

Virginia Tech

Fall 2020 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1215_84278_202009: (84278) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1215_84285_202009
Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 48/61 (78.69 %)

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)	1	2.08%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree		(5)	11	22.92%									
Strongly agree		(6)	36	75.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
48/61 (78.69%)		5.67	0.81	6.00	25393	5.22	1.02	5.00	2253	5.56	0.69	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)	1	2.08%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	4.17%									
Agree		(5)	12	25.00%									
Strongly agree		(6)	33	68.75%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
48/61 (78.69%)		5.56	0.87	6.00	25245	5.03	1.17	5.00	2245	5.44	0.85	6.00	

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)	1	2.08%									
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree				(5)	12	25.00%									
Strongly agree				(6)	35	72.92%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
48/61 (78.69%)		5.65	0.81	6.00	25255		4.92	1.26	5.00	2248		5.41	0.89	6.00	

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Fall 2020 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

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Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 48/61 (78.69 %)

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)	1	2.08%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	0	0.00%												
Agree		(5)	7	14.58%												
Strongly agree		(6)	40	83.33%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
48/61 (78.69%)		5.75	0.79	6.00	25216		5.29	1.02	6.00	2239		5.66	0.64	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)	1	2.08%									
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree				(5)	10	20.83%									
Strongly agree				(6)	37	77.08%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
48/61 (78.69%)		5.69	0.80	6.00	25112		4.99	1.22	5.00	2232		5.41	0.90	6.00	

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

David Gray

Response Rate	48/61 (78.69%)
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- He was fun and made class enjoyable
- In-class participation was helpful. In addition, I appreciated the individual projects, as they allowed us to balance working as a time versus showing our individual abilities to work.
- His office hours were excellent every time I had the chance to go.
- The most helpful part of this class was going over previous assignments and projects, to discuss solutions and to help us figure out what we could have done better.
- He clearly explained every assignment during class and took any questions that we had. He also made it a fun environment which helped.
- Very fun, engaging classes
- The spontaneity of his teaching style ensured all students were engaged or at least paying attention.
- Very well written instructions
- office hours
- Always cared for us and wanted us to learn something everyday. If someone didn't turn something in, he would ask if they are ok and if anything is wrong, and this really goes a long way for the students.
- I think his classes were the best ran out of any online learning environment I've ever seen. He used the technology effectively, kept the material very interesting, and made me look forward to class. He also would move assignments if we were given a lot of work from other classes that week, this showed he actually cared about us as students which made me love the class even more.
- Weekly modules were really good and easy to follow
- new knowledge
- Offered so much help and made the class very enjoyable
- Responsive to student communications and understanding of the circumstances this year
- Dr. Gray presented the material in a simple and fun manner which made concepts easier to understand. His to our class on how to stay on top of assignments was also very helpful.
- I love how he was always willing to help. He had office hours, clear instructions for all the assignments and projects and help after class as well. I learned a lot from this class and lots of different methods to use in the outside world when performing daily tasks.
- Dr. Gray created an incredibly comfortable and friendly atmosphere for his students that is rarely achieved by teachers. He was always intent on making the class enjoyable while also doing as much as he could to ensure our success not only in the class but in our future as engineers.
- very understanding of students and makes the due dates of his assignments very flexible
- The Google Docs for each assignment were great; the fact that they were so informative and comprehensive.
- Dr. Gray helped me with the first MATLAB assignment one-on-one and that saved me from getting very far behind in MATLAB.
- Dr Gray helped me engage with engineering more with how he set up his classes, allowing TAs to have presence in the class and having lots of interaction with students.
- Kept the material from being boring/repetitive and brought in GTA's to teach some classes.
- Kept us engaged with exit surveys and allowed us to vote for specific topics to be covered, such as engineeringness.
- Introduction to coding on matlab as well as exploring more about what certain engineering fields are like with the explorative lectures!
- The exit surveys that we had complete at the end of every class allowed for use to provide feedback to our professor on a weekly basis to improve the class.
- He made the class interesting and fun all around. He also would go one on one in order to help any student of his.
- He made class fun
- For each assignment, there was a clear and deeply detailed google doc that told us exactly what we needed to do for the assignment. This made it a lot easier to understand the expectations in this class.
- Dr. Gray kept the class interesting and fun
- Provided meaningful lectures and gave real life examples.
- He kept me entertained and made a connection with us students. During this time that is more important than ever i think.
- Made class fun and interactive.
- Applied the material to real life scenarios that were both entertaining and engaging.
- The little fun aspects such as engineeringness or moonfacts definitely helped me stay engaged.
- He was very open to all questions that I had, even if they may have been easier to answer than they should have been. He is very quick to respond to all issues and concerns, even if it is just to clear up a confusion.
- Professor Gray made the lectures fun and interesting to listen to. No matter what we were going over, he was capable of keeping my attention wholeheartedly focused on the task at hand.
- Super interactive and made me feel engaged in the material.
- Made it very clear what we were being graded on and what was expected from us.
- He was interesting. I was not bored in class when he was lecturing. We always had something to do that was engaging.
- He made the class very interesting, even if I was not always interested in the material.
- Team assignments
- Kept the class interesting.
- Presented material in an interesting way. I was never bored in the class and was always looking forward to it.
- He created a great atmosphere which was essential to a good learning environment
- Very calm and very open with his students. It really felt like he respected us and was open about the fact that some assignments would not make sense at first but would help with skills needed later down the line.

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- He made all the avenue of engineering visible to me and actively encouraged me to look at different engineering disciplines to see if anything peaked my interest.
- Great atmosphere and kept the class fun while learning topics

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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)	1	2.08%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	6.25%												
Agree		(5)	14	29.17%												
Strongly agree		(6)	30	62.50%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
48/61 (78.69%)		5.48	0.90	6.00	20050		5.10	1.06	5.00	2049		5.26	0.90	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)	1	2.08%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	4.17%									
Agree		(5)	13	27.08%									
Strongly agree		(6)	32	66.67%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
48/61 (78.69%)		5.54	0.87	6.00	19933	4.84	1.31	5.00	2032	5.09	1.09	5.00	

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

Response Rate 38/61 (62.3%)

- Answering more questions in class/more personal participation.
- I could have worked on my papers a little longer.
- I could've asked more questions when I was confused. I usually just asked my team, but a more effective answer would've came from him.
- Gone above and beyond in certain assignments
- Spend even more time outside of class on the material because the homework and group projects just utilized but never really reviewed material.
- followed course work more
- notes in class
- concentrate more on learning
- Taken more time to review my assignments before submitting them
- I could have managed my time a bit better in order to turn in assignments on time and earn full points.
- I could have definitely made my codes more effective. Along with this, I could have also gone to office hours more regarding major projects as I believe I got points off of silly things that I messed up.
- I could have been a bit more involved with my group assignments to learn more about working with a team.
- I could have asked more questions in class.
- I should have made sure to stay on top of deadlines in the earlier portion of the semester.
- Started working on assignments sooner.
- Paid better attention to the beginning of class.
- I could've time managed better and explored outside the parameters of the assignment to gain understanding.
- I could've spent more time learning the coding program Matlab.
- I could have went to more office hours.
- I could have went to more office hours and asked more questions.
- I could have attended office hours to ask questions
- I wish we spent a little more time going over loops. That was a hard spot for me.
- I think I did everything I could. The only thing holding me back was my group, where they always procrastinated the work to as late as possible. One member has done no work all semester.
- Further applied what I learned to the outside world and future workplace.
- I could have payed attention more in class.
- I could have done more of the above and beyond portions of assignments.
- Considering this was my best class, I don't think there was anything I could have done to be a better learner. The lectures were always interesting enough that I was able to give 100% of attention to what Dr. Gray or the GTA's were saying.
- Talked more to Dr. Gray.
- Not procrastinate and finish assignments the night they were due.
- I thought I was a great learner and always tried to put my best work out.
- I could have attended more office hours.
- IDK i think i did pretty well
- paid attention.
- Focus better within the class time. Also working to get to know my group-mates more.
- Interacted more during class
- Isolate myself from distractions during class time so as to make it easier to pay attention during class.
- I think I should have focused more on the writing and source gathering part of the class.
- I think i could have procrastinated less on some of the assignments

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

David Gray

Response Rate 34/61 (55.74%)

- Enjoyed your class, Dr. Gray. Looking forward to 1216
- Great instructor, really enjoyed his class.
- Awesome man.
- This class is fun.
- great attitude
- Amazing class, and the best online class I've ever been in. The way you run your class should be a model that other professors should follow
- He so nice
- I enjoyed how flexible you were able to make the assignments. It made any workload much easier to handle in all classes
- Great teacher. I learned a lot more from him than half the things I learned in high school. I cannot wait to have him again next semester.
- Excellent facial hair.
- The best professor I've ever had.
- Dr. Gray is a professor I would absolutely recommend to anyone who is taking engineering at VT.
- Next semester we need something like moon facts to look forward to every class. Or a class on moon facts.
- I think it will be hard to truly evaluate this class because we had to do it online.
- The course seems to go by a little fast. Something that could help with that is making it so you go through the basics before a lesson is assigned.
- Great professor that knows how to connect with their students.
- Probably my favorite teacher, everything was made more interesting and fun, which helps students learn more.
- im taking his class again its super fun, and makes me not hate engineering
- I really enjoyed this class. It gave me a better grasp of engineering. I learned a lot about the field and how engineering is used in the real world.
- Great instructor.
- You're doing great. Your class is one of the only reasons i enjoy Tech.
- Great Instructor
- Such a great person and teacher as a whole. Thanks for a great semester!!
- He was a very fun and engaging professor. He is able to capture the attention of his students through the humor and lightheartedness and then teach while using that attention.
- Dr. Gray was an amazing professor! I was worried about the course when it first started as I really had no idea what engineering was or what was expected of me. Dr. Gray made sure that all of understood what we were doing and was able to set up extra help sessions either by himself or with his GTA's. This enabled us to to get the help we needed regardless of what or when we needed help.
- He is awesome and a great man.
- That planning to be a hookie engineer paper was deadly too me.
- He is a great guy who I wish I had next year, but my schedule wouldn't allow it unfortunately. I would take this class again.
- Dr. Gray is a great professor, and has made my first semester a great experience.
- nothing
- Excellent teacher. I loved the atmosphere of the class, and Dr. Gray is an extremely good teacher to have for your first semester of college.
- He was the best instructor I had this semester
- The wax on wax off talk at the very beginning made a lot easier to get through some assignments. The "life" classes were really really useful.
- I always felt like Dr. Gray knew what he was talking about. The course was valuable to me and I enjoyed it because of Dr. Gray.

6 - 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)	1	2.08%		5.50	5.03	5.18				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	6.25%								
Agree	(5)	13	27.08%	■							
Strongly agree	(6)	31	64.58%	■							
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
48/61 (78.69%)	5.50	0.90	6.00	20019	5.03	1.05	5.00	2055	5.18	0.98	5.00

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Response Rate: 48/61 (78.69 %)

6 - 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)	2	4.17%												
Disagree		(2)	2	4.17%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	5	10.42%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	10	20.83%												
Agree		(5)	11	22.92%												
Strongly agree		(6)	18	37.50%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
48/61 (78.69%)		4.67	1.40	5.00	19865		4.54	1.41	5.00	2034		4.55	1.37	5.00		

6 - 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)	1	2.08%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	4.17%										
Agree		(5)	11	22.92%										
Strongly agree		(6)	34	70.83%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
48/61 (78.69%)		5.58	0.87	6.00	19940		5.08	1.08	5.00	2041		5.33	0.86	6.00

6 - 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	2.08%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>		<div><div>5.44</div><div>5.01</div><div>5.14</div></div>									
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	3	6.25%												
Agree				(5)	16	33.33%												
Strongly agree				(6)	28	58.33%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
48/61 (78.69%)		5.44	0.90	6.00	19799		5.01	1.15	5.00	2036		5.14	1.03	5.00				

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

David Gray

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means										
Strongly disagree				(1)	1	2.08%												
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	1	2.08%												
Agree				(5)	5	10.42%												
Strongly agree				(6)	41	85.42%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
48/61 (78.69%)		5.75	0.81	6.00	24854		5.19	1.02	5.00	2240		5.46	0.76	6.00				

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