

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

GEOS_1004_83628_201509

Results of survey

Started: November 27, 2015

Ended: December 10, 2015

Reply rate: 39% (30 / 77)

Fall 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.

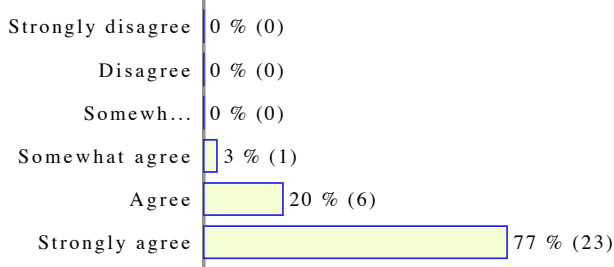
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

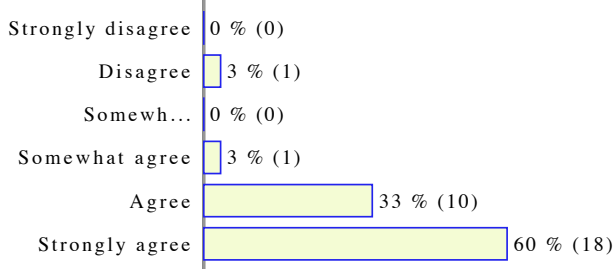
1. The instructor was well prepared.

30 answers, mean = 5.73



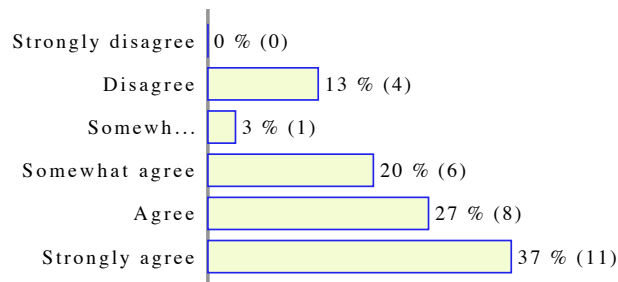
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

30 answers, mean = 5.47



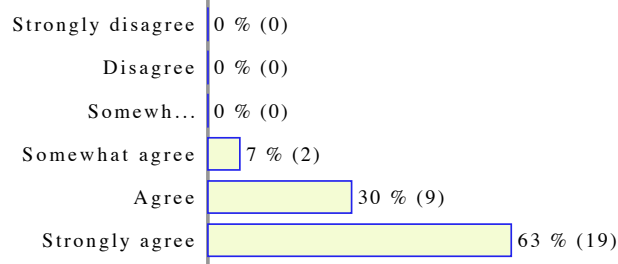
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

30 answers, mean = 4.70



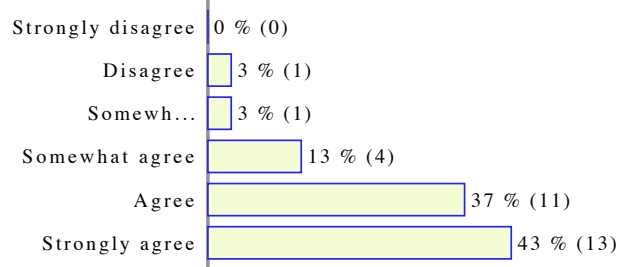
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

30 answers, mean = 5.57



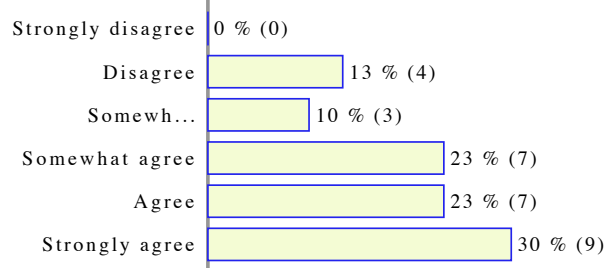
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

30 answers, mean = 5.13



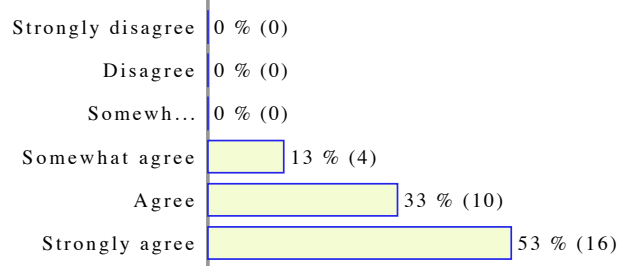
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

30 answers, mean = 4.47



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

30 answers, mean = 5.40



8. What did the instructor do that most helped in

your learning?

- He put all the presentations online which helped a lot with studying. And he was easy to work with during office hours.
- He gave a lot of real-world examples that we could relate to.
- Explained in detail
- He explained things plainly and slowed down when we needed to.
- Went through the material at a good pace.
- Would say goofy things that were relatable and rememberable to help us remember some of the things that were more difficult to grasp.
- Provided the lecture files for me to print out
- He provided feedback on my study skills as well as how to improve test taking. Overall was always there to help whenever I had questions or issues with the online quizzes.
- His anecdotes throughout the lectures helped me pay attention and remember information better.
- I really enjoyed his lecture style and I think it made learning the material easier for me.
- I think iClicker questions helped the most
- Mini quizzes
- Very clear powerpoint on the chapters. He was very understanding and flexible with the schedule. I am grateful to him for working with me and my schedule and allowing me to take a test on a different day.
- He helped me during his office hours
- Displayed powerpoints with the lessons online
- The iClicker questions were helpful, because they helped me pay attention and stay focused in class. The instructor was also very good at explaining the concepts in a manner that we could understand.
- Present the Geology material in the easiest manner possible without making anything too complicated.
- Nothing
- Powerpoints were informational and easy to continue notes on, extremely easy to understand (more so than the textbook)
- helpful powerpoints
- Clicker questions throughout the class that carried over the the exam and practice exams
- Constant email reminders with information on assignments
- Posted lectures before class, and released practice exams.
- Provided many opportunities for grades outside of just exams, which really helped my grade in the course.
- Professor Johnson is extremely knowledgeable and always had examples to accompany every topic. It helped that he has seen many geologic phenomena in person and had pictures from his trips. I could tell he knew what he was talking about, and those personal anecdotes were helpful.
- Made the class fun and interesting
- He made the exams based off of his notes instead of the book.
- The instructor was light-hearted and would make jokes along with teaching the material. He was also good at making real-world comparisons to the material so that we could better understand it.

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

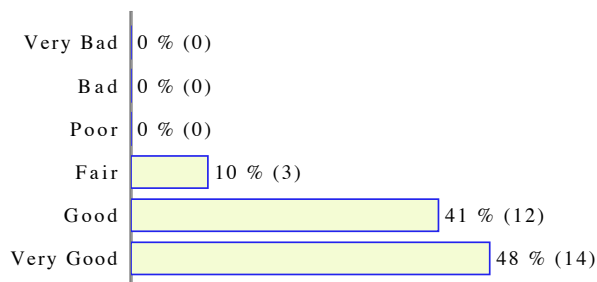
- I could've taken better notes
- Paid closer attention; the course gets a little dry
- Read more of the textbook
- I could've tried to pay more attention to what he was saying, not what was necessarily on the screen.
- Asked more questions when I was confused about something.
- Read the book more.
- I could have paid attention more during class.
- I could have devoted more time to studying the course material.
- I could have studied more
- Better notes
- I could have consulted the textbook more often.
- Study the material more
- Studied harder and more in advance for exams
- I could have used the book as a resource more.
- Focused more in class and attempting to study more for a better grade.
- Nothing
- took better notes
- Paid better attention in class
- Be more attentive in class
- Took the class more seriously and didn't brush it off like it was just some CLE
- I wish that I had stayed on top of the reading!
- I should have gone in to his office hours more often when I wasn't sure about something.

- take better notes
- Nothing. I did my best to succeed in that class.
- I could have read some of the chapters before the instructor went over the lectures in order to have been more familiar with the information.

- I love his jokes they are so funny!
- N/A
- Very likable professor who made the class enjoyable with his humor.
- If I had one wish it'd be that Professor Johnson was more practical with his exams. Sometimes, the tests were a little over the top. By that I mean he really stretched with some questions. For example, he would take a little fact he had only mentioned once and make a question on it. Sometimes it seemed unfair.
- I thoroughly enjoy the professor's teaching style and character as well as how it extends to the rest of the class
- I just feel like he was not an approachable professor which made it difficult for me to reach out to him for assistance. Even when I emailed him questions, his answers were never clear.

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

29 answers, mean = 5.38



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

- Explained in detail
- He was very helpful.
- I really enjoyed this class, much more than I thought I would! I really enjoyed Professor Johnson's sense of humor and his ability to make everyone feel comfortable in the class. I also really liked how accommodating he was at the beginning of the semester to the students that were having issues with our homework website not correctly working.
- He was a great teacher! He presented the material in an easy to understand way.
- Professor Johnson was easily one of my favorite professors this semester. The information was simple enough to understand, yet it still stimulated my thought. He is a very funny guy, but takes his job seriously at the same time. I have nothing but respect for him.
- n/a
- Profesor Johnson seemed very prepared and knowledgeable on the course information. He was funny and clear in class which made the somewhat boring class material more interesting.
- He's a very good and fair teacher.
- All of the dates for the quizzes need to be laid out in the syllabus at the beginning of the semester so students can pencil the dates on their calendar and/or planner. Even with the email reminders, they are still easy to miss because the due date is not visible until after it is available a few days before. The email are easy to miss anyway because we get so many.
- None

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

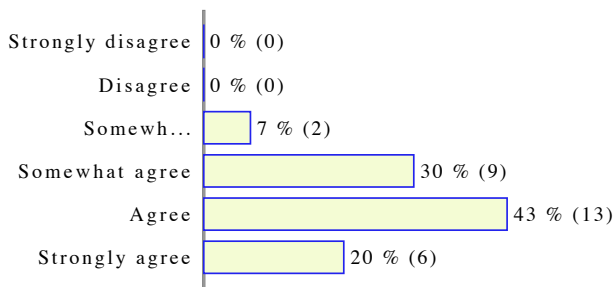
- Easy to see, hear, and pay attention
- The lighting in the classroom was a little strange, with the windows in the back of the room, it was really hard to read what was on the board.
- It was a little tiresome because it was right after lunch but it was fine.
- The classroom was uncomfortably hot most of the time, but other than that - no complaints.
- n/a
- I liked the smaller classroom setting.
- I liked the classroom and environment
- None
- good environment
- Distracting and hard to maintain attention
- I really, really wished this class had something for my to put my laptop on. The little pull-out desks were much too small.
- the class room was large, not crowded, comfortable seating distance from the professor

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):

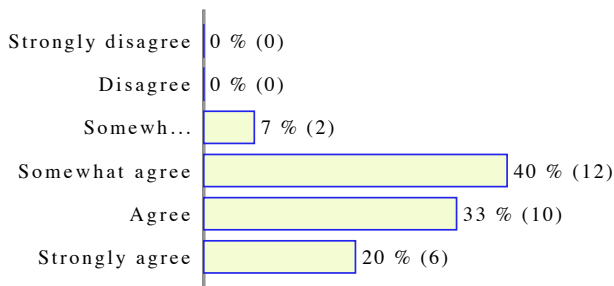
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

30 answers, mean = 4.77



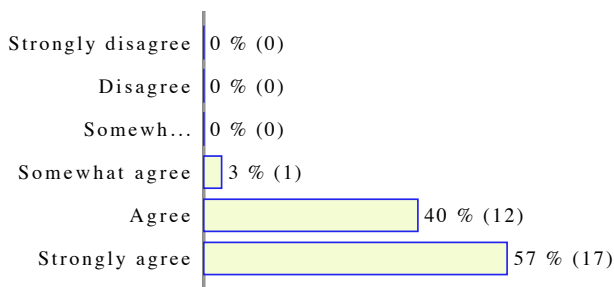
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

30 answers, mean = 4.67



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

30 answers, mean = 5.53

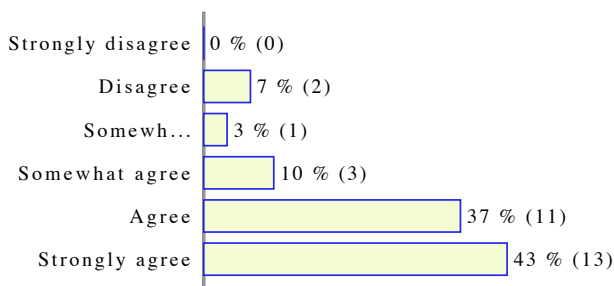


Geosciences

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):

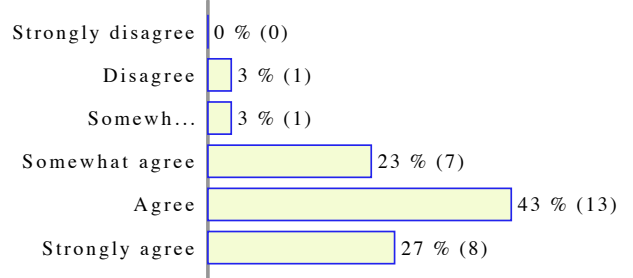
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

30 answers, mean = 5.07



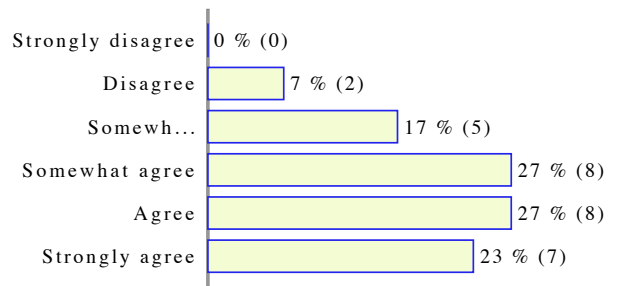
17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

30 answers, mean = 4.87



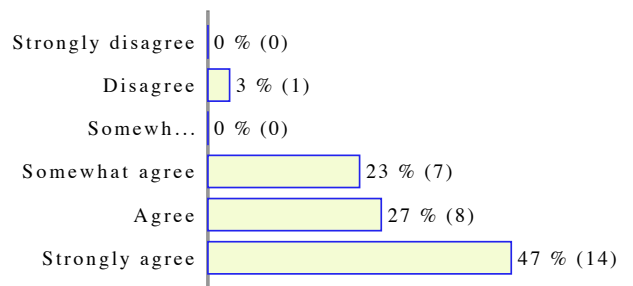
18. I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.

30 answers, mean = 4.43



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

30 answers, mean = 5.13



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

30 answers, mean = 5.30

