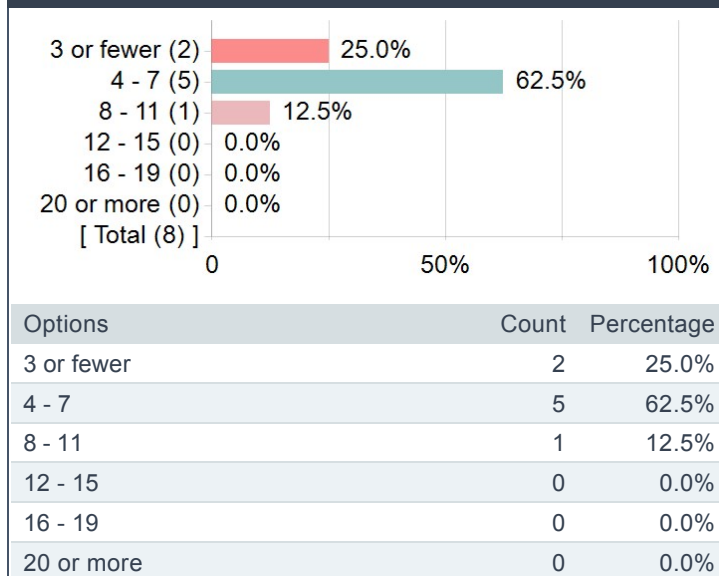


TIME-SURVEY QUESTION

6. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.

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ESSAY QUESTIONS

Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.

Comments

Don't take unless you're really into robots. The hardware didn't work half the time during lab and you can't work on the robots outside of lab time, which is really frustrating. Add how grating the 3 hour block twice a week is and it's not a good time. There's no real work outside of class except for writing the lab reports which make up your whole grade, but they're a pain and I have no idea what you're supposed to do to get an A on them ("meeting expectations" == B, "above and beyond" == A).

Take this class with the mindset that it is a studio class and that you actually have to put in the work to be successful. Also, if you need an A, this is not the class for you because the professor doesn't just hand them out. You actually have to earn your grade.

You can learn a lot of really cool relevant things if you take this class and you get to work with partners which can be really great.

The only annoying part of the class was writing the reports. Everything else was simply fun and interesting, provided you enjoy building and programming robots.

Partners are assigned in this class, and each pair shares a robot (and code) so how well you get along with your partner will probably have a significant impact on your experience of this class. All the CTECs complain about not being able to work with the robots outside of class and it is truly worth complaining about because it is really frustrating that you feel like you never have enough time with the robots in class. The actual robot hardware is temperamental, and my partner and I spent a lot of class time finding workarounds for hardware issues. Prof Argall and the TAs were great though (very knowledgeable and willing to help). Your entire grade is lab reports — and other than lab reports there isn't a lot of work outside of class. Start lab reports early though because if you start the day before its due you'll be extremely miserable.

I really loved some of the lecture content, and the TA's were extremely helpful and offered good insights. Unfortunately, I don't think the class offered adequate time or space to really allow students to achieve. The project reports were a little annoying, and it felt like the grading was designed to take off a letter grade/minimize the increase in letter grade that the report guidelines had specifically promised, which discouraged putting in additional effort compared to other classes. I wonder if there could be a better way to get students to synthesize information. Finally, the fact that no lab time could be offered outside of class is a big part of what's holding this class back from being a great learning opportunity. It felt like a lot of great ideas could only be known in hindsight.