

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

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Results of survey

Started: November 29, 2013

Ended: December 12, 2013

Reply rate: 34% (62 / 182)

Fall 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.

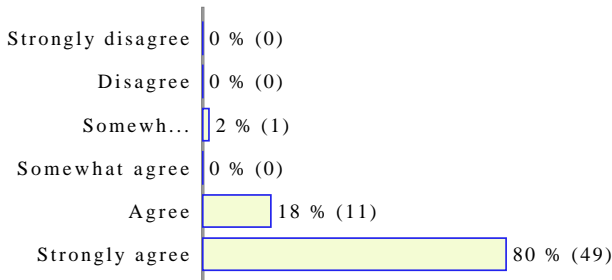
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

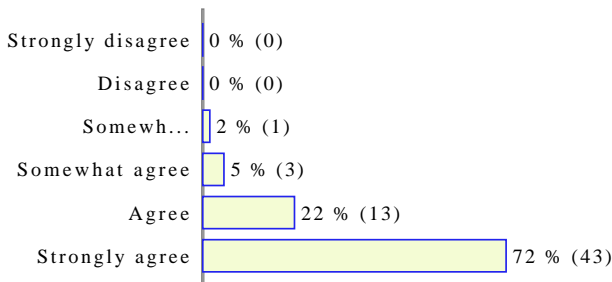
1. The instructor was well prepared.

61 answers, mean = 5.77



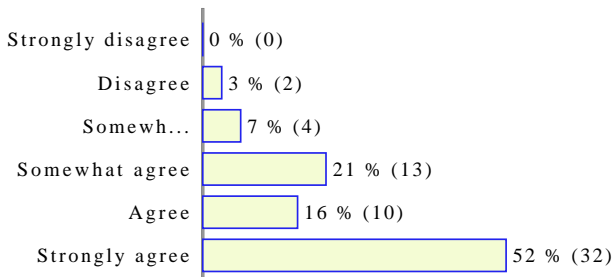
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

60 answers, mean = 5.63



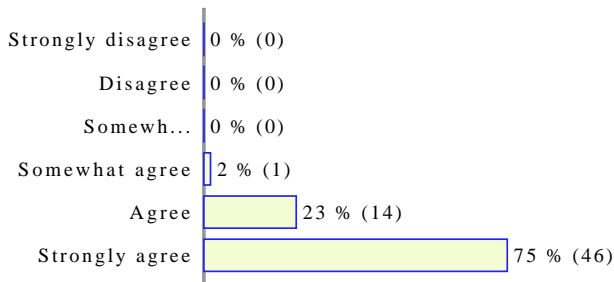
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

61 answers, mean = 5.08



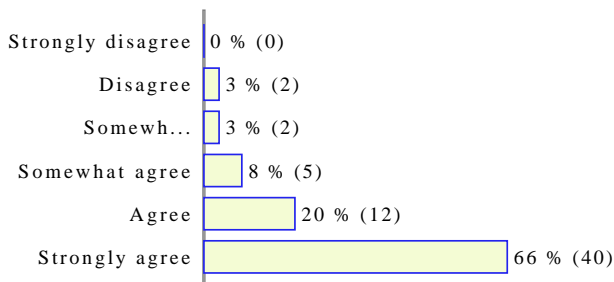
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

61 answers, mean = 5.74



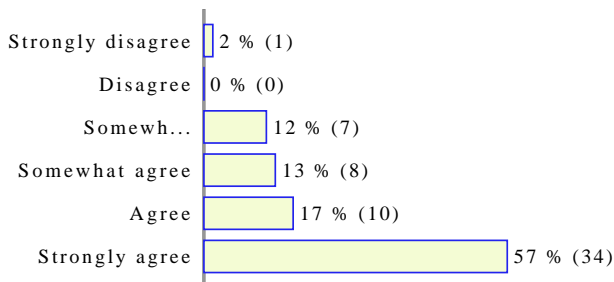
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

61 answers, mean = 5.41



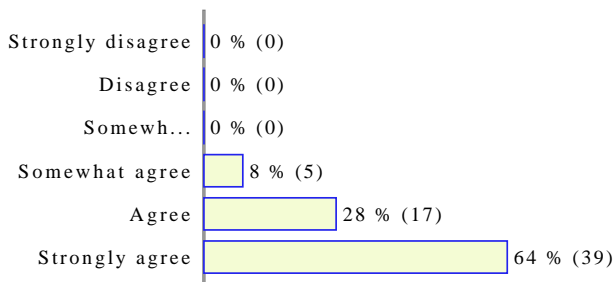
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

60 answers, mean = 5.13



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

61 answers, mean = 5.56



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

- He would answer our questions right in class.
- n/a
- Everything, was super helpful...very to the point. No tricks or anything.
- He used the iclicker to ask questions throughout the lecture which made us both show up to the lecture and pay attention
- He gave us a lot of opportunities to bring up our grade.

- Lecture questions keep us engaged .
- He was willing to go back and explain anything that myself or others did not understand the first time around.
- His PowerPoints were very thorough.
- Professor Johnson was able to speak of his experience in the field to help create a better connection with the lecture.
- I like iClicker quizzes. They make me pay attention.
- He tried to make class subject interesting by humor and videos
- Gave weekly quizzes to make me learn constantly.
- Great lectures! Also I think this is a great introduction class for freshman to begin understanding how a real college course is taught.
- He was entertaining and passionate
- Was well informed on the subject matter and was willing to answer questions when they came about.
- The instructor has great speaking skills and this made the lectures seem interesting. The course material could have been extremely dry but was not because it was entertaining to listen to.
- Very in depth elaboration on the powerpoints presented.
- He's enthusiastic about what he teaches. Very willing to answer any question
- He placed powerpoints and test reviews on scholar which really helped to look at when something was missed in class, as well, he made iClicker questions during class about material previously learned, which helped in paying attention and listening.
- Practice exams and I-Clickers
- Asked iClicker questions, and then explained reason behind the answer.
- Fantastic class, great instructor, makes class interesting and fair level of teaching. This guy knows his material, and actually has me interested in possibly going into this field. This is my 2nd favorite class at Tech! Awesome guy!
- Provided resources for studying
- iClicker questions during the Powerpoint were helpful.
- online quizzes
- Great speaker, presents things very clearly. Also presents them in an appealing way. Slide shows are online as well.
- He used pop culture and present day examples that really tied in what he was saying. I loved that. Also he put all the power points online so I could follow along in class if he went to fast for me to type

- Was very clear.
- Reviewed the test questions I missed one on one with me during his office hours.
- The Powerpoint-structured class sessions were most helpful. Also quizzes and practice exams were helpful.
- his lectures were very in depth and detailed but not filled with scientific jargon
- Great slides.
- His lectures were incredibly interesting and the slides in his powerpoints were always easy to follow and kept my attention throughout the class.
- Kept us involved with in class questions.
- Explained clearly
- He went over the subjects in detail during the lectures, and posted the lecture slides online.
- He presented the material in an efficient and straightforward manner that managed to inform me as well as keep me from getting bored.

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

- Stopped using facebook since the class felt so long.
- n/a
- Focused better in lecture, read text book more in depth and took my time on the quizzes to ensure a better grade
- studied and read more so that i could develop an interest in the subject also pay more attention to when the online quizzes were due
- Taken better notes.
- I could have gone to more of his office hours.
- Gone to class more often.
- I believe I did my best.
- I should have done all the readings.
- Got iclicker sooner.
- Follow with the Text book
- Paid better attention in class because the longer class periods made it difficult to focus and to pay attention to the material.
- I could have paid better attention during lectures. I sometimes found myself distracted and then having to go back into the book to see what I missed.
- Put away distractions during class as well as read the books chapters in full instead of skimming.
- Paid more attention

- Read the textbook before class.
- Studied a little harder
- I could have started studying a few days earlier for a test.
- better study habits
- Tried harder. The instructor made it so easy to pass without trying. Not because the exams were easy, he just taught it well and in a way that I learned and retained the information the first time. I learned effortlessly almost.
- i could have sat up front and been a more avid participant
- Studied more.
- I could have paid more attention in class.
- stayed awake
- I could have read the course textbook more closely before each lecture to have more knowledge about the subject beforehand.
- Attended every class. I skipped a few.
- I probably should have listened better in class.
- Study more
- Attend more lectures.

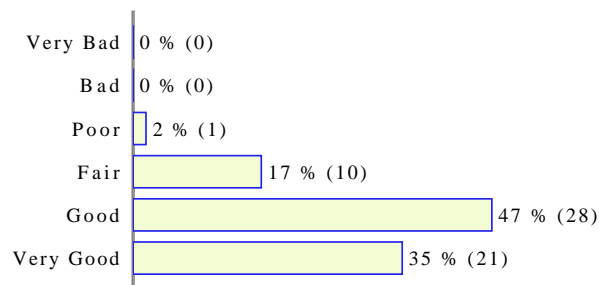
- The lecture files on scholar were also extremely helpful. They helped me when studying, taking notes and trying to focus in class.
- Good instructor with great knowledge of the subject. Presented it well and made looking for the answers on your own a part of the course as well. Good course!
- I would highly recommend this class to anyone. Very fair with grading, online quizzes are very helpful, and tests are very fair. He even makes us a practice exam for each test. Overall a wonderful class.
- None
- It's a great course, but tests are really complicated sometimes. I don't think the types of questions asked are fair every now and then, because I just think WHY is this important? Of all the things I studied for THIS is on the test? he mentioned it once! so try to avoid that
- This is a very easy course, it could sometimes get a little boring.
- He presented the information very clearly and his tests were very fair
- great teacher. really knows his stuff. a bit sleepy at times
- One of the best classes I had this semester due to the professor's great oratory skills and the interesting elements of the course materials.
- N/A
- He has a very good all around knowledge on the subject.
- Tests were unfairly difficult.
- Great teacher! Especially for going back when iClicker questions didn't seem to be clear enough.

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

- n/a
- Lectures could get a tad boring with the large amounts of info...but great professor so it wasn't actually that bad. Made the class funny.
- I didn't like the online quizzes
- He is very enthusiastic and makes the class much more interesting!
- Great overall experience.
- I had the worst time in this class. No matter how hard I studied his test questions were purposefully tricky and more difficult and complex than he led students to believe. The instructor was very nice, but not effective for me as a student. He was helpful and approachable during office hours and class, but the class was very dry and not stimulating.
- Dr. Johnson knows his stuff. He does his best to make the course material interesting to students.
- Did not think I was going to enjoy this class due to my apathy towards science. However, Professor Johnson kept each lecture interesting with his personal experiences and sense of humor.
- Good 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?

60 answers, mean = 5.15



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

- n/a
- It seemed fine to me but I sat towards the front the entire time and I'm not sure if the professor used a mic.

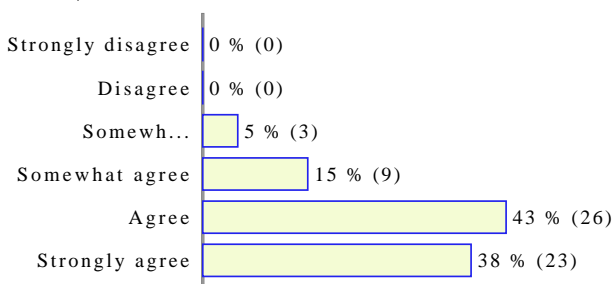
- Nice because it is a smaller class.
- Reasonable environment for the class. A little large, but not enough so to get in the way of my ability to see or hear information.
- Some people who did not pay attention at all during lectures were distracting because they would be playing videos all class or playing games.
- It was such a big classroom with so many people, it was tough to pay attention for long. With the use of electronics available as well as a large class that an instructor couldn't control, it was tough, but overall not bad.
- None
- I sat in the back but I like the auditorium. Suits a class that large. Also Johnson spoke really loudly so that was helpful
- Class lectures could get boring at times.
- very large classroom. easy to fall asleep
- N/A
- It had good participation in the form of iClickers.
- Very easy to pay attention

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):

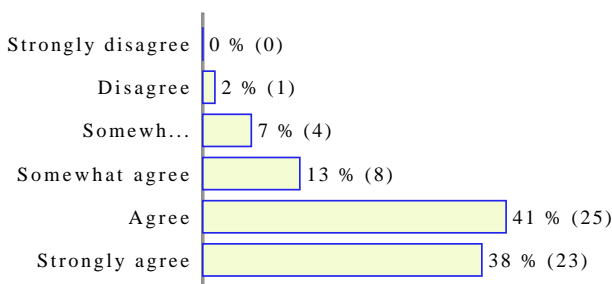
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

61 answers, mean = 5.13



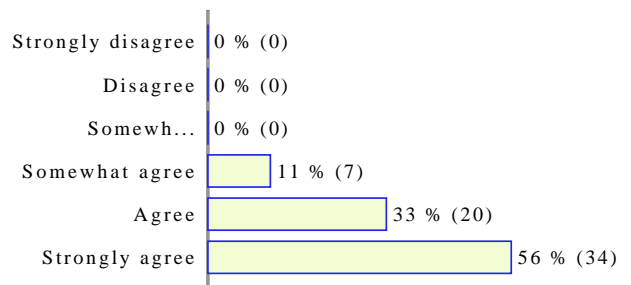
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

61 answers, mean = 5.07



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

61 answers, mean = 5.44

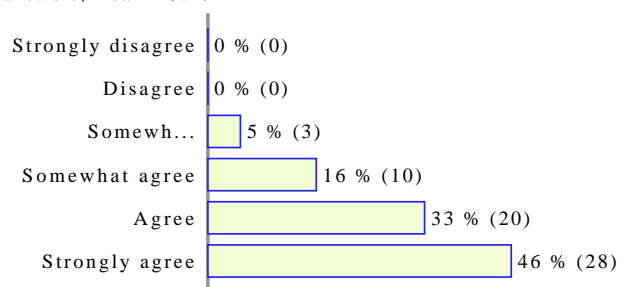


Geosciences

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):

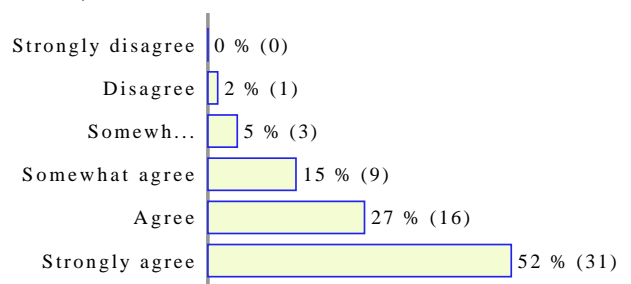
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

61 answers, mean = 5.20



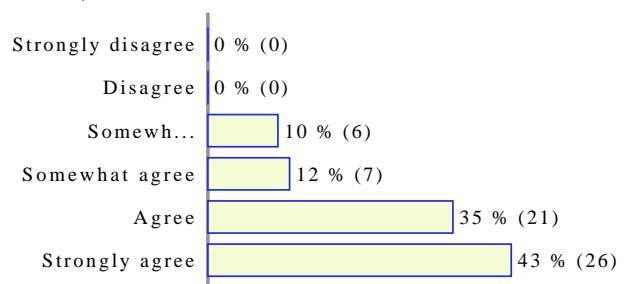
17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

60 answers, mean = 5.22



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

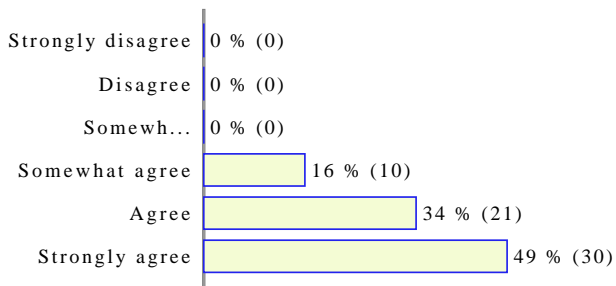
60 answers, mean = 5.12



19. The instructor clearly defined students'

responsibilities related to the course.

61 answers, mean = 5.33



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

61 answers, mean = 5.49

