

Virginia Tech

Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1216_13948_201901: (13948) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1216_13948_201901
Instructor: David Todd Gray *
TA: Tina Marie Griesinger
Response Rate: 53/69 (76.81 %)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

David Todd Gray

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			5.58	5.15	5.18	4.89	5.02	5.06
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	7.55%								
Agree		(5)	14	26.42%								
Strongly agree		(6)	35	66.04%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)		5.58	0.63	6.00	20262	5.15	1.12	5.00	1923	5.18	1.13	6.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

David Todd Gray

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			5.51	4.89	5.02	4.89	5.02	
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	7.55%								
Agree		(5)	18	33.96%								
Strongly agree		(6)	31	58.49%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)		5.51	0.64	6.00	20149	4.89	1.31	5.00	1905	5.02	1.21	5.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

David Todd Gray

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			5.58	4.87	5.06	4.87	5.06			
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	5.66%										
Agree		(5)	16	30.19%										
Strongly agree		(6)	34	64.15%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)		5.58	0.60	6.00	20167		4.87	1.32	5.00	1909		5.06	1.18	5.00

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Course: ENGE_1216_13948_201901: (13948) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1216_13948_201901
Instructor: David Todd Gray *
TA: Tina Marie Griesinger
Response Rate: 53/69 (76.81 %)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.

David Todd Gray

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	10	18.87%								
Strongly agree	(6)	43	81.13%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)	5.81	0.39	6.00	20146	5.26	1.10	6.00	1908	5.47	0.90	6.00

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.

David Todd Gray

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	3.77%								
Agree	(5)	16	30.19%								
Strongly agree	(6)	35	66.04%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)	5.62	0.56	6.00	20065	4.88	1.34	5.00	1900	5.05	1.23	5.00

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Response Rate: 53/69 (76.81 %)

2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

David Todd Gray

Response Rate 49/69 (71.01%)

- While he was new, he truly cared about his job and whether we learned
- Made class interesting and provided real world applications.
- Doc. Rev. Gray tried to be as accommodating as possible: if we pitched an idea, he would try his best to let us take a crack at it. I appreciate his efforts to be flexible with us.
- Your engineeringness and hippobidness kept me awake during an 8am. This is the one class I actually like. I think our physical projects were the most useful.
- He kept the slides interesting. Normally I unintentionally nap during morning classes, but he keeps the class fun. Furthermore, the slides are easy to follow, and I feel that I am able to absorb information out of that class a lot better than any other. Some of my other classes the teachers seem very tired and some do not engage with the students. But Dr. Rev. Gray seems happy and engaging.
- Provided rubrics
- Undersanding MATLAB and engineeringness.
- Kept class interesting and was fun to do hippobidness and take our feedback regularly.
- He treated us with alot of respect and made the class fun. He did alot of fun things in class daily that were just part of the routine that reminded us that we should be creative and this is a fun class. He fostered a great classroom atmosphere.
- Was very helpful during office hours or if there was a question in class
- He makes class very entertaining and brings everyone to the same page.
- he's really funny which helps in concentrating in his class even at 8 A.M. he is also very understanding and uses his experience in the field to tell us about various engineering fields that make us more curious.
- He taught in such a manner that class was fun and I didn't fall asleep due to boredom at 8:00 in the morning.
- He made the class very energized especially at 8 am and was always willing to help students during office hours.
- Made jokes during class.
- Created a relaxed classroom environment that fostered creativity.
- Made the class interesting
- He was very open about his teaching and worked with others to improve. He showed his ability to take criticism well and improve. He kept class interesting even when some topics are very dry.
- Over the semester, he became more honest about how he is grading the assignments.
- Instructor was very professional and efficient in communicating the course material.
- Constantly took our input into consideration.
- Encouraged constructive feedback as well as always starting class on a positive, light-hearted manner.
- Offering office hours for fixing matlab and going over common mistakes in class
- The ability to ask questions and seek answers to questions we have regardless if the topic is class related or not.
- He was stimulating and allowed for us to ask many questions and was always willing to help.
- Made the class exciting and engaging, often getting me very involved.
- He created a friendly, yet educational environment that really held my attention throughout the entire semester despite my class being very early. He showed a lot of passion for teaching us and it seemed like he truly cared about our well being, which motivated me to do my best in the class.
- Engineeringness and the detailed prompts were useful
- Office hours.
- Made engineering fun and approachable
- I believe he kept the class not as formal as I expected, and it really allowed me to connect better to the class
- The thing Dr. Gray did that was most helpful was to take our feedback each and every class and try to incorporate it into his teaching strategies.
- took alot of feedback on teaching
- He made class entertaining. This really helped with retaining information learned in class.
- He was very open to the problems we were vocal about. He fixed his mistakes and helped clarify a lot on our projects.
- His humor in the approach to the subject material makes this class actually worthwhile to go to.
- He was very entertaining and well prepared for each class. I never lost focus. He clearly has a passion for what he's doing.
- He had a specific order of going over items in class which made it easier to know what to expect each class.
- He gave plenty of examples. Also, gave chances for us to try something and then was able to help individually.
- He made the environment very comfortable and approachable to learn. He also cared greatly for our needs and took extra steps to make sure that we were successful.
- He made the class entertaining
- The reverend was considerate when it came down to assignments and understanding the workload from other classes.
- nothing
- Was down to earth with students, encouraged and kept us engaged very well. Always offered help and advice to students if he was asked.
- Dr. Gray was incredibly kind and caring during the entirety of this course. You could tell he genuinely cared about each of his students and their performance and that he wanted us to succeed. He encouraged us to do better work throughout the entire course and was very attentive to the content of the course and making sure he was meeting our expectations for the class.
- Teach us about hippos.

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Response Rate:	53/69 (76.81 %)

- was very receptive to our class comments and helped our group a lot when we were having issues with people not working on their parts of the assignment.
- The instructor addressed any concerns we had, and constantly encouraged us.
- He had a great sense of humor, and made an effort to keep the early morning classes engaged.

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3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%											
Disagree		(2)	1	1.89%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	13.21%											
Agree		(5)	17	32.08%											
Strongly agree		(6)	28	52.83%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
53/69 (76.81%)		5.34	0.85	6.00	17063		5.02	1.17	5.00	1852		4.87	1.20	5.00	

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%		5.38		4.72		4.71					
Disagree		(2)	1	1.89%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	5	9.43%											
Agree		(5)	19	35.85%											
Strongly agree		(6)	28	52.83%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
53/69 (76.81%)		5.38	0.81	6.00	16989		4.72	1.41	5.00	1842		4.71	1.36	5.00	

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4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate	42/69 (60.87%)
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- I could have gone to class more.
- I could've paid more attention to assignments during the first three weeks. I missed a few assignments which hurt my grade during the first half of the semester.
- We could work on real designs for the drone several weeks earlier. I also think I could have spent more time on material choice.
- Not sure
- Go to class more
- Focused on the assignments more. I could have listened to some of the lectures, but was so tired that I sometimes fell asleep.
- Not skipped class those two times to sleep in
- N/A
- I believe with the instructor's help, I was able to put in my hundred percent into the class.
- devoted more time to the course.
- Done my work well ahead of time instead of the last minute.
- I could have gone to office hours more often to get help on areas where I really struggled.
- Took more notes.
- I could have actively learned MATLAB on my own better.
- I could have payed attention more. Some of the topics could be very boring, specifically when we were going over MATLAB code or discussing the math equations for the drone project.
- As a computer science major, I felt like this class was a waste of time. While we did code in MATLAB, it was not comprehensive whatsoever. MATLAB is not really used in the Computer Science industry either which made me question how helpful it really was to be learning it. The drone project was fun, but I am not going to use any of the skills I learned from that project (i.e. everything in the Frith Lab and Solidworks).
- I should have been a bit more organized with the class material.
- Shown up to class.
- Been more attentive.
- Worked with the instructor earlier regarding issues with programs
- Be more proactive and take more advantage of office hours when available.
- I could have paid attention more in class
- I should have practiced solidworks and MATLAB more
- I think I should have gone above and beyond more often. After completing an assignment I felt like I didn't need to go above and beyond and I simply just submitted the assignment. I could have learned much more by doing my own research to go above and beyond.
- Not a whole lot, maybe not miss as many classes
- Attended class more often
- Be a better leader
- nothing knew it most
- Go to bed earlier so I am not as sleepy in class
- I think being more actively attentive during class could've helped.
- Not given up
- I could have practiced matlab in my free time more.
- Been more engaged
- Put more practice into learning solidworks. Just put more time into the class out of class.
- I could have put in maximum effort into all of the tasks.
- Payed attention more
- be smarter
- been more attentive in class
- Gone to office hours more.
- Show up to class on time.
- I could have been more proactive in completing assignments and going to office hours.
- I could have contributed more to the writing portion of the group project.

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5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

David Todd Gray

Response Rate	38/69 (55.07%)
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- Great teacher, engages students well and explains concepts in a interesting way.
- Thank you for your efforts in accommodating our assumptions on grading Doc. Gray.
- I think you did an excellent job of running a relatively poorly laid out course. You kept me interested in the subject matter and caused us to care enough to put lots of time and effort into our drone.
- Less matlab and more solidworks. I liked the take home lego project. Matlab was just tedious and repetitive. Also, I feel like CAD was really intimidating at first but now I think its easy.
- Dr. Gray tried to make class enjoyable and fun and I think the class appreciated that, but ENGE 1215/1216 just felt like a waste of time. The two courses felt like busy work and projects that felt put together at the last second.
- Thank you so much for a great semester. Sorry for falling asleep on ya, but it wasn't you. It was just because I could never get enough sleep.
- No, hes a great engineering professor!
- HES the man. Would love to have him again in any other class. Makes engineering really fun
- Could have provided more assistance for MATLAB
- He is an excellent professor and would love to see him in and around the campus.
- best. instructor. EVER!!!
- N/A
- He really cared about our class and worked on improving himself as a professor to further help the class.
- Clearly has some good ideas for the future, makes the class fun, very easy to talk to
- Dr. Gray was definitely more interesting than other teachers. His hippopotamus theme kept the class engaged and excited for each next class.
- You are a really funny and well spoken person. I think you've learned a lot from this semester about how students want to be graded. Make sure that your grading style is fair and open like it was in the second half of the semester.
- Instructor was very good and made the class enjoyable.
- You are an allstar
- Great professor and great at expecting the most out of his students and out of himself.
- - less lecture - smaller group - more equipments - clearer instruction + Gray is awesome
- Very easy to approach/friendly, never felt like I was being talked down to, just felt like he genuinely wanted to show the class things
- He did a great job of adapting on the fly with our class and cared about being the best teacher he could be.
- Very hard on himself regarding his job, however I don't think he gives himself enough credit. Great teacher. Would recommend him to any future student who intends to take ENGE 1216.
- Really good professor, seems excited to be there and excited to make us like engineering
- More solidworks and less matlab
- nope
- He's been my favorite teacher in college so far.
- Thank you.
- I love Gray so damn much and I wish he could teach every class here. He is an incredible professor and I cannot stress enough how much I want him to overturn the entire ENGE department and make it something great with his jokes and great powerpoints and engaging lectures.
- He was certainly a great teacher.
- Gray was a great instructor! He always made the class fun and I learned a lot from him. I feel like I liked the small class size like we did from 1215.
- nothing
- He made an 8am class a lot more bearable and even enjoyable at sometimes.
- My favorite teacher that I've had at Tech so far.
- 8 ams hard to wake up for.
- thank you dr. gray you did a good job
- Dr. Gray was my favorite professor this semester. His class was a great time, and I learned a lot!
- I wish we hadn't spent so much time on Matlab, it took away time from other important subjects.

Virginia Tech


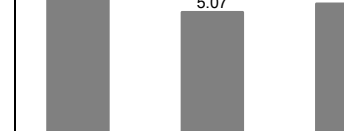
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Instructor: David Todd Gray *

TA: Tina Marie Griesinger

Response Rate: 53/69 (76.81 %)

6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?														
Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses		Means							
Very Bad		(1)	0	0.00%										
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%										
Poor		(3)	0	0.00%										
Fair		(4)	3	5.66%										
Good		(5)	17	32.08%										
Very Good		(6)	33	62.26%										
					0 25 50 100		Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)		5.57	0.60	6.00	16914		5.07	1.03	5.00	1839		5.35	0.78	5.00

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:	
Response Rate	25/69 (36.23%)
<div><div><div>• All good.</div><div>• It is a bit too far away for an 8AM that only freshmen take. A good 10-15 minute walk from one of the closest dorms. The department should reevaluate this, but the classroom itself was very good and we were in range to hear.</div><div>• It was a good learning environment.</div><div>• good</div><div>• N/A</div><div>• It is such a lovely environment and feels like a fun meeting time!</div><div>• N/A</div><div>• I liked the classroom set up.</div><div>• why would you put the freshman engineering class in the farthest building from the dorms</div><div>• None</div><div>• The class environment was tolerable.</div><div>• None</div><div>• I think I prefer the smaller class section in 1215 where I knew everyone. Felt like the entire class was part of a larger team in 1215.</div><div>• Goodwin is so much nicer than Randolph</div><div>• Larger class</div><div>• Its far away</div><div>• love the interaction with all activities</div><div>• The instructor creates a very laid back environment.</div><div>• Goodwin is a good building, just far from the academic side.</div><div>• We <3 Goodwin</div><div>• It was a good Classroom.</div><div>• nothing</div><div>• pretty rad</div><div>• Would be nice if we were able to move around easier.</div><div>• Even though the Goodwin room is really big, it's nicer than being in Randolph.</div></div></div>	



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Response Rate: 53/69 (76.81 %)

8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

I improved my ability to problem solve.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			5.32		4.98		4.95			
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.89%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	5	9.43%										
Agree		(5)	23	43.40%										
Strongly agree		(6)	24	45.28%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)		5.32	0.73	5.00	17026		4.98	1.10	5.00	1845		4.95	1.10	5.00



8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

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

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	7	14.00%	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div>4.02</div><div></div><div>4.39</div><div></div><div>3.96</div></div>								
Disagree		(2)	3	6.00%	<div><div></div></div>									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	5	10.00%	<div><div></div></div>									
Somewhat agree		(4)	16	32.00%	<div><div></div></div>									
Agree		(5)	5	10.00%	<div><div></div></div>									
Strongly agree		(6)	14	28.00%	<div><div></div></div>									
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
50/69 (72.46%)		4.02	1.70	4.00	16923		4.39	1.52	5.00	1833		3.96	1.64	4.00


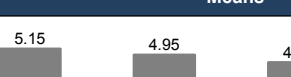
8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The objectives of the course were clearly explained.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			5.19		4.97		4.81			
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	4	7.55%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	16.98%										
Agree		(5)	13	24.53%										
Strongly agree		(6)	27	50.94%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/69 (76.81%)		5.19	0.98	6.00	16993		4.97	1.17	5.00	1844		4.81	1.30	5.00

8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The out-of-class assignments were educationally valuable.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1.92%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.85%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	17.31%										
Agree		(5)	15	28.85%										
Strongly agree		(6)	25	48.08%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
52/69 (75.36%)		5.15	1.06	5.00	16908		4.95	1.22	5.00	1829		4.70	1.30	5.00

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Instructor:

David Todd Gray *

TA:

Tina Marie Griesinger

Response Rate:

53/69 (76.81 %)

9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.												
David Todd Gray												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		<div> <div>5.74</div> <div>5.17</div> <div>5.24</div> </div>							
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	7.55%	■								
Agree	(5)	6	11.32%	■								
Strongly agree	(6)	43	81.13%	■								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College		Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
53/69 (76.81%)	5.74	0.59	6.00	19610	5.17	1.07	5.00	1909	5.24	0.98	5.00	