

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

GEOS\_1034\_97973\_201309

## Results of survey

Started: November 29, 2013

Ended: December 12, 2013

Reply rate: 38% ( 26 / 69 )

## 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.

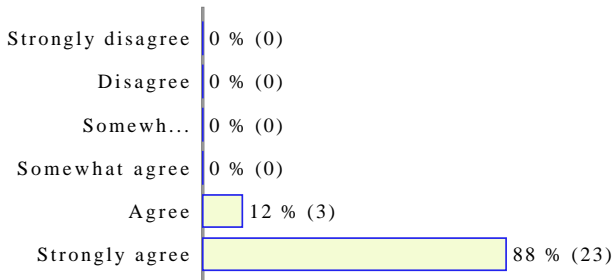
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

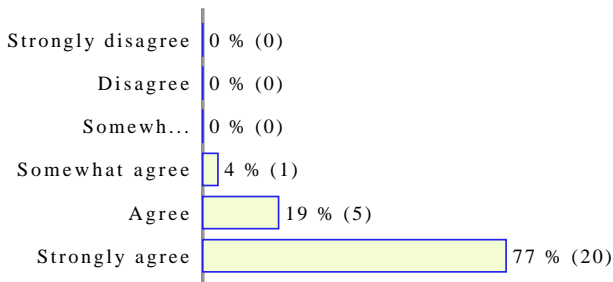
### 1. The instructor was well prepared.

26 answers, mean = 5.88



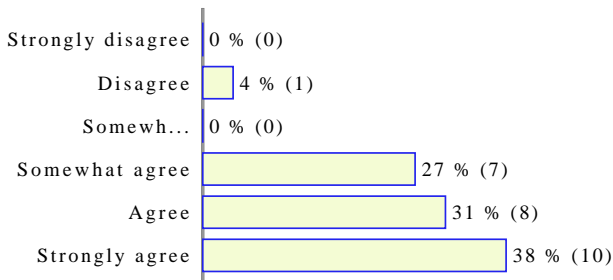
### 2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

26 answers, mean = 5.73



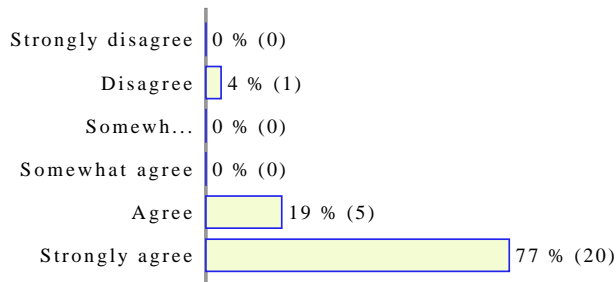
### 3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

26 answers, mean = 5.00



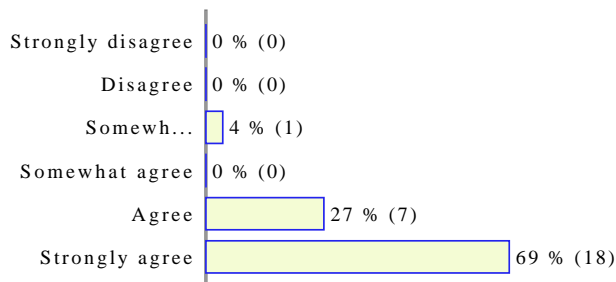
### 4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

26 answers, mean = 5.65



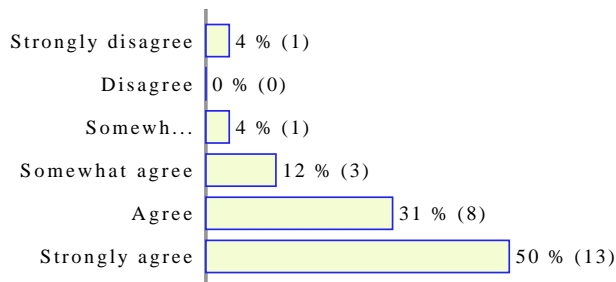
### 5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

26 answers, mean = 5.62



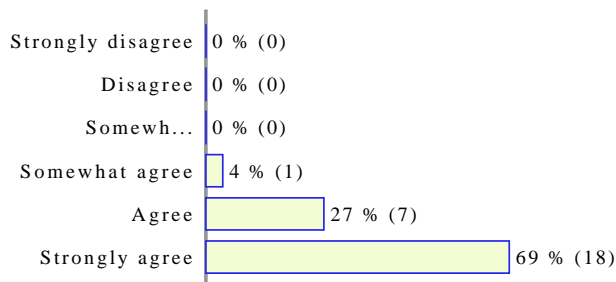
### 6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

26 answers, mean = 5.15



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

26 answers, mean = 5.65



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

- Powerpoints
- He explained unique concepts at an understandable level and made sure the class understood major concepts before moving on.
- Provided real world examples and images.
- Knows the subject well
- He presented the material in a clear way that made the information easy to understand and retain.

- The instructor posted the slides online prior to class which helped me prepare for each lecture. He also was helpful when staying after class to answer my questions.
- The professor's lectures and PowerPoints were very helpful in learning the topic and having a better understanding of the course material
- I knew I could talk to him after class to get help on the material since the class was a lecture one.
- helpful diagrams, videos, and pictures that showed the concepts we were learning
- He would ask questions in class and then explain why people got them wrong. The tests were consistent along with grading.
- gave good knowledgeable presentations and knew everything he was talking about
- Information was presented clearly and lessons were accessible and easy to understand.
- He offered to work with me one-on-one which was very helpful.
- Put slides online
- Having online quizzes on the textbook. It emphasized the important things we learned in class and helped me understand the material better from the lectures.
- lectures are good. quizzes and ICLICKER questions helped make me feel comfortable with the material
- His power point slides were very straight-forward and easy to follow.
- He had all the information in his power points so if I missed something I could go back and review it.
- Went over slides with examples for most.
- Asked the class iclicker questions in class to review the material learned.
- posting the lectures slides online
- I enjoyed the light atmosphere that he created while lecturing.

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

- Attended more regularly
- Read the entire text
- I could have done more in depth reading.
- Less quizzes
- Made sure to attend all of the lectures.
- Been more proactive in the classroom. Coming to class and listening is fine but really participating in the lecture would

have been better

- Since the class was a lecture I did not do as well as I hoped because I am a more hands on person so I could have gone to talk to him more.
- taken more detailed notes
- I could have read the chapters more thoroughly.
- studied harder
- Not zoned out as much.
- Takes notes
- Having a more clear study guide for the tests instead of a sample test.
- I could have done a more thorough job on the readings.
- Not participated in events and appointments that cut into class, also not schedule a class so early that I sleep most of the time.
- Read the book and gone to more classes.
- been more thorough when reading the chapters
- Gone to him about my grades at the beginning of the semester.

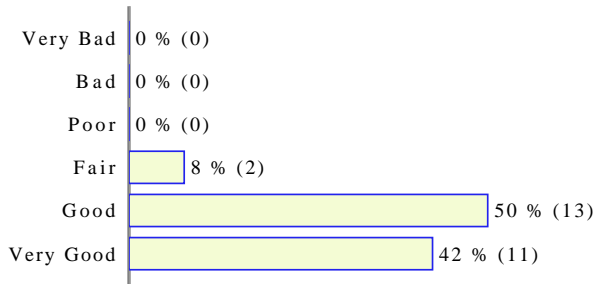
### 10. Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

- The book is extremely expensive. I was able to do fine with an older version of the text which saved me roughly \$100. the newer edition isn't really worth the additional cost and is also available through Google Books
- The professor was very thorough, very knowledgeable, and witty sometimes. I very much enjoyed this class
- great course
- instructor was very knowledgeable and course was well-thoughtout
- It seemed as though the professor could have tried harder to make the material easier. He used a lot of complicated words and could have simplified things.
- Dr. Johnson is an extremely understanding professor who is very enthusiastic about geo sciences. I really enjoyed going to class even at 8am. I had a traumatic incident in the middle of the semester and Dr. Johnson was extremely understanding and accommodated me.
- Very enthusiastic about the course.
- Overall a great class and a knowledgeable instructor who is very good at presenting the information to the class.
- I wish he posted all of the quizzes for the semester at once so that we could work through them at our own pace because I would get lost on if I completed the current quiz or not and I

actually ended up not completing a few.

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

26 answers, mean = 5.35



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

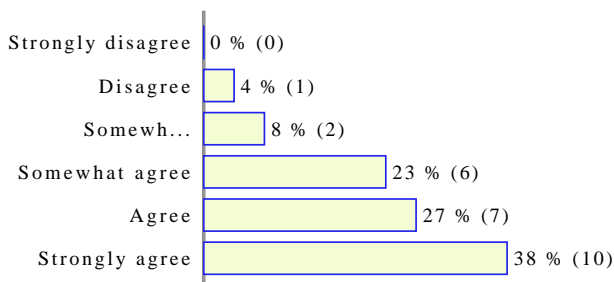
- It's not uncommon to see people fall asleep, I think this is mostly due to it being an 8 AM though
- The room was good but really big for such a small class
- Since the class was a 8 am class I would dose off now and then because of the impact of it being an early class.
- This was a lecture class, so participation was a small part of the class.
- n/a
- class size was small for such a big room, that was nice
- The class took place in a big lecture hall but he made it seem smaller by trying to connect with all his students.
- Very quiet room, with very few people for a large room.
- There are a couple chairs that are broken in the room

**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):

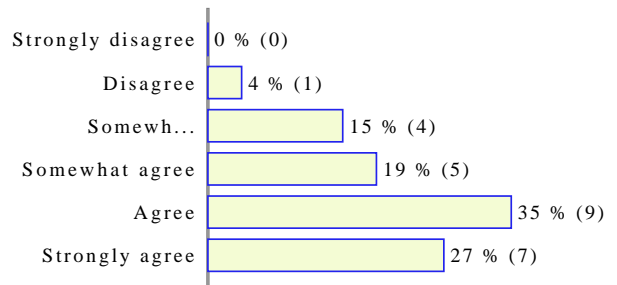
**13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.**

26 answers, mean = 4.88



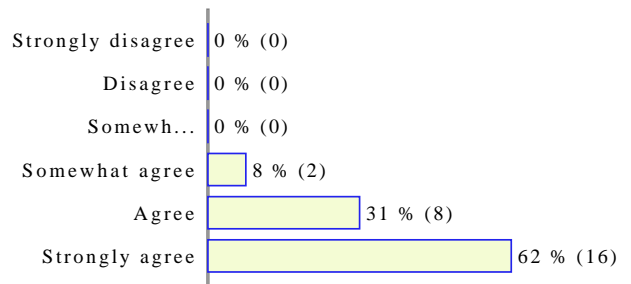
**14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.**

26 answers, mean = 4.65



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

26 answers, mean = 5.54

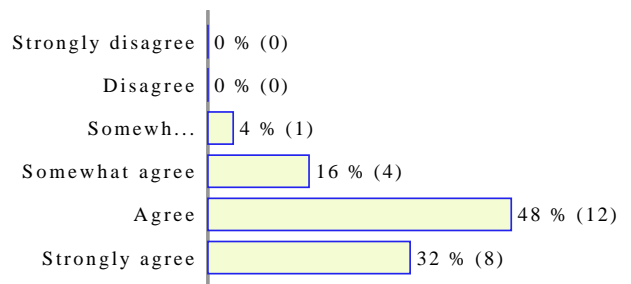


**Geosciences**

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):

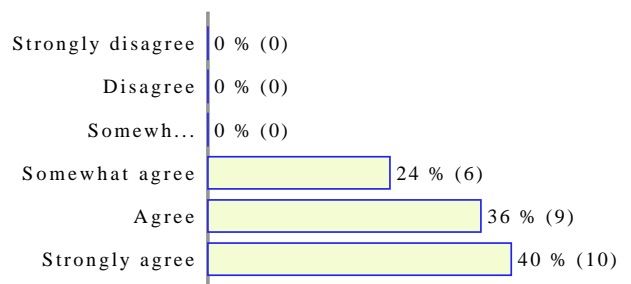
**16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.**

25 answers, mean = 5.08



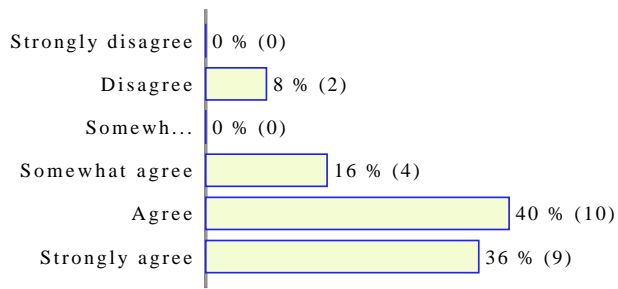
**17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.**

25 answers, mean = 5.16



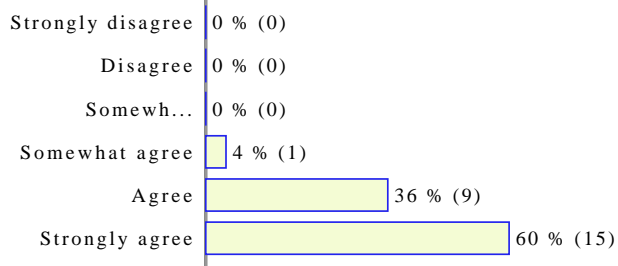
**18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.**

25 answers, mean = 4.96



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

25 answers, mean = 5.56



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

25 answers, mean = 5.56

