

Spring 2014 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS_1034_13723_201401

Results of survey

Started: April 25, 2014

Ended: May 8, 2014

Reply rate: 34% (63 / 187)

Spring 2014 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.

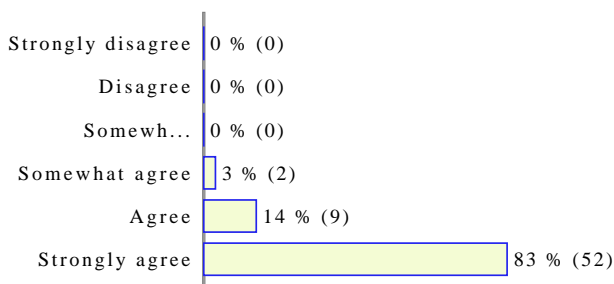
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

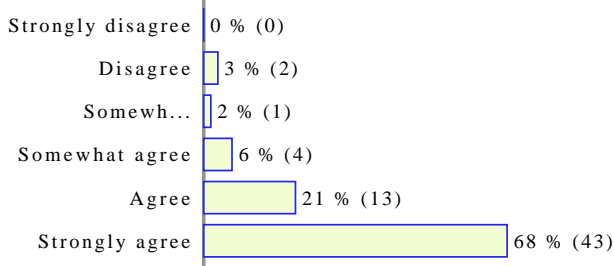
1. The instructor was well prepared.

63 answers, mean = 5.79



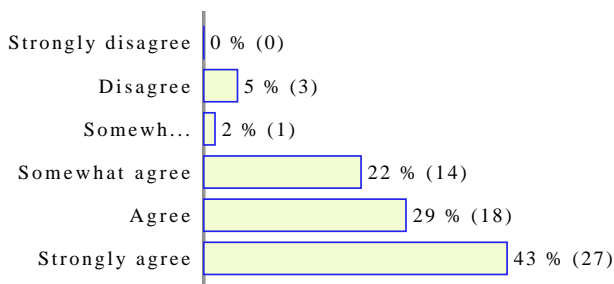
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

63 answers, mean = 5.49



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

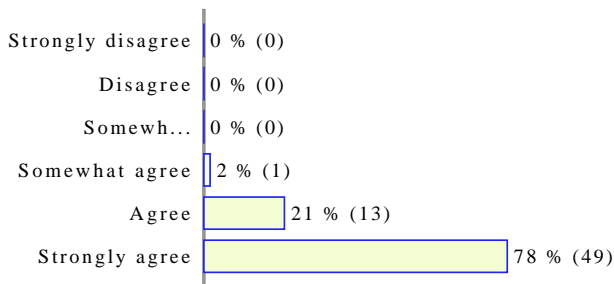
63 answers, mean = 5.03



4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual

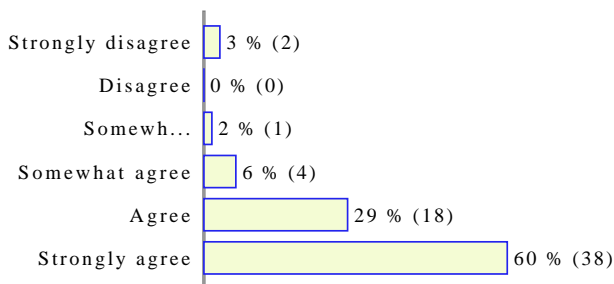
respect.

63 answers, mean = 5.76



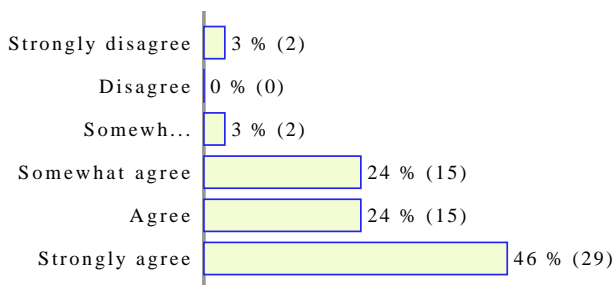
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

63 answers, mean = 5.38



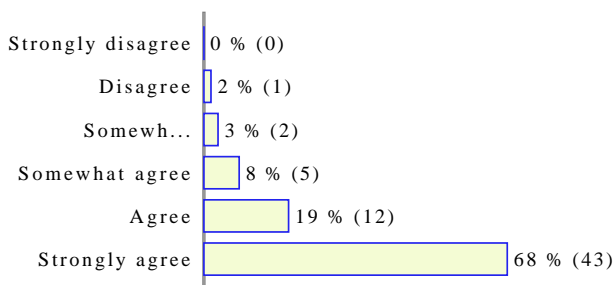
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

63 answers, mean = 5.03



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

63 answers, mean = 5.49



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

- Explained the concepts well
- He went directly off his lecture notes in class and that was helpful in knowing what to study for the exams. Also, the organization of the notes and quizzes was very helpful as well.
- N/A
- Explained all the concepts very clearly. And did a good job

in making the subject interesting!

- Made the class interesting.
- Professor Johnson placed all power points on scholar and teaches in a manner that is very interesting. While to me some of the statistics seemed unreasonable he still was very energetic and fired up about his subject.
- Lots of pictures and examples in the power points.
- Showed interesting videos. It helped those who learned best visually.
- The frequent iClicker questions made sure I paid attention in class and learned the information.
- Provide specific iClicker questions to study and prepare for those types of questions on exams.
- The instructor presented the material somewhat clearly and provided good iclicker questions
- I think the scholar quizzes/iclicker questions are definitely effective in keeping students engaged, especially in a large lecture.
- Iclicker questions.
- The professor's lectures were very clear cut and easy to understand.
- Gave good examples, understanding and reasonable
- He presented the information in a very clear way.
- He always posts his lecture files, which are great to review before the test. Also, his Iclicker questions are a very good example of test questions and help me prepare for the types of questions that are going to be on the exams.
- He presented his material very clearly and could effectively answer any questions. Mr. Johnson is always very prepared and even in a class of 200, his lecture feels conversational.
- Answered questions that anyone was confused about.
- the lectures and slides were effective and helpful
- I liked having Iclicker questions for attendance and I like hte practice exams on scholar.
- iClicker questions
- Clear, concise power points. In the case of iClickers, going back when we had any issue or misunderstanding.
- The instructor helped me to learn the material by asking I-clicker questions periodically throughout the lecture.
- He made the material interesting and fostered a great learning environment through mutual respect
- Had all powerpoint slides online for our access and study use.

- He frequently told stories and tried hard to keep the whole class interested.
- Went over the slides covering the material needed.
- Provided lots of tools to study from
- He was very organized so it was always to follow along with him
- presentations
- Was clear and concise, it was super interesting material, lots of pictures in slides.
- He was passionate about what he taught and he told us everything that would be on our exams.
- I liked that sometimes we watched videos from scientific documentaries, but had questions to go along with it that we would be tested on. It was a different way to teach the material, and it didn't feel like we were just watching a movie because the professor was lazy.
- He provided practice exams before exams.
- Offered questions throughout each period that tested our knowledge
- He used videos and other things to teach
- Made science easier to understand.
- he was fun to listen to, made jokes
- What most helped me in learning was the PowerPoint slides and the iClicker questions that reinforced the material covered recently in the lecture.
- powerpoint slides of the lecture
- clear and concise presentation of material.
- iClickers made me come to class, which was good. Pictures on the powerpoints made it easier to pay attention because it provided something visually pleasing.
- Put the powerpoints up on scholar before the class so I could take a look at them beforehand.
- Dynamic, interesting presentations.
- iClicker questions to hold our attention
- He's such a cool guy. He actually made geological processes sound pretty awesome because of his personality.

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

- Maybe if I read the textbook along with the lecture notes.
- N/A
- I could have volunteered more in class.
- Read more.

- To be a better learner, I could have started studying earlier and took the quizzes more serious.
- Focused more. He tended to sound a little monotone sometimes and this was hard for me to devote my attention for the whole class.
- Studied more
- Studied a little more.
- I could have read the book more thoroughly
- Studied more before taking scholar quizzes.
- I studied a lot, and still not did do well in the class, I don't know what else I could have done at that point.
- I could have read the textbook more thoroughly.
- Listened more
- I could have done more of the readings before class.
- I could have studied more and taken more advantage of the book.
- I believe I was the best learner I could be.
- Been more attentive.
- read the textbook more
- Read more of the book
- To be a better learner, I could have reviewed the notes that I took during class a little each day after the class.
- I could have studied harder for the first test.
- Studied the textbook more and met with the teacher more outside of class.
- kept up with online assignments
- Took better notes
- Spent more time studying for exams
- copied the lecture slide notes before class so that during class I could focus more on him
- study more
- Paid attention more.
- I could have taken better, more elaborate notes.
- I could have taken studying a little more seriously in order to earn higher grades on my exams. And I found that sitting up closer to the front it was easier for me to pay attention.
- I could have seeked more help from my professor.
- Taken more complete notes
- I could have gone to more office hours

- Ask questions, study more frequently.
- payed more attention in class
- read the book more
- spent more time reading.
- Found out better ways to study for the test.
- Studied for a longer period of time.
- Sat closer to the front
- Actually read the textbook

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

- I enjoyed the class
- N/A
- Boring instructor, boring material. Not the hardest class, just hard to give your full attention for 75 minutes and stay awake.
- Really great professor, I learned a ton and enjoyed this course. Which is saying a lot because I'm not a big fan of science.
- No additional comments.
- The test questions are very confusing and worded very poorly to cause confusion. I know that I knew most of the concepts and would still get confused on tests
- My biggest complaint are the lectures on scholar. Because they are PDFs, animations are not visible. Because of that, any pictures superimposed onto the slide will cover up whatever information was present beforehand. This can make reviewing for exams and quizzes more difficult than it needs to be. By uploading the presentations as power points, this problem will be eliminated.
- The tests are very hard, I feel like the questions came out of nowhere and it was very hard to know what will be on the test. The online quizzes were very difficult as well. The powerpoint slides contained a lot of very little things that were on the test and a lot of big things that were not.
- The professor claimed that the material on the slides would directly reflect what would be on the test but the test questions were much more in depth than the actual slides.
- The class could be boring at times.
- clear and understandable, with an effective grading system and coursework layout
- I really enjoyed lectures and thought the material was interesting. It will definitely help me in my career as an urban planner!
- I never thought I would be interested in Geosciences, but this

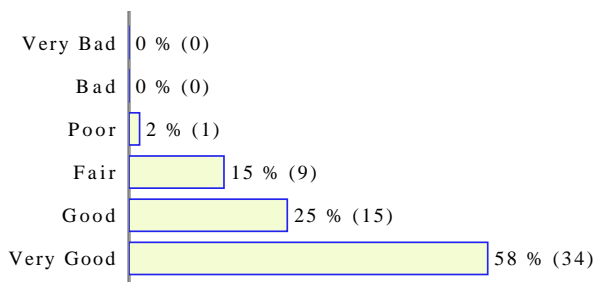
was my favorite course this semester. Because of the instructor and the materials, I've become very interested in the Geosciences.

- The instructor's extensive knowledge of the course material was very admirable.
- Tests were extremely hard and took a toll on my grade.
- It is hard to understand because the material is very dry. He goes through all the slides with no additional information making it hard to interpret what it going on.
- good guy
- It was a great class, wish it went more by the book i.e. mentioning the chapters that would be tested on. I also wish there was more interaction or things to do in the class, like a project.
- I enjoyed the professor's sense of humor that he added to class, and that he gave us examples of hazards and disasters that have happened right in front of us.
- Overall, it was a well taught and very interesting course
- Leave the slideshows as powerpoints and not PDFs! It would be much easier to take notes in the note portion on powerpoint then being forced to hand write notes on the side or open a separate word document. Also, I felt like the online quizzes were completely not congruent with the class lectures. Sure the topics were the same, but I found myself googling answers or looking for one liners in the book rather than understanding what I was being tested on.
- It's a shame that so many people blow this class off. Professor Johnson is an interesting, upbeat professor who presents a lot of material in a way that makes it seem like less than it is.
- My friend and I are getting "I Heart Neil" T-shirts, because we get such a kick out of this guy! Two thumbs up!

- I prefer smaller discussion-based lectures, so I'm biased.
- The class seemed to be very long and the material was very dry at times.
- Torg 2150 is an excellent learning environment.
- You got out of the class what you put into it.
- cool auditorium.
- I sat up front so I don't know if it was hard to see or hear from the very back
- clean
- I liked the room because it was never too bright or too dark where i wanted to fall asleep or put sunglasses on. It does get pretty cold sometimes but other than that I liked the room.
- Very large, hard to participate
- The environment was good and he was not judgmental and very helpful
- The environment was well suited for class and did not distract my learning.
- Love the stadium style seating in this classroom. Hope I get the chance to take more classes in here. I really like that there are outlets and large desks for lots of work space.
- Sometimes there was a little bit of excess and unwanted chatter coming from the back.
- The chairs make this awful metallic squeaky sounds. Y'all should fix that.

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

59 answers, mean = 5.39



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

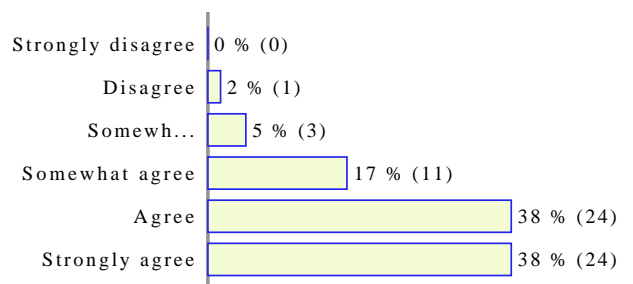
- N/A
- Large room, ton of space, and good temperature.

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):

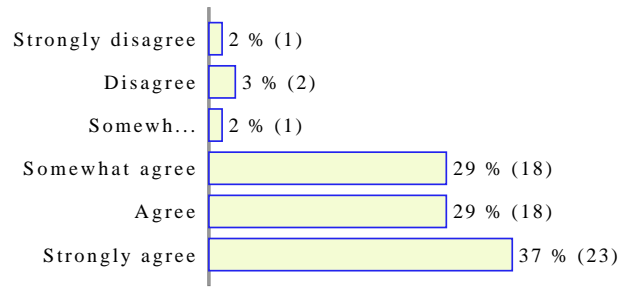
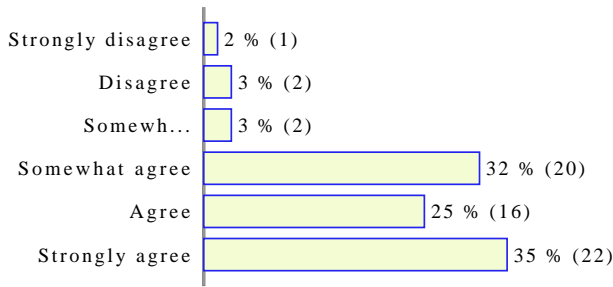
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

63 answers, mean = 5.06



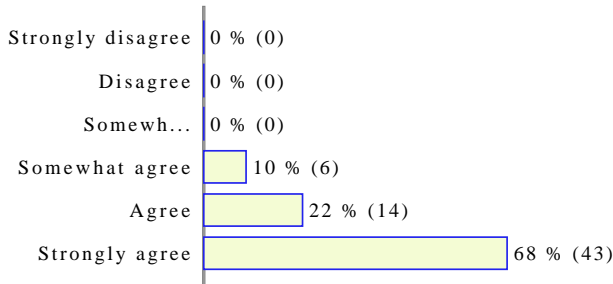
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

63 answers, mean = 4.81



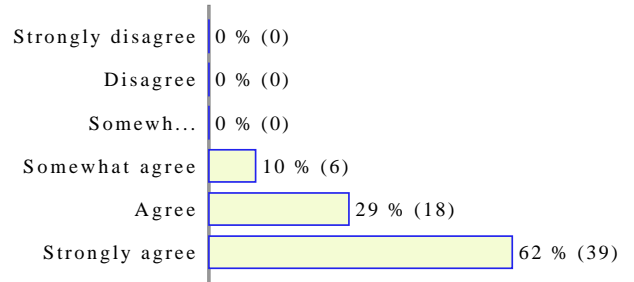
15. The instructor used a scholarly approach in presenting content (referencing theory, research, and debates in the field).

63 answers, mean = 5.59



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

63 answers, mean = 5.52

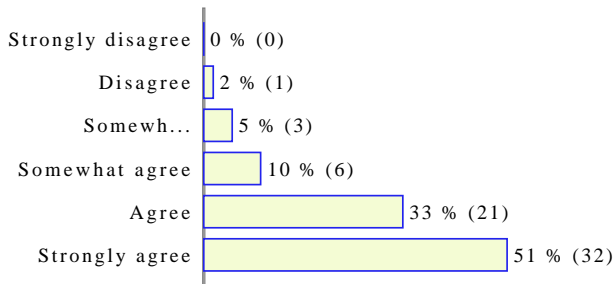


Geosciences

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):

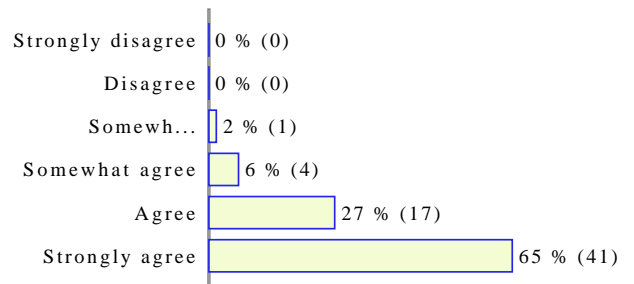
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

63 answers, mean = 5.27



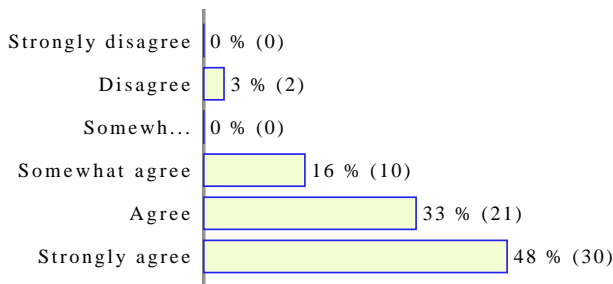
20. The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

63 answers, mean = 5.56



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

63 answers, mean = 5.22



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

63 answers, mean = 4.89