

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

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Results of survey

Started: November 27, 2015

Ended: December 10, 2015

Reply rate: 56% (36 / 64)

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.

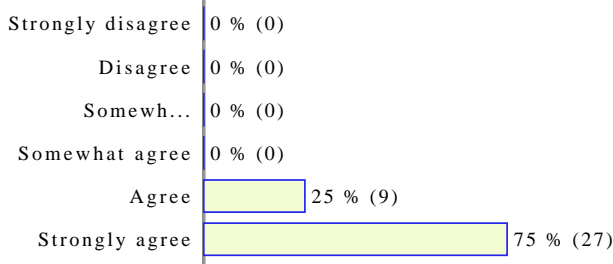
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

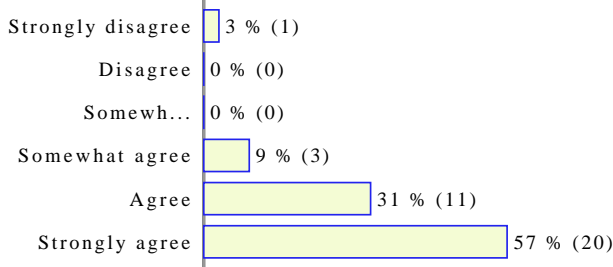
1. The instructor was well prepared.

36 answers, mean = 5.75



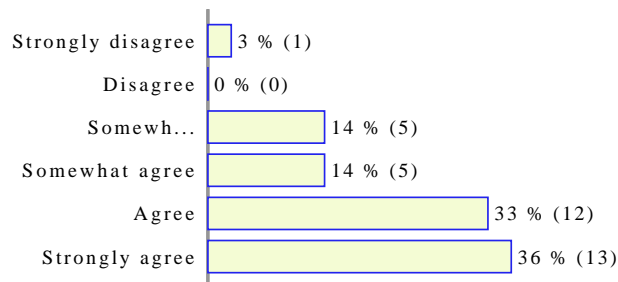
2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

35 answers, mean = 5.37



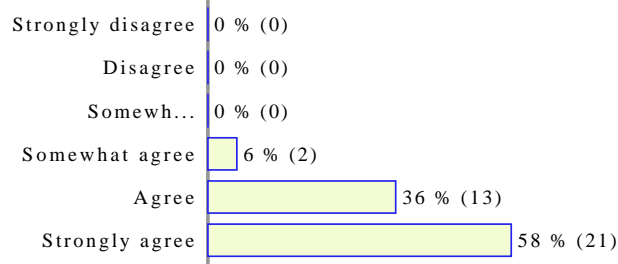
3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

36 answers, mean = 4.83



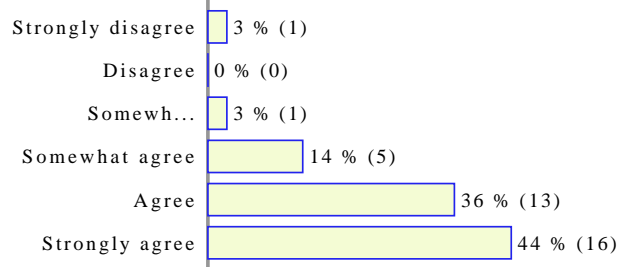
4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

36 answers, mean = 5.53



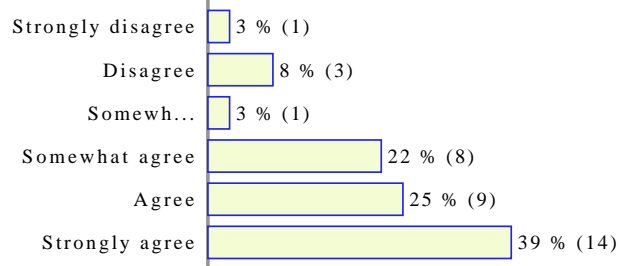
5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

36 answers, mean = 5.14



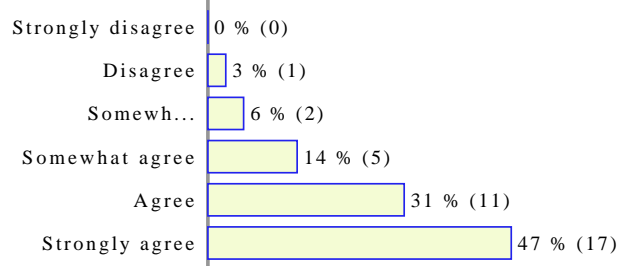
6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

36 answers, mean = 4.75



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

36 answers, mean = 5.14



8. What did the instructor do that most helped in

your learning?

- Quizzes
- The structure of his class is very clear. The powerpoints and iclicker questions allow for a better understanding of material. He incorporated examples that made it easier to understand.
- He included iClicker questions from class in the tests.
- gave the class the lectures so we could study later to make up for the holes in my notes.
- He was very easy to understand and knew ALOT about the course, he used many examples seen in nature and had a very thorough database of events, statistics, and specifics of Earth's Natural Hazards. It also helped having the notes online in case I missed a class, it was easy to catch up.
- Provided office hours in which I could discuss concepts I didn't understand
- He would tell us exactly what he was going to put on the exams.
- A lot of visuals.
- He put the lessons into fun terms with explainable scenarios.
- During office hours, he helped me develop a new way of studying for his exams.
- Professor Johnson was very enthusiastic and energetic while teaching. His humor and enthusiasm made it easier to concentrate, especially for an 8am course.
- The teacher provided practice tests to prepare for the exams, in addition to giving us specific material to study.
- He was both engaging and fostered an environment where he was approachable and friendly. He tries his hardest to make the course both interesting and engaging, I can only hope the rest of my professors could be as good as Professor Johnson. Every professor could learn something from him.
- Had in-class videos that helped explains some of the subject material
- Very enthusiastic!
- Coming in for office hours was a huge help and I just loved how approachable the Professor is. Talking to him about my test helped me improve by leaps and bounds.
- I really liked how he put the powerpoints online. I found it helpful when I was reviewing for tests.
- he provided funny connections with the information so it was easy to remember
- He gave good explanations of everything and he put his PowerPoint presentations online. The presentations being online helped me to be able to go back and recall everything that I heard from the lecture which was a huge boon to my

abilities in class.

- I quite enjoyed lectures in this class due to their simplified nature. The presentation of information was such that one would leave with a wealth of material, and perhaps read into this material later with a solid basis for understanding the chapter(s).
- His constant jokes put the class in a good mood and helped us learn as well.
- didnt just do lectures also showed us videos and stuff
- He tried to make it more interesting and make us get engaged in questions during the class.
- The quizzes and practice quizzes helped me the most.
- He was very good about explaining every bit of information and having visuals on the powerpoint.
- He posted the powerpoint slides prior to class so you can get an overview of the chapter before class. Also he posts study guides prior to the exam. Lastly gives iClicker questions which make sure you're focused while you're in lecture, since they show up on the exam and you get points for answering them.
- The exam review guides.

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

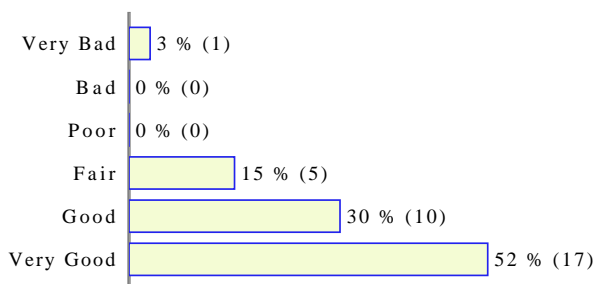
- Read ahead and asked questions in office hours
- I could have gone to office hours after tests.
- I feel I did everything possible to do well in this class.
- paid more attention to the textbook readings.
- Planned better so I would not have missed a few online quizzes.
- Gone to office hours more often
- I could have asked more questions.
- Focused more in class.
- Worked harder on my tests and quizzes
- He could have held exam review sessions for exams and went over the exams after we took them.
- I could have kept up with the reading
- Being an 8 am with the lights off and not much student interaction, it was at times difficult to stay awake with all the powerpoints and movies.
- Studied more, been more alert and not falling asleep on occasion.
- Kept up with reading
- Post iclicker questions with the powerpoint for study material

- I could have hand written my notes instead of typing on my laptop. It was easy to get distracted when using a laptop.
- even more connections could be used
- Paid more attention in class.
- I could have potentially ensured that I read the textbook largely prior to coming to class so that I could more effectively determine what subject areas I would need to focus on for tests. Perhaps if I had solidified my knowledge more appropriately I would have had less of an issue with each test.
- It was very hard to stay awake during the lectures. It was sometimes easy to stay focused because the material was interesting and the teacher was funny, but most of the times it was very hard to focus.
- sometimes lectures got boring idk spice it up a bit
- Drank more coffee so I could stay awake.
- I should have studied from the book more instead of just the notes.
- I could have paid more attention in class and taken better notes.
- Write every single word he says in class cause it might be on the exam.
- Read the book more.

- None
- The quizzes and iclicker questions help to ensure a bad test grade won't ruin you for the semester which is greatly appreciated
- Professor Johnson was extremely knowledgeable in all the subject matter and made fun jokes that kept the class exciting.
- While dropping 3 iClickers and 3 of the lower quiz grades, I would rather have had the option to drop the lowest exam grade.
- My favorite class this semester!
- Professor Johnson is a terrific Professor that truly cares for his students. Although the subject matter can be a bit dry, the jokes he makes does help keep me engaged. The only slightly negative comment I can muster up is that the practice exams don't reflect the tests in which subject matter to focus on the most but the practice tests do help you get used to the style of questions on the exam. Overall, I really enjoyed this class and would recommend it to another. Good Job Professor Johnson!
- He was funny which kept the class interesting. The material was interesting and I am happy I took this class.
- He is a very nice man who is funny as well. The subtle jokes and his enthusiasm towards the course made it a very enjoyable class and environment.
- In general, I felt that the viewing of films or excerpts from documentaries helped me better retain information related to the chapters at hand.

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

33 answers, mean = 5.24



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

- The course is very interesting and the professor does a great job of teaching it. I will look for his classes to take further in my career.
- I would've enjoyed the class more if it wasn't at 8am in Derring.
- Having the course so early in the day got me up and going for the rest of the day, leading me to be more productive. Though the downside to that is that it was hard to stay awake sometimes. I enjoyed Mr. Johnson's sense of humor!
- The quizzes online were helpful in studying for exams.

- One thing I specifically had trouble with was matching questions on each of the tests. I walked into each test excited to see what grade my knowledge could earn me, only to receive that grade and wonder how I could have missed what was incorrect. I think that perhaps having an occasional iclicker question involving matching would be beneficial in becoming accustomed to such a question on the tests.
- None.
- The professor could of given more examples into what he was talking about.

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

- The room was great.
- Derring is the ugliest building at VT. I've been convinced I was going to die on that elevator almost every time I step foot in it.
- Pretty small class, easy to hear and see.
- None

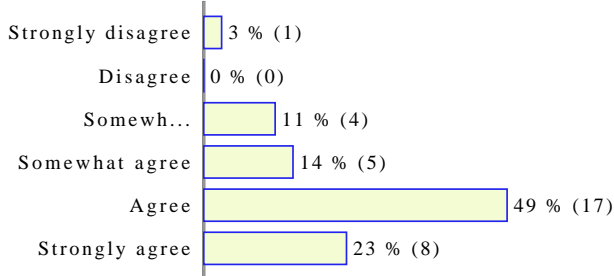
- Would have been a great and interesting class if I didn't take it at 8 am and the lights off
- It was difficult to stay awake with the lights off and only power points. Maybe an interactive activity would be helpful.
- The chairs in the room are uncomfortable so I had to always keep on shifting.
- I liked how the class was a lecture but also felt small.
- Note above comment
- The physical environment was very friendly and comfortable. If I ever had a question I did not hesitate to pose it. This semester has been rewarding. In spite of my test grades I truly appreciated this course.
- The room we were in had these super comfortable chairs and the professor would always dim the lights so basically it was setting me up to fall asleep. If this class was in a regular classroom or the lights were on I think it would have been better for everyone.
- The classroom was made to make you tired. It was usually hot and early in the morning, plus the professor had a very monotone voice.

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):

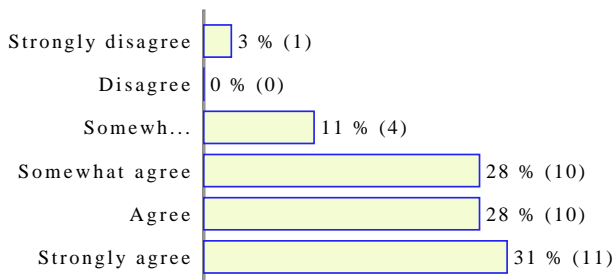
13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.

35 answers, mean = 4.74



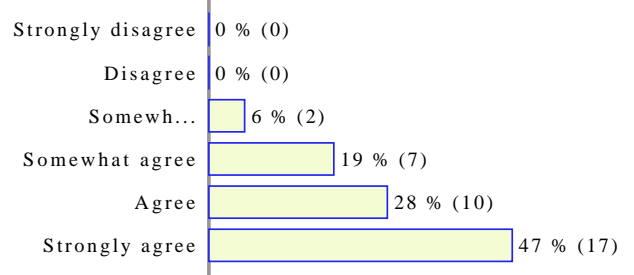
14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.

36 answers, mean = 4.69



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

36 answers, mean = 5.17

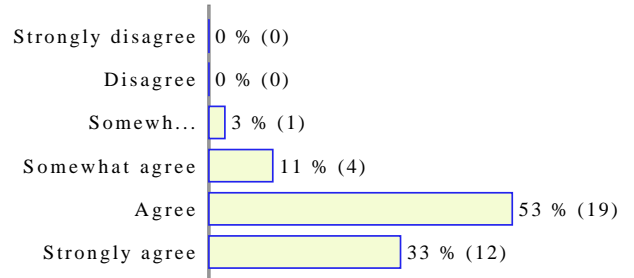


Geosciences

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):

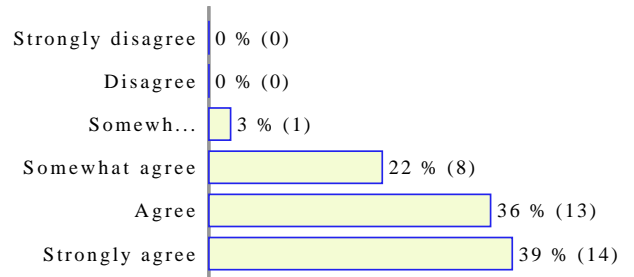
16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.

36 answers, mean = 5.17



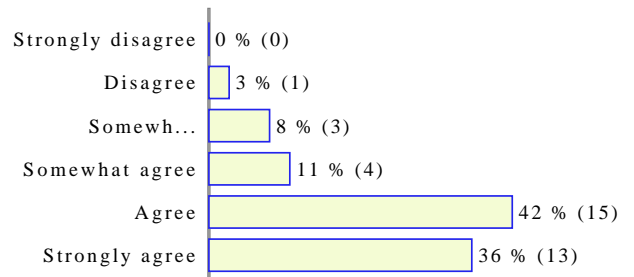
17. I became more aware of multiple perspectives on issues in this field.

36 answers, mean = 5.11



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

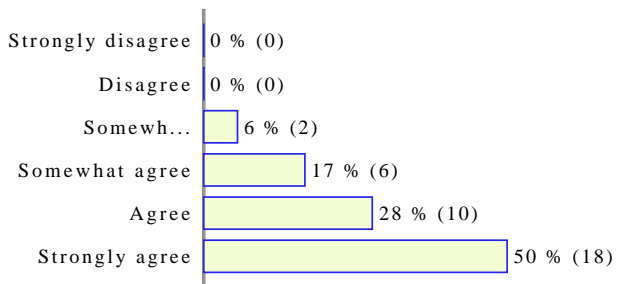
36 answers, mean = 5.00



19. The instructor clearly defined students'

responsibilities related to the course.

36 answers, mean = 5.22



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

36 answers, mean = 5.50

