us.
- He did a great job of connecting the subject matter to everyday life.

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

- I could have paid better attention at first and found a better to study.
- I could have been a better learner by sitting in the front of the classroom and been more engaged by asking questions and participating in discussions during class
- i could have tried to listen more in class
- I could have definitely paid more attention in class.
- i would've felt better prepared if there was 2 practice exams and the i clicker questions were posted online after the class
- I could have reflected on exams that I didn't do well on and attend office hours.
- Study a little more.
- Paid attention more
- sit by less chatty people
- I could have studied harder.
- I spent too much time trying to figure out how to study for this class. But now I am doing better, and I am really interested in the class, even if it has not been so easy as a non native speaker myself.
- paid more attention in class.
- I should have studied more and asked questions.
- Studied more
- read the textbook/focused in class
- Tried to pay attention in the lecture.
- Gone to office hours to review my first few exams
- I felt like I did my best at trying to learn the material
- I should have attended class more often and studied harder for all of the exams.
- Pay attention more in class and read the book
- Been more mentally present in class.
- focused more on lectures
- More reading

- I could have actually read the chapters. Also, I could have stayed off of social networks in class and actually paid attention.
- the long lectures were very dry, but i should have more of an effort to follow along
- I could have taken more notes in class to help me study for exams
- Give a day for exam review that would help us more on what to study
- took extra notes on the lectures
- read the chapters more often before the lecture instead of after
- Pay more attention during lectures and take better notes. Ask questions when lost or confused on material
- N/A
- I could've went through the power points more closely
- I never gave 100% in studying for the exams, so my average for the first three was an 86. For the quizzes that we did through Scholar, I wish we had at least one more attempt for those. Two attempts stressed me out sometimes and I didn't do my best.
- I could have gone in and asked for help if necessary.
- shown all of the diagrams/pictures for the steps (such as the formation of a thunderstorm)
- Been more prepared and organized for the lectures and weekly quizzes
- Paid better attention in class and took notes.
- I probably could have done more reading in the textbook and studied harder for the exams.
- I could have studied harder and been more on top of my online quizzes. I also could have read the textbook.
- take more notes
- I could have put more effort into the online quizzes.
- I could have kept up with the reading.
- Studied harder
- I could've begun my preparation for each of the tests more in advance.
- Print the slides out beforehand so I can just listen and take extra notes.
- Nothing he really could have done in a class that big.
- He could have gone into more detail about the information rather than stating exactly what was on the powerpoint.
- gone to more office hours and take better notes in class
- Paid more attention in class.
- Studied harder
- Paid a little more attention during class
- I could have payed more attention during videos.
- I could have sat closer to the front of the room to see the slides clearer.
- stay interested a little more
- I could have attended all of the classes and studied more for the exams
- listened more and not taken as many notes.
- Studied more
- Work harder on the practice exams.
- I felt that the videos could have been shorter.
- Made the slides a little more in depth because sometimes I would miss what he said and not have all the information
- I could have attended more lectures, as having the notes online is helpful but can't replace the way he teaches the material.
- fasdf
- Study more!

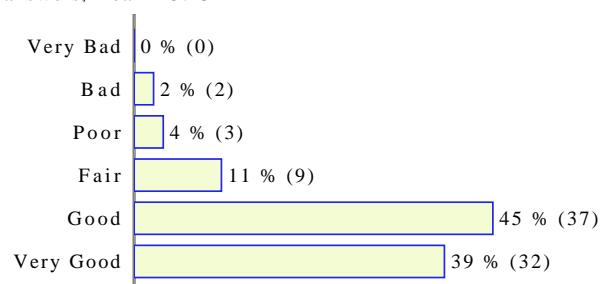
10. Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

- I liked Professor Johnson a lot as a professor. He knew what he was talking about. He was also very approachable and willing to help students. Some of his lectures were a little boring, but given the subject material and the fact that I'm not a science major, that's understandable.
- not very interesting subject material but that is just my opinion. i feel like something was missing from the class to make it more interesting. having such a huge classroom for not many students also made the class seem to drag on. maybe make everyone sit in the front section of the room so it seems like people are actually there. also, make the iclicker questions only like 1 minute. it loses people when we wait 2 or more minutes for everyone to enter their answer.
- none
- try not to say literally so much, people make fun of you and its distracting
- Dr. Johnson's tests were near impossible- they were so tricky and the wording/wide array of answers really confused me. I understood the material, but never understood and did well on the exams.

- Subject matter is dry and his powerpoints do not provide that much information.
- I really liked that the instructor included videos in the lecture, it was easier to understand a lot of things after seeing them.
- He has been extremely patient and helpful. When I went to his office hours, he could explain me everything and also new strategies about how to approaching the class and the course material. Again, extremely patient!
- classes with this many people seem very ineffective.
- the online textbook quizzes were very difficult and some of the questions were pretty obscure. I liked that the tests had old iclicker questions on them, it was very helpful. I also liked when you would go over hazard events that were happening during the semester
- His entire class was extremely boring lectures so it was very hard to pay attention for over and hour. His tests also ask the most specific, out of the blue questions in the world. For a general class with no prerequisites he should be making sure you understand the material, not asking questions from the sidebars of the textbook. And his questions are also very nondescript and therefore the multiple answers could have been possible for quite a few questions
- my most enjoyable class of the semester
- Professor Johnson is clearly prepared for every class and loves what he does. His excitement about the subject helped to keep me interested.
- It needs to be a little more interesting. I am interested in the subject matter it ust got kind of boring after about 30 minutes.
- professor needs to find a way to keep the lectures from be boring and present the information in a new way. it was almost impossible to fully understand the information throughout the lectures.
- a bit boring, tests are way too hard for the subject material being taught.
- the quizzes should have been due on sunday and tuesday and thursday to make it easier to remember but overall great class
- I was not a huge fan of the PDF format slide shows. They were often unorganized and not structured in a way that made them hard to understand when reviewing for tests.
- N/A
- He was just a really nice guy who presented information in a way that I really clicked with. He reminded me of my dad which was cool too.
- He was always very friendly and open in the classroom.
- The lectures were rather dull
- It would have been helpful to get feedback from the Scholar quizzes immediately after they're completed rather than at the deadline time. I know that they probably don't want to give the answers then because some questions are repeated, but often I would get questions wrong and be frustrated because I didn't know what I had gotten wrong and couldn't correct it for the second quiz in order to get a 5/5.
- This was a good course. It complimented my housing major very often.
- I'd take more classes with Dr. Johnson in a heartbeat
- At times I felt some of the slides were too unclear based on the fragmented bullet points. It would help if the points were presented more like complete thoughts, that way it jogs our memory more when we are reviewing.
- I only took it to fill a science credit so the class was boring to me because it is not something i am interested in
- Thought that the online quizzes were somewhat difficult and questions not straightforward.
- He was very helpful when I had to miss an exam and make it up in office hours.
- Too Boring and long should be a shorter class.
- Sometimes the lectures are a little boring making it hard to pay attention to
- He was a great instructor, had a good sense of humor, and taught course material well.
- Very good at explaining concepts. Visual graphs and models helped with retention.
- afd
- A really fun and engaging professor that had genuine concern for his students
- Dr. Johnson was an incredible professor. He was extremely helpful at his office hours and always seemed happy to answer any questions.

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

83 answers, mean = 5.13



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

- I took this class in the GLC and the room itself wasn't that great for teaching. I sat in the middle of the room and it was hard to concentrate because other students used their laptops for social media, movies, etc. and some even had conversations during class. The renovations helped, because it was more comfortable, but it was hard to hear Professor Johnson just because of the layout of the room.
- the room was too big for the class size. so i felt like i was the only one there.
- It is hard for me to pay attention in such a large classroom. He seemed very far away, so I therefore had a hard time staying focused on him.
- not you just size of the room and lighting
- It is large enough for the class.
- The classroom was nice
- The lecture hall style course is not a good environment to learn in.
- technical difficulties every once and a while
- The room was a little dim so it was easy to doze off.
- fine
- sometimes a little cold
- The room is large, air-conditioned, and has comfortable seats which makes it easy to focus
- N/A
- The auditorium in the GLC is my favorite building, and I had an entire row to myself which was awesome.
- Sometimes the GLC auditorium could be more on the cold side. Even on snowy days.
- The new changes to the GLC were very nice.
- classroom was too cold
- It was helpful that they added the desk things to the chairs in GLC.
- We were in GLC 100 which has been recently upgraded. The room is nice. It would be great if there was less hallway noise form outside of the room.
- The GLC auditorium was bright and easy to hear in.
- I'm a 5th year senior so I was in GLCDB when it had that awful auditorium and now it is a nice space.
- sometimes hard to concentrate in such a big room..I try to sit towards to front to eliminate those distractions around me
- The room was very big and spaced out for the amount of students who attended class.
- the quizzes are way too tricky and and confusing. The

questions aren't clear at all.

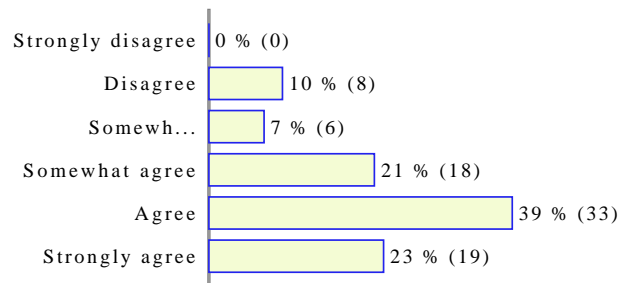
- The room in the glc was nice and comfortable.
- Very comfortable learning environment. Large screen was easy to see even from the back.
- asdf
- The lights were really bright and the seats were too comfortable

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):

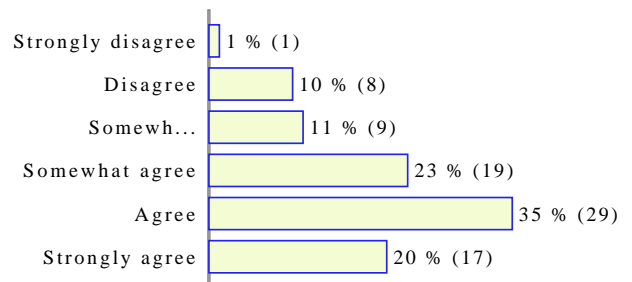
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

84 answers, mean = 4.58



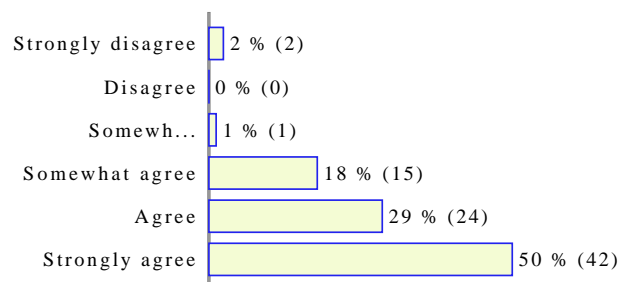
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

83 answers, mean = 4.42



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

84 answers, mean = 5.20



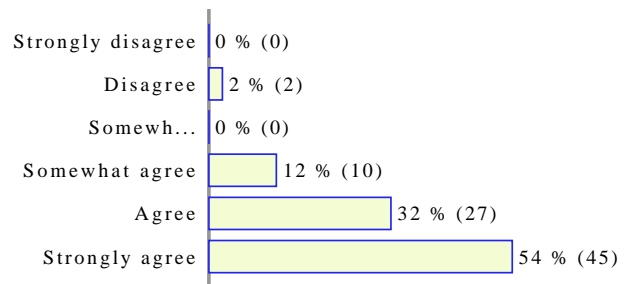
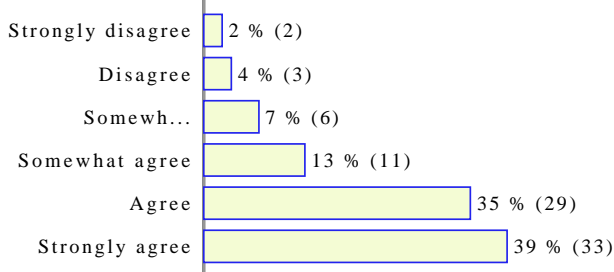
Geosciences

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):

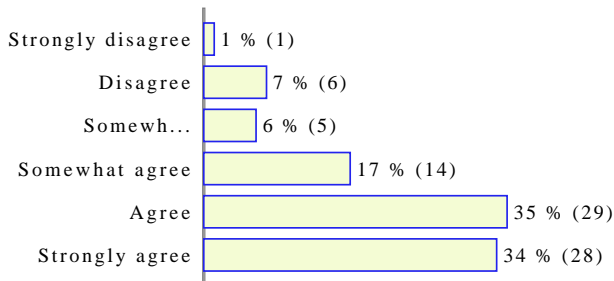
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

84 answers, mean = 4.92



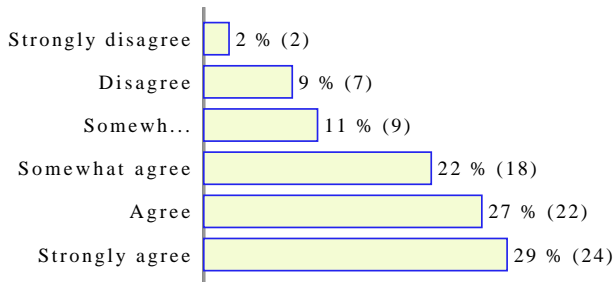
17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

83 answers, mean = 4.78



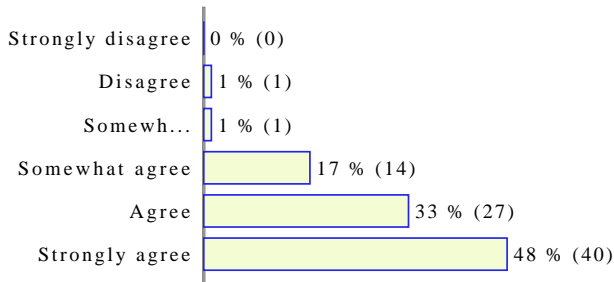
18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

82 answers, mean = 4.50



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

83 answers, mean = 5.25



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

84 answers, mean = 5.35