

# Spring 2016 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

GEOS\_1034\_14312\_201601

Results of survey

Started: April 22, 2016

Ended: May 5, 2016

Reply rate: 35% ( 54 / 154 )

## Spring 2016 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.

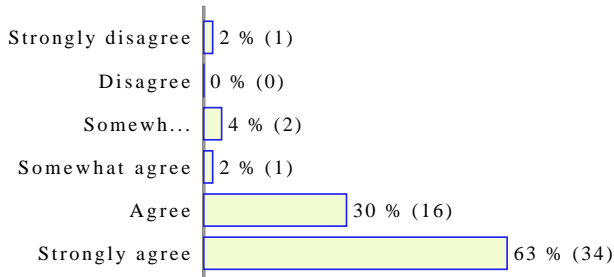
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Neil Johnson

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

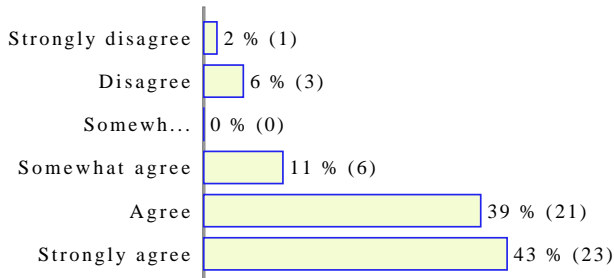
### 1. The instructor was well prepared.

54 answers, mean = 5.46



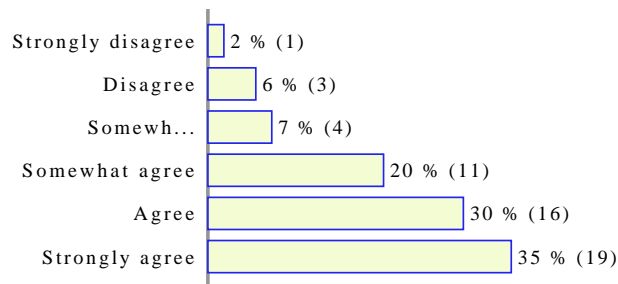
### 2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

54 answers, mean = 5.07



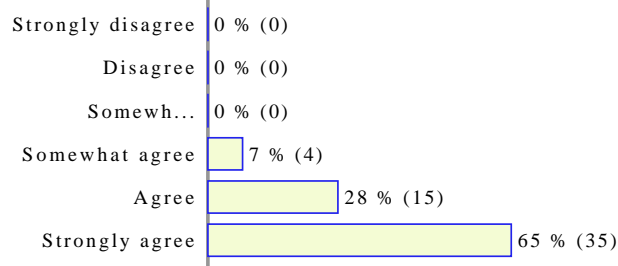
### 3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

54 answers, mean = 4.76



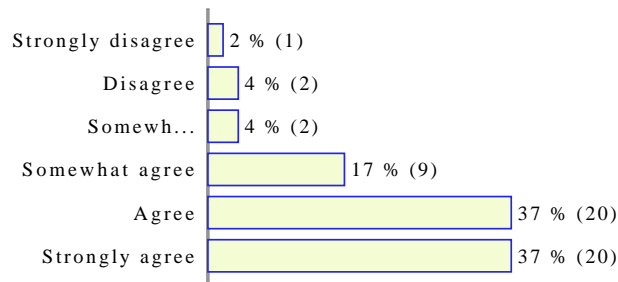
### 4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

54 answers, mean = 5.57



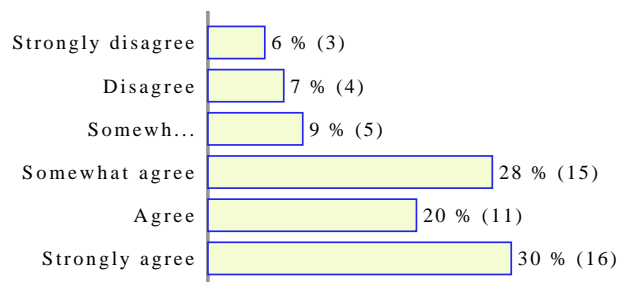
### 5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

54 answers, mean = 4.94



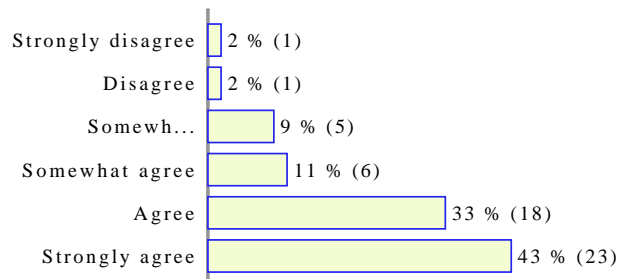
### 6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

54 answers, mean = 4.39



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

54 answers, mean = 5.00



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

## **your learning?**

- He put the lecture files on scholar.
- Great lectures
- In depth/interactive lectures
- Created practice tests that helped study for the exams
- Posted quizzes weekly.
- Posted the PowerPoints online
- The way he set up the online quizzes to be more of a study tool than a solid grade that's timed helped a lot!
- The iclicker questions were very helpful especially because they were on the exams
- in class review questions during note taking
- He had an overwhelming amount of Powerpoint slides on his powerpoints. A lot of very cool pictures but I think too many. He had so many slides on his powerpoint that it was difficult to study for the exams.
- Providing humor during a topic that often has a boring connotation allowed me to stay interested.
- Dr. Johnson had a very apparent interest in the subject and it drew you in as a student.
- put the powerpoints online and the quizzes online
- In class Clicker questions, practice exams
- He provided practice exams before each exam and re-used some of the iClicker questions for material on the exams.
- **READING CHAPTERSOME AND FOLLOWING ALONG WITH SLIDES AS WELL AS ATTENDING CLASSES FOR ICLICKER QUESTIONS**
- He posted his lecture slides on scholar.
- He was really knowledgeable of the subject and the powerpoints and lessons were really helpful.
- Did not try to over complicate material which was nice.
- Very well prepared
- He explained everything in throughout details and gave many examples to clarify the subjects. He also provided many resources and practice exams to prepare us for tests and quizzes.
- Was very well informed of the material and obviously knew what he was talking about.
- Well prepared
- I appreciated the fact that my instructor was very efficient and quick with replying to emails that contained questions about his class. He clears up any questions I may have during an exam so I can understand the question better.
- Put practice exams up on scholar to help us study for exams
- He did everything in his power to get students a better grade.
- The powerpoints and practice tests were very helpful.
- The quizzes online
- Went into detail in class on covered material
- posted lecture slides for further understanding
- iclicker questions were helpful
- His Powerpoint presentations were very clear.
- Videos! and his powerpoints. aka everything
- na
- He was very enthusiastic in his teaching and that enthusiasm was very infectious.
- The quizzes helped me learn. I liked the iclicker questions. The photos in the slides were good to help me remember what concepts were. His stories and examples were good.

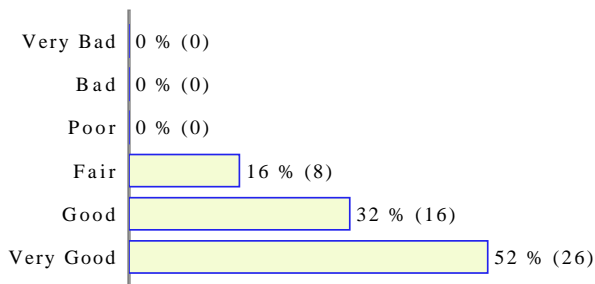
## **9. What could you have done to be a better learner?**

- Study.
- Take better notes
- Focused more on what was going to be on the exams
- Studied harder and further in advance because the exams were always very difficult
- Read the textbook more ahead of time.
- Read the book
- Paid attention more in class during the first unit.
- studied more
- Study harder.
- Taking better notes could have helped my performance.
- took more effective notes although it was not necessary
- I could have read the book more thoroughly and spent more time outside of class studying the material.
- **STUDIED NOTES MORE IN ADVANCE**
- Listened a bit more in class.
- I could have taken more notes on the lectures.
- When we did Iclicker questions if the answer was "more than one" i wish that we just went over what the two answers were... just for my own knowledge
- Paid more attention in class and took more notes as he spoke.
- Study more. Take more time in reading the book.

- Asked more questions
- I could have spent more time studying rather than waiting until the last minute.
- Actively payed attention and class
- Study.
- I could have listened to the lectures more closely.
- Taken notes
- Read textbook
- paid better attention
- paid more attention in class
- I could have gone to my professor's office hours and tried to communicate with him more.
- na
- I had a hard time paying attention since it was in a big lecture hall.
- taken better notes. i wish i had written down the examples of things he had said to remember them all.

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

50 answers, mean = 5.36



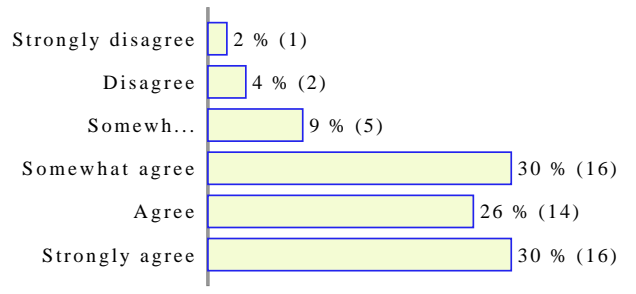
**11. Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:**

- It was more challenging than expected
- Nahp
- The exams were a lot more in depth than what material was gone over in class and was a little hard to study for in that manner
- The class did not allow me to think independently about the material because its science and is mostly pure facts.
- He was very passionate in the subject there were just a lot of slides and it was difficult to study for the exams.
- The tests are too hard and do not really follow the notes. Seemed too advanced for the class, especially with it being a simple science class.
- Professor Johnson is very nice and encourages his students to

visit him during office hours if they are having trouble understanding the material or are concerned about what they missed on the exams.

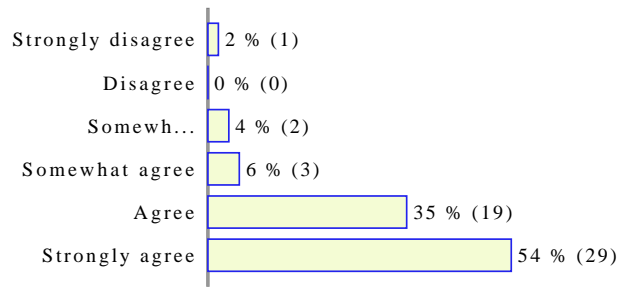
- THE CLASS WAS GOOD AND HE SEEMS PASSIONATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE SUBJECT.
  - Very nice man!
  - The class itself was very easy to understand. I listened to the lectures, read the powerpoints, and overall understood the material. That being said, the tests did not correlate with the subject matter reviewed in class and in our assigned readings.
  - Iclicker questions were fair for those who decided to come to class and got to see that question on the test
  - It would be nice if one of our exam grades could be replaced/dropped since they count for so much for our grade, however I had an enjoyable experience in this class.
  - Very nice and approachable professor who wants his students to do well in his class
  - The professor loves this subject and taught it with great enthusiasm! I only took it as a required science course and although I am not good at science, he made it a lot less painful with his great teaching!
  - I think that more material to prep for the tests would have been helpful, because those were always overwhelmingly difficult for me
  - The lecture slides were good to understand material covered in textbook but not good for studying.
  - interesting material with a knowledgeable instructor
  - I think that the tests offered in the class were way to difficult compared to the material the instructor presented in class. Often times I found myself studying for hours and reading over all material to find questions on the exams of terms that I had never even heard of
  - HE WAS VERY NICE TO ALL THE STUDENTS AND ALWAYS PREPARED
  - I think that the reading quizzes were too challenging and not necessary for the course at all. The reading of course was related to what we learned, but it was not crucial to the course.
  - Natural Hazards were a very interesting topic to learn about. It opened my eyes to a lot of things that come from natural hazards.
  - he's got a good sense of humor and is very sweet.
- 12. Please add any comments about the physical environment here:**
- It was a large class but still easy to listen and follow

- Nahp
- Great classroom to learn in.
- The physical environment is definitely geared towards students who succeed in a lecture-based classroom.
- DECENT SIZED LECTURE HALL TO LEARN AND FOLLOWING ALONG ON SLIDES
- The physical environment was very comfortable.
- The physical environment was easy to learn from and my instructor spoke very clearly in his lectures. Everyone paid attention as well.
- Comfortable
- It is a big lecture hall and a lot of students rudely talked over the professor.
- Not bad
- good!
- The environment was great plenty of room to spread out
- Just like in any large class, it makes it easier to get distracted.
- Goodwin is a beautiful building. The lecture hall was very open and comfortable and high tech which made it easier to see and hear the professor. However I have a hard time concentrating in large lecture halls.



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

54 answers, mean = 5.33

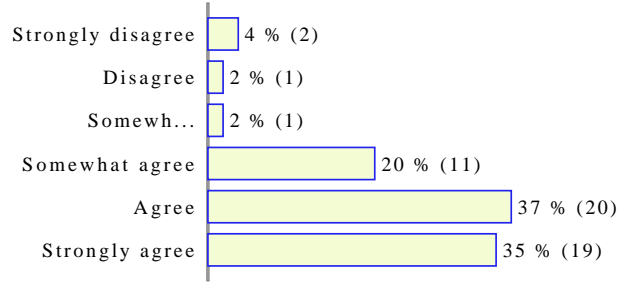


**Geosciences**

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):

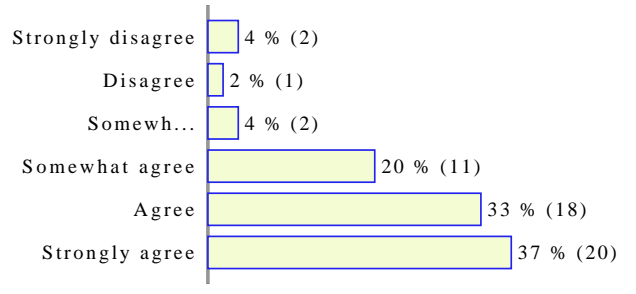
**16. The instructor seemed concerned about whether students learned the material.**

54 answers, mean = 4.91



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

54 answers, mean = 4.89



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

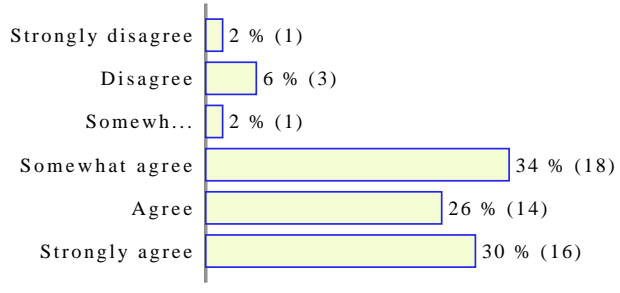
53 answers, mean = 4.58

**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):

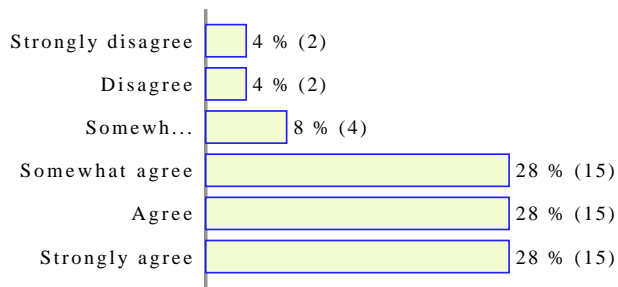
**13. I improved my ability to think independently about the course material.**

53 answers, mean = 4.68



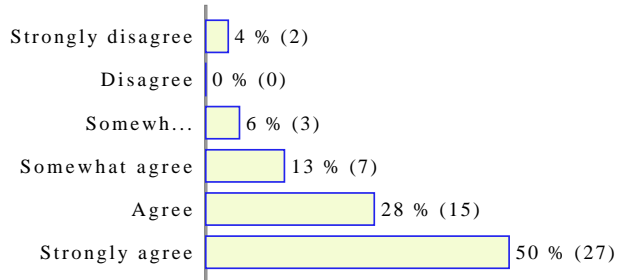
**14. I learned to identify problems and explore different solutions.**

54 answers, mean = 4.63



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

54 answers, mean = 5.11



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

54 answers, mean = 5.20

