

Virginia Tech
Fall 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1215_83949_201909: (83949) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1215_83961_201909
Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 53/68 (77.94 %)

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

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

David Gray

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.66	5.25	5.37			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	5.66%								
Agree	(5)	12	22.64%								
Strongly agree	(6)	38	71.70%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)	5.66	0.59	6.00	22817	5.25	1.04	6.00	2407	5.37	0.91	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 Gray

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.40	5.02	5.19			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.89%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	5.66%								
Agree	(5)	23	43.40%								
Strongly agree	(6)	26	49.06%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)	5.40	0.69	5.00	22683	5.02	1.22	5.00	2395	5.19	1.06	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 Gray

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.46	4.98	5.23			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	6	11.54%								
Agree	(5)	16	30.77%								
Strongly agree	(6)	30	57.69%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
52/68 (76.47%)	5.46	0.70	6.00	22676	4.98	1.24	5.00	2393	5.23	1.02	6.00


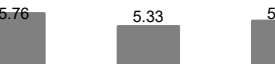
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1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

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





David 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	3.92%												
Agree		(5)	8	15.69%												
Strongly agree		(6)	41	80.39%												
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
51/68 (75.00%)		5.76	0.51	6.00	22657		5.33	1.05	6.00	2393		5.51	0.84	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 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)	5	9.43%								
Agree		(5)	17	32.08%								
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
53/68 (77.94%)		5.49	0.67	6.00	22544	5.00	1.25	5.00	2372	5.17	1.11	6.00

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

David Gray

Response Rate	
47/68 (69.12%)	

- One to One meeting
- teaching
- when we have some problems in the group work, he will come and help us.
- He made it a fun environment to learn in!!!
- He was interesting and tried to relate to the students and keep us interested while using relevant content.
- He helped me to be comfortable and allowed me to explore the different types of engineering while adding guidance and experience.
- David Gray was a great assistance for going above and beyond through informing me of opportunities the school of engineering at Virginia Tech has to offer. I am thankful that I was given such a passionate, informative instructor for my first semester as an engineering student at Virginia Tech.
- He made the class fun.
- Life lessons and specific engineering skills (when they happened) were very helpful, but I felt engineering skill lessons happened too few and far between. This is not to say he did not do them well; I believe this is only because of the way the class is designed.
- he kept the class interesting and engaging.
- Giving Real-life examples and practical applications.
- Explaining why we do things in a clear down to earth manner
- In class lectures were the most beneficial but least fun way to learn
- Dr.Gray made whatever we were doing in class fun and not one sided.
- He was very engaging and presented funny or comedic elements in his slides and work that kept us engaged while still staying on topic or accomplishing the goal for the class
- He was usually available to help students
- He provided commentary to students as we were working, which helped me learn more about how to explain things.
- Showed examples of how things could be applied. He taught the basic concepts and allowed us to utilize them in class or outside in an assignment. Engineeringness was fun but I still learned from it. It showed real-world applications of engineers and the different disciplines.
- Have fun.
- used humor to connect
- Gave important advice not just for the subject but for life skills advice as well.
- Provided practical examples of how critical engineering skills are during his engineeringness segment.
- I feel like sometimes there could of been more important things we could have been doing.
- Had office hours with meaningful help during those hours.
- Used humor to keep us engaged
- He was able to relate to the students well.
- Had very structured lectures that made sense. He spoke clearly and explained what we needed to do clearly.
- He made it fun and provided relief with whale facts and toast
- Whale facts
- Tried his best to keep class interesting and give us reasons why we so certain assignments
- Explained a lot of things in depth
- Very detailed assignment descriptions.
- The instructor would go over the MATLAB challenge in class.
- Took the time to explain concepts but also did a great job keeping us engaged.
- Taught the subject in a casual way that made it easy to absorb the material in a fun efficient way.
- He provided an atmosphere that was very different than a traditional classroom setting. Activities in this class were fun which made me more encouraged to do the work associated with this class without looking at it too much as "work".
- Dr. Gray explained things in a way that was clear, concise, and conducive to the broader understanding of the concepts that they related to.
- Advocated against assignments he didn't believe would be beneficial for us.
- He was very personable and easy to talk to and interact with. This fostered an atmosphere of learning and respect in and out of the classroom.
- He really created a very fun environment that was rarely completely off track. He made a miracle of a class out of a bad curriculum, and his work to make the best time for us really helped. Not to mention, the wax on wax off analogy was one of the best things I've learned in a long time. It took a nebulous thought I had and made it easy to understand and proliferate to others.
- By providing very critical feedback that enabled us to think through the strength of our projects.
- He clearly listed the criteria and directions for all of our assignments which was very helpful.
- added humor
- Professor Gray skipped over unimportant information which helps students stay focused.
- He was very entertaining and seemed happy to be there.
- Give us detail information to help us complete assignments.
- David Gray thought and informative and engaging class and treated his students with a high about of respect.

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Response Rate:	53/68 (77.94 %)

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Response Rate: 53/68 (77.94 %)

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%			5.17	5.10	5.00			
Disagree	(2)	1	1.89%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	9	16.98%	■							
Agree	(5)	22	41.51%	■							
Strongly agree	(6)	21	39.62%	■							
					0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)	5.17	0.85	5.00	18818	5.10	1.08	5.00	2326	5.00	1.10	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%			5.06	4.82	4.82			
Disagree	(2)	1	1.89%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	3.77%	■							
Somewhat agree	(4)	10	18.87%	■							
Agree	(5)	20	37.74%	■							
Strongly agree	(6)	20	37.74%	■							
					0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)	5.06	0.95	5.00	18733	4.82	1.33	5.00	2311	4.82	1.26	5.00

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Response Rate: 53/68 (77.94 %)

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

Response Rate	40/68 (58.82%)
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- Attending classes
- asking
- listening carefully in the class, and finish my homework well
- I disagree with a majority of the course design (departmental level, above the instructors control). Students worked on 'filler' projects and never learned applicable content. Something like designing a high power/low power circuit would be more useful than writing a paper on how to improve a problem. The programming project was useful; however, module 1 & 3 were not useful. The teamwork can be applied to better and more useful projects.
- To be a better learner, I could have been more active in opportunities to help me tune the technical skills learned through this course. I did not attend any MATLAB workshops offered.
- I could've gotten the work done faster.
- I wasn't always fully engaged, which could have been because the course and assignments at many points felt trivial.
- Pose more questions to the instructor.
- I could have been more intentional about out of class work
- I could have learned coding before hand.
- Perhaps put more effort into the MATLAB assignments as i would usually do them quickly and would not refine the code
- Start assignments beforehand
- I could have planned my work out better.
- MatLab was a little rough but I persevered and figured it out enough to do the required assignments. I think giving us something similar to the challenges in class and just have us work on it while Dr. Gray and a TA walked around to answer questions would be beneficial.
- Study more.
- thought i was pretty good
- I could have paid more attention to the presentations in class.
- take notes on matlab tools.
- Be more attentive during class.
- Planned out times to meet with team members better
- Worked better with my team, and done my assignment on time.
- Listened more
- Communicate with the instructor more
- Tried harder
- Payed more attention in class
- Go to instructor office hours.
- I could have gone out of my way to learn MATLAB.
- Had better time management.
- I feel if I participated more in class I could have maybe obtained more from this class.
- I could have put a bit more effort into the MATLAB assignments. I did not particularly like coding during that part of the semester and decided to allocate time that should have been put towards the MATLAB assignments to other, less important areas.
- I could have done more research on the research assignments rather than the bare minimum.
- Pay attention better.
- I really don't know. I put in the minimum effort to get the grade, but I don't know what I could have done to improve myself.
- I believe my performance was quite on par with the standards of the course, but in most assignments provided by Rev. Gray there were sections covering what one could do to go above and beyond in learning the material covered by the assignments. If I continually did these I would have been a better learner.
- Pay more attention in class.
- i don't know
- Put more time into Matlab.
- I could have maybe gone above and beyond for more of the assignments.
- Do assignments in advance.
- I could have spent more time on this class and have done more research for the subject matter.

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

David Gray

Response Rate	
36/68 (52.94%)	

- Good enough
- nope
- I hope he can teach more MATLAB knowledge in the class, itead of letting students study by themselves.
- Thank you for being such an amazing and fun instructor!!!
- He was a good instructor.
- Very good professor
- The class is run well, I enjoyed all off the topics that were covered.
- He did everything that he could in the course.
- In spite of the mundane nature of most of this class, he made it as engaging as possible with humor and practical applications.
- super practical
- He could have taught MATLAB coding in a better way. By doing more in-class examples, teaching the syntax better, making the students understand better.
- Dr. Gray's teaching style and passion for teaching make engineering one of my favorite classes. He does an incredible job of making the classroom engaging, and makes class a effective and rewarding experience.
- His hair caught me off guard and distracted me a bit but I got use to it. Now I cannot picture him any other way, please don't change because I would just have to readjust again.
- very good dude
- He really helped me decide what major I want to choose.
- Great aproach towards the class and made the content engaging. Would appreciate more discussion on how to successfully apply for engineering internships and balanceing work load with applications.
- Great instructor.
- He used his sense of humor well to relate to the class.
- He's great
- One of my favorite teachers I've had
- Good course but MATLAB went from 0-100 pretty quickly
- I really enjoyed the course and the instructor. My knowledge of whales has increased.
- Thanks for a great semester!
- Wish the course discussed the various engineering majors more. Did not really learn much about the other majors throughout the course.
- Definitely my favorite professor this semester, was very well prepared for class everyday. Nothing negative to say about this professor
- Dr. Gray is, in all honesty, the best out of all of the teachers/professors I have had up to this point.
- Dr.Gray is very passionate about teaching this class as well as he can and enhancing our first year engineering experience. However, the course is straight trash, so he doesn't have much to work with. There isn't much room for him to decide his own coursework it seems.
- Great teacher. Very engaging. Added elements of fun into the boring coursework.
- I loved the environment, and I'm glad to have you for next semester!
- Has an amazing dry wit; always has something clever to say regarding the topics he covered. Covered many examples of life skills which were highly interesting and educational.
- He is one of the funniest teachers I've ever had.
- great professor
- Some of the course information was irrelevant but the instructor still made it interesting.
- 10 whales on a scale of 1-10 whales
- He is the coolest teacher I have ever seen. What he taught is very attractive and interesting for me.
- Thanks for a great semester.

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Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 53/68 (77.94 %)

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%		<div><div></div><div>5.49</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>5.11</div></div>	<div><div></div><div>5.43</div></div>				
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%								
Poor		(3)	0	0.00%								
Fair		(4)	0	0.00%								
Good		(5)	27	50.94%	<div><div></div><div></div></div>							
Very Good		(6)	26	49.06%	<div><div></div><div></div></div>							
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)		5.49	0.50	5.00	18702	5.11	0.98	5.00	2307	5.43	0.72	6.00

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

Response Rate 26/68 (38.24%)

- Good enough
- nope
- great physical environment
- N/A
- The environment was great. I was put on a friendly design team, and all of the other students were always there for me support when I raised concerns about any issues I may have faced.
- It was a fun place to be.
- n/a
- The desks are in very tight rows which makes getting around the classroom a little difficult
- I liked my group that I was put in. The overall atmosphere was really relax and calm. I wasn't stressed by just sitting in class.
- better size class
- It was comfortable enviroment to work in but it is so large that at time contributing to class discussions becomes more difficult
- N/A
- It was a very big room, and I was lucky enough to sit up front.
- good environment
- The physical environment is nice. The classroom is one of the better ones.
- I sat second row and could hear and see everything clearly.
- The classroom layout made it easy to communicate with my team about relative assignments in the class.
- Goodwin is one of my favorite buildings on campus. Good room setups and lots of light.
- Welcoming, open, fun at times. Interactive.
- Goodwin is a great hall
- I had no issues with the environment we were in.
- N/A
- -
- N/A
- comfortable
- None to give.

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Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 53/68 (77.94 %)

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%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.89%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	8	15.09%										
Agree		(5)	19	35.85%										
Strongly agree		(6)	25	47.17%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)		5.28	0.79	5.00	18755		5.03	1.06	5.00	2319		5.01	1.02	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)	3	5.77%								
Disagree		(2)	5	9.62%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	11	21.15%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	14	26.92%								
Agree		(5)	8	15.38%								
Strongly agree		(6)	11	21.15%								
					02550100	Question	College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
52/68 (76.47%)		4.00	1.47	4.00	18617	4.43	1.49	5.00	2290	4.20	1.54	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%			Question	College	Department			
Disagree				(2)	2	3.77%								
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree				(4)	7	13.21%								
Agree				(5)	21	39.62%								
Strongly agree				(6)	23	43.40%								
							0	25	50	100				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)		5.19	0.94	5.00	18733		5.06	1.11	5.00	2316		5.07	1.09	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)	0	0.00%			5.15	4.99	4.86							
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	4	7.55%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	6	11.32%												
Agree				(5)	21	39.62%												
Strongly agree				(6)	22	41.51%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
53/68 (77.94%)		5.15	0.91	5.00	18594		4.99	1.17	5.00	2297	4.86	1.21	5.00					

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Instructor:

David Gray *

Response Rate:

53/68 (77.94 %)

9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

David 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)	18	33.96%								
Strongly agree		(6)	33	62.26%								
					02550100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
53/68 (77.94%)		5.58	0.57	6.00	22313	5.21	1.04	5.00	2385	5.32	0.88	6.00