

Spring 2015 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS_1034_13753_201501

Results of survey

Started: April 24, 2015

Ended: May 7, 2015

Reply rate: 34% (53 / 154)

Spring 2015 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.

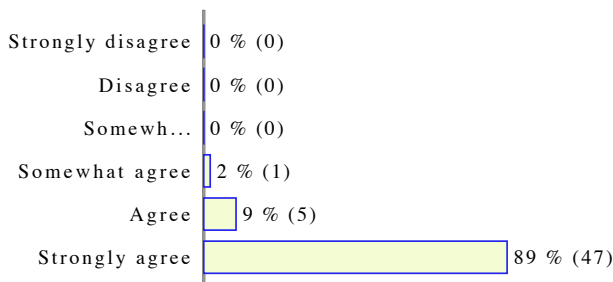
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

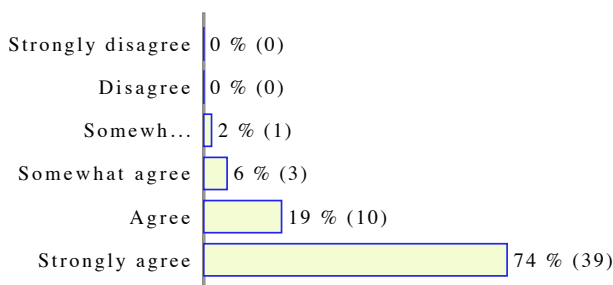
1. The instructor was well prepared.

53 answers, mean = 5.87



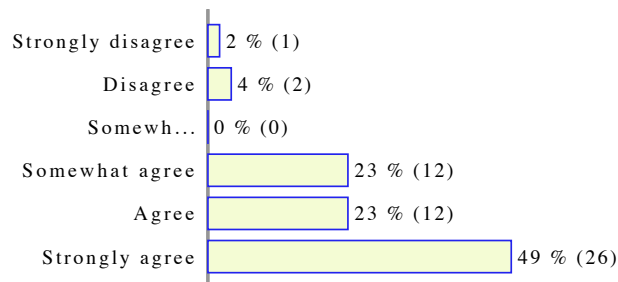
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

53 answers, mean = 5.64



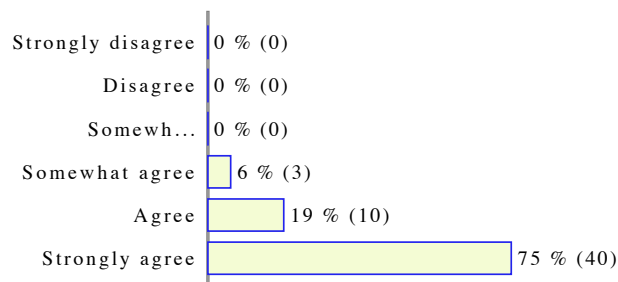
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

53 answers, mean = 5.08



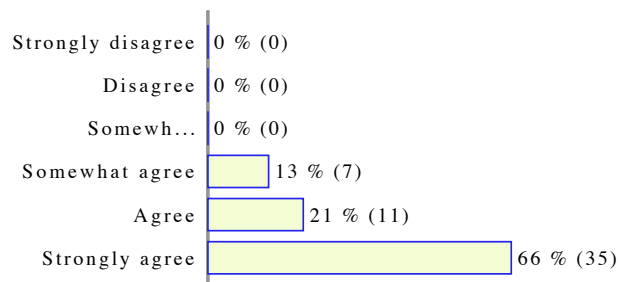
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

53 answers, mean = 5.70



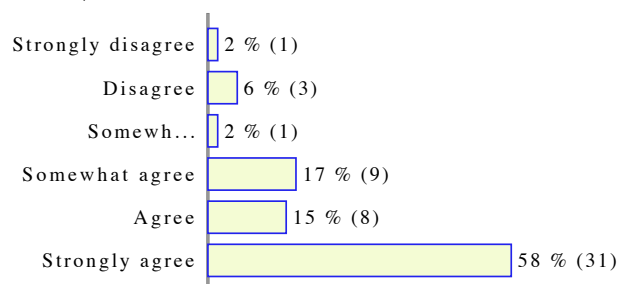
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

53 answers, mean = 5.53



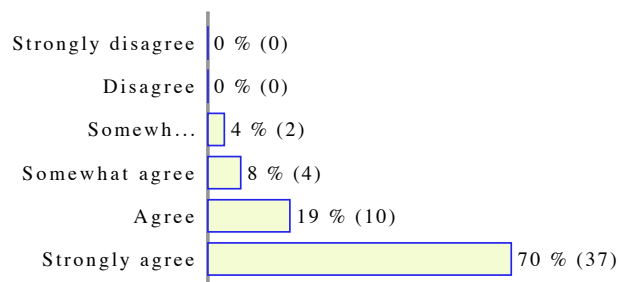
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

53 answers, mean = 5.13



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

53 answers, mean = 5.55



8. What did the instructor do that most helped in

your learning?

- He posted the lecture slides online, which made it so I could take notes before lecture, and then highlight and add to the notes based on what was emphasized during the lecture.
- He was very clear in what he wanted us to know for the tests and how to prepare for them
- iClicker questions and good use of pictures and video demonstrations.
- He was interested in subject
- communicated very clearly
- Watched videos occasionally and put his slides online for us to refer back to.
- Professor Johnson would have questions throughout the lectures so that I could frequently "check" myself and make sure I was fully comprehending what was being taught.
- The Iclicker questions were good that they were on the test as well...it made me feel more prepared that i had an idea of what will be on the exam
- Always made himself clear
- Professor Johnson went into depth on the material during lecture and made sure to hit key points--rather than mentioning unnecessary details on the subject.
- The movie questions are helpful, as I am more of a visual learner.
- powerpoints were great, as was practice tests
- Explained things well, kept class interesting, used examples that clearly showed what we were talking about.
- Explained my questions
- the iclicker questions were great
- He released practice tests before exams and effectively used Iclicker questions.
- The instructor was able to give the best study tips for the test.
- He had many examples from life that kept the class interesting and not just a dry lecture. His pictures from slides always amazed and informed the student.
- His power points contained real life examples and references to modern culture, which made the material easier to learn and remember.
- He actually went over material in class that was on the test
- He made the topics more interesting by comparing them to real life photos and videos!
- He reviewed the PowerPoints with us which helped reinforce the readings. The online quizzes helped too, because I often missed questions so I was able to go back and study.

- He provided excellent, detailed lectures.
- The lecture notes were very helpful, along with the iclicker questions.
- He used presentation slides for each lecture and occasionally used videos as supplements. He knew how to explain everything he was talking about.
- The instructor did a good job with presenting the notes.
- He was always wiling to stay after class to answer any questions his students had.
- He was very knowledgeable in the material and taught it in a manner where I could effectively understand it
- i-clicker keep you involved. Also the quizzes are good.
- Lecture
- I believe the iClicker questions were what helped me most in my learning. They helped me make sure I understood certain material in a unit.
- Gave practice exams!
- provided powerpoints
- It was hard to pay attention in such a big class
- used local context to explain issues
- He was very engaging which helped to keep my focus in class. Having the quizzes also made sure that we were actually learning outside of class and the iclickers helped bring to bring people into class.
- He knew what he was talking about and answered questions knowledgeably.
- pictures on powerpoints
- Excited about material
- He was very straightforward with what we needed to know and had tons of real life examples that kept me interested.
- Very good explaining

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

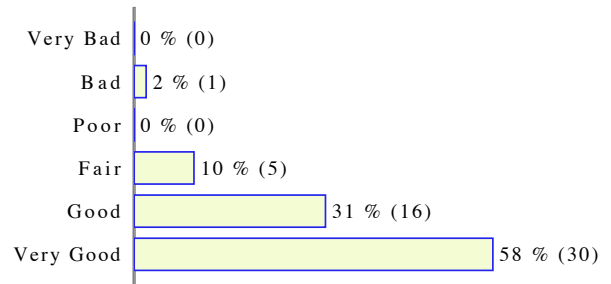
- I could have read along in the book more than I did.
- studied more for the first 2 tests
- I could have studied a bit more.
- Nothing
- studied harder
- Not do Math Empo homework in class.
- I should have studied and used flash cards to test myself on terms and remember the material better.
- The true/false section was really really really tricky...maybe

clarify it more during the lecture and emphasize what would be true/false

- I could have actually read the course book.
- more studying, tests are difficult but fair
- N/A
- i could have taken better notes
- I could have read the book more.
- I could have read the textbook more consistently and could have been more diligent in my studying.
- Listened more intently.
- Make in class lectures more hands on so they are not just lectures for the entire semester.
- I could have gone to office hours. While this course was not painstakingly difficult, it was irksome being unaware of what questions I got wrong on the exams.
- I probably could have spent more time with the book. I only did "just enough" for the quizzes.
- I could have studied more.
- Read the chapters more before each class, that way what he was saying would be more like review and I would remember it better.
- I could have read more of the chapters in the textbook
- I needed to read the book more.
- Make class more interesting
- To be a better learner, I could have gone to office hours to help me review certain units I didn't understand as well as others.
- Study more, and not cram the night before.
- paid more attention in class
- took better notes
- taken better notes
- Read the textbook more thoroughly
- I could have read the chapters before we discussed them in class so I could follow along better.
- studied harder
- studied more
- Since the power points were online, I think I could have taken the time the night before to write down the notes so I could pay more attention to what he was saying in class.
- Studied more for tests

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

52 answers, mean = 5.42



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

- I think the lecture style works better in a smaller group, which helps it feel more conversational and interesting. In a large class such as this one, it was sometimes hard to focus due to the class size.
- I felt that the professor worded questions specifically so that they were to trip up students. I respected it, but it could be frustrating at times when you feel as if you have to read one question 10 times just to be safe.
- Hes awesome
- good guy, good teacher, liked the class
- I wish that we had the opportunity to go over tests after we received our scores back so we could see what questions we missed and how to improve.
- Johnson is great, really knows what he is talking about and puts in noticeable effort to make his class entertaining.
- This class is a large lecture based class however the instructor was extremely engaging and able to be very personable even with such a large amount of students. Great teacher, very well taught for the size of the class.
- he knew the material very well
- Mr. Johnson did very well in teaching this course. He was very knowledgeable in the subject material and tried to make it interesting as best as he could in classroom setting.
- The instructor was a little fast paced when it came to certain chapters. They tended to click through the PowerPoint rather quickly. But, overall a great course that is very well taught and interesting!
- I thoroughly enjoyed the course, and I liked my professor.
- The instructor taught in a laid back manner and it was much easier to understand the topic and the message he was trying to get across
- Nicest man ever.
- I felt like the exams were very specific questions and

difficult compared to the online quizzes and overall course material.

- The instructor was moving a little too fast and it also felt like he didn't go over some material as well as others, especially when it came to exam material.
- Maybe have a few practice exams to work with. Also, some slideshows were rushed some days.
- very good instructor
- none
- I really enjoyed the class!
- He was incredible
- great person
- I know there were a lot of slides but it was kind of hard to keep up with the pace at which he flipped slides.
- Class was awesome!

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

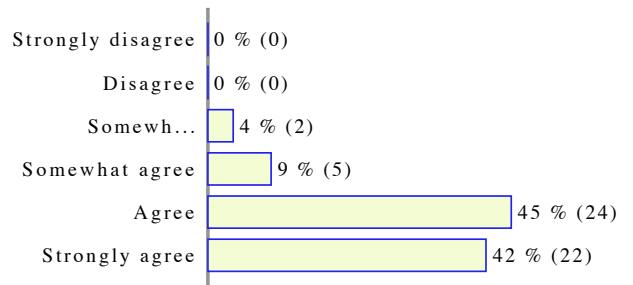
- The room was often way too cold.
- The classroom space was very clean and made it easy to focus.
- some broken chairs :(
- A bit dark, but I actually grew comfortable with the setting. It was no issue by the second week or so of the course.
- Sometimes surrounding people could be distracting.
- The physical environment was very nice, stadium seating and long tables for everyone with swivel chairs
- Great room.
- The classroom had many squeaky chairs which made it hard to focus at times and the wifi in the classroom would not work for more than half of the class. It made it very difficult to keep notes and slides side by side during lecture.
- good environment
- a little run down
- cool

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):

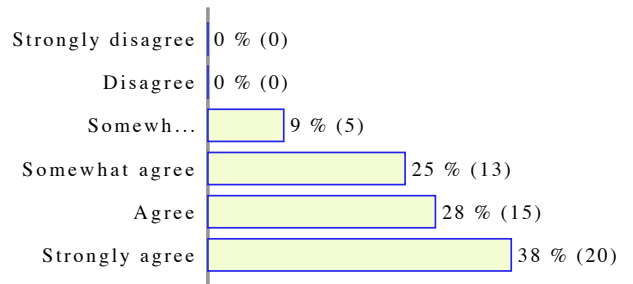
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

53 answers, mean = 5.25



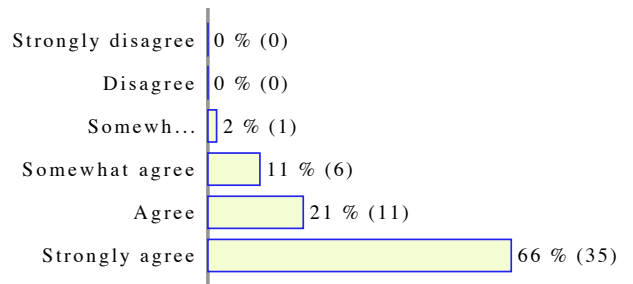
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

53 answers, mean = 4.94



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

53 answers, mean = 5.51

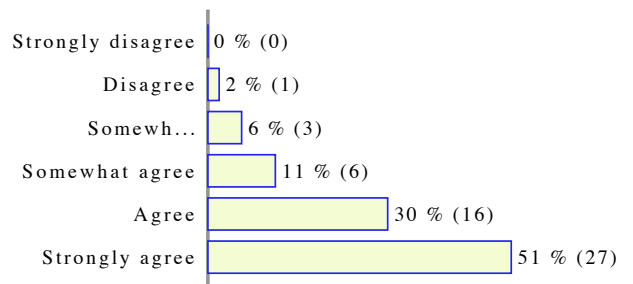


Geosciences

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):

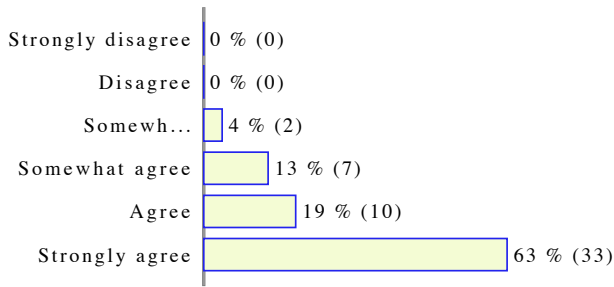
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

53 answers, mean = 5.23



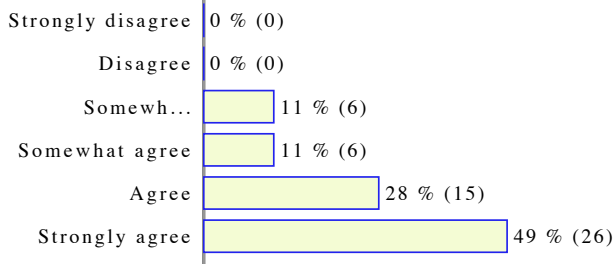
17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

52 answers, mean = 5.42



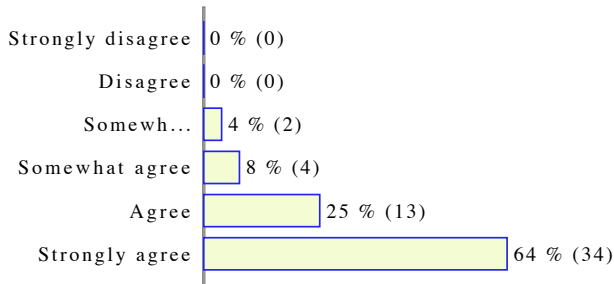
18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

53 answers, mean = 5.15



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

53 answers, mean = 5.49



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

53 answers, mean = 5.57

