

# Spring 2013 Virginia Tech Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) Survey

ENGE\_1104\_12878\_201301, ENGE\_1104\_12877\_201301,  
ENGE\_1104\_12874\_201301

Results of survey

Started: April 26, 2013

Ended: May 9, 2013

Reply rate: 39% ( 34 / 87 )

## Spring 2013 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.

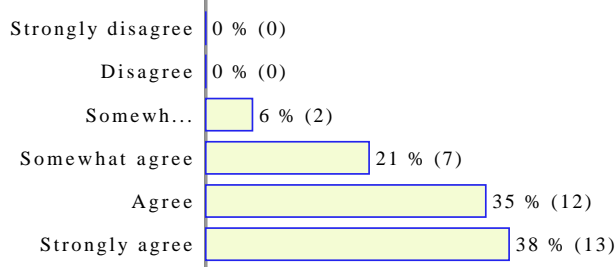
Thank you for contributing to the goal of continuously improving teaching and learning at Virginia Tech.

Instructor/Evaluatee: Noah Allen

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

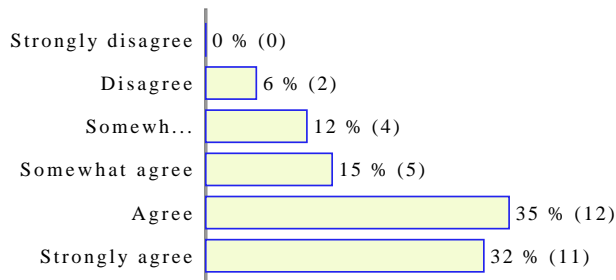
### 1. The instructor was well prepared.

34 answers, mean = 5.06



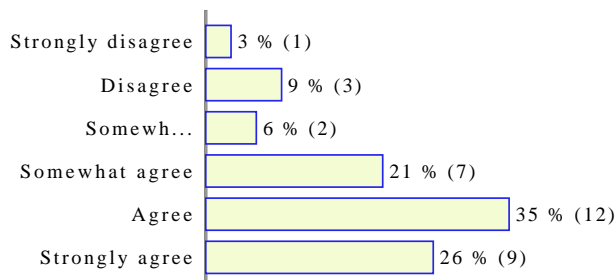
### 2. The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

34 answers, mean = 4.76



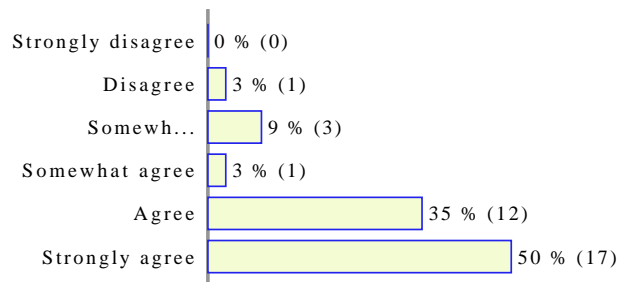
### 3. The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

34 answers, mean = 4.56



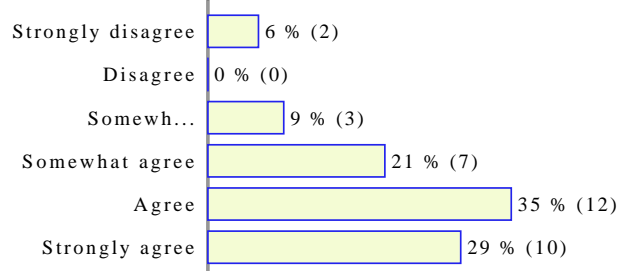
### 4. The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

34 answers, mean = 5.21



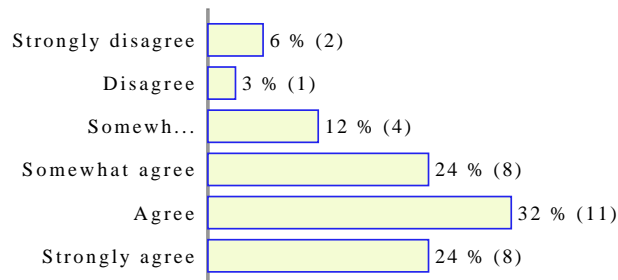
### 5. I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

34 answers, mean = 4.68



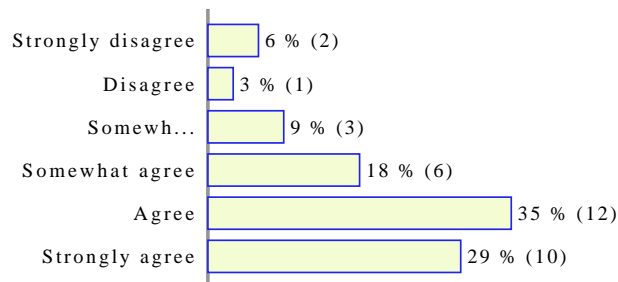
### 6. My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

34 answers, mean = 4.44



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

34 answers, mean = 4.62



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

- Good examples in class.
- solve problem
- Answering questions
- He had visuals and worked out examples.
- Dyknow slides were useful. I don't know why tablets are required though. Might as well just require the bamboo touch attachment thing.
- He was very helpful in his office hours

- He was very enthusiastic during his lectures and seemed to know a lot about the subject.
- Help out during the office hours.
- Explained the slides as deeply as he could.
- He kept everyone up to date with emails about deadlines.
- I felt like he was all over the place in terms of teaching. He would just put up examples but not really explain things very well.
- He provided lectures which would explain the material over Dyknow so i would have the notes on my computer after lectures.
- He very clearly explained the requirements of all of our projects and assignments so we couldnt mess up too poorly.
- Was very thorough.
- Was available to help, gave great ideas
- DyKnow is a little hard to use at times but it is effective. Noah also exudes an atmosphere of calm that helps
- Professor Allen gave clear presentations and was always audible in the classroom, giving definite instructions on how to approach situations.
- Was very willing to answer questions about material just covered in lecture.
- good explanation
- Noah Allen presented himself as less of a commander or overbearing instructor and more as a peer in our learning which was a welcoming quality. He seemed as excited about the material as anyone else, which made class more fun than other classes.
- He was always willing to take questions and thoroughly went through the DyKnow slides.

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

- I could have studied harder for the first test.
- tried harder
- review
- I could have studied more.
- Paid more attention.
- Focus more on the coding side of MatLab at the beginning of the course
- I could have gotten more asleep and been more attentive during the 8am lecture.
- Practice Matlab more out outside of the class.
- I could have tried to learn the class material before going to workshop.

- I could have gone to office hours more often.
- I could have taken workshop more seriously and finished my assignments a lot more efficiently.
- Gone to lecture more often.
- Gone to office hours to more effectively learn about matlab
- I could have gotten better sleep so that I would have been more awake during the 8am Monday lecture.
- put more effort into assignments
- come to class earlier,
- I did not pay a lot of attention in lectures, partly because it was at 8am, but also because I felt a little above the class, at least in the beginning of the semester. I had heard it would be "the easiest class you'll ever take" and so I let off the gas a lot to begin the semester, and the class caught me by surprise.
- I could have tried to focus more in lecture.

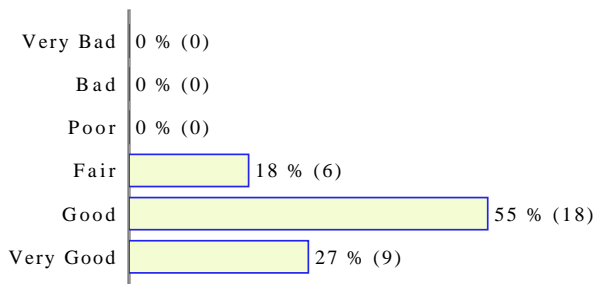
### 10. Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

- Noah is a little unprofessional at times, such as repeating his mistakes under his breath, mild profanity, etc. The homeworks took off for syntax of the homework formats, rather than the concepts being tested.
- great
- Having an 8am lecture on Mondays in Surge was miserable.
- N/A
- My TA for this class did not foster much success for me and my peers and we had to rely on each other and Noah to succeed in this class.
- Sometimes the course felt like unnecessary busy work.
- The instructor did not provide review for tests and they treated the material in the course as secrets which instead of explaining, they would simply hint at the concepts and expect us to learn it ourselves in workshop. This created very difficult workshops because the workshop leader did not explain the concepts that the lecture did not cover and I would have to spend several hours working on the workshop work outside of class. This course was very difficult to learn in and when I was given information it seemed like it was only a superficial explanation. This is unfortunate because I find alot of interest in this material. The lectures overall were disorganized and when I review my notes on the Dyknow slides it looks like scribbles because he writes over the words in the slides and over his own writing making review almost impossible.
- Matlab is not an intuitive language and I feel like there should be more examples/support in class

- The final design fair was a mess. Something needs to be done to make it a better atmosphere. For one, barely anyone knew what to do to start, and it was extremely crowded everywhere. It was almost impossible to find a group that you needed to grade because there was no map or labels. Beyond that, we spent a month or more and countless hours making our project and then nobody could appreciate it because they were all rushing to fill out their grading forms before they ran out of time. And I did not get to see barely any projects. There had to be more than a hundred extremely impressive projects, and I only got to see maybe 15 of them. Something needs to be fixed with this.

**11. 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 = 5.09



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

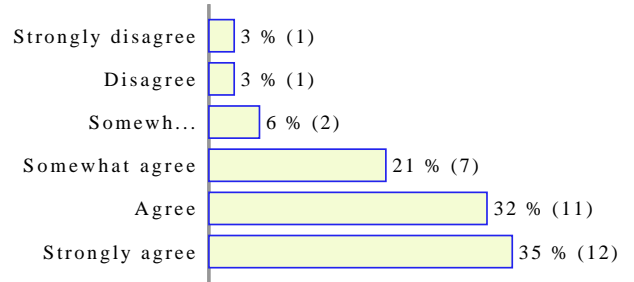
- Perfectly fine space for lecture.
- great
- It was 8am on Mondays in Surge, therefore it was hard to concentrate.
- This class was too early.
- very good lecture size, a little too many people in workshop.
- It would be nice to have a place with a desk.
- Surge is good
- I probably should have wore my glasses to class more often. Sometimes the text on the powerpoint got very small, especially when working with a lot of MATLAB code.
- It was an 8am lecture in Surge on Mondays. While I still went to every class, I was rarely in an energetic and studious mood.

**Engineering**

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):

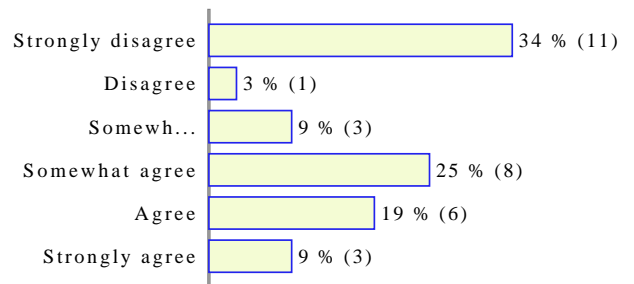
**13. I improved my ability to problem solve.**

34 answers, mean = 4.82



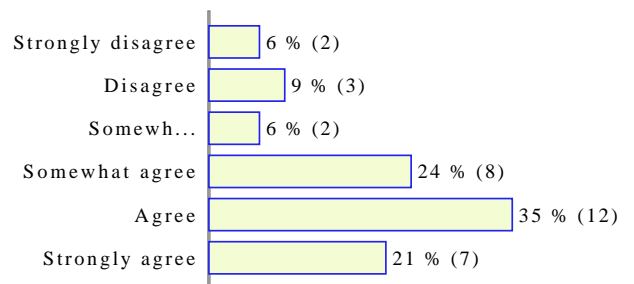
**14. The textbook or course readings made a valuable contribution to my learning.**

32 answers, mean = 3.19



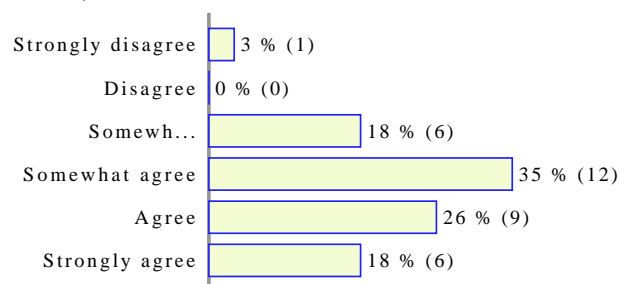
**15. The objectives of the course were clearly explained.**

34 answers, mean = 4.35



**16. The out-of-class assignments were educationally valuable.**

34 answers, mean = 4.35



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

34 answers, mean = 4.82

