

# Virginia Tech


## Fall 2018 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** ENGE\_1215\_83844\_201809: (83844) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE\_1215\_89640\_201809  
**Instructor:** David Todd Gray \*  
**Response Rate:** 32/33 (96.97 %)

**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%		5.48	5.19	5.23							
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	3.23%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	6.45%											
Agree		(5)	9	29.03%											
Strongly agree		(6)	19	61.29%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
31/33 (93.94%)		5.48	0.77	6.00	23649		5.19	1.09	5.00	1945		5.23	1.04	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%					Question	College	Department			
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	3.23%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	19.35%										
Agree		(5)	9	29.03%										
Strongly agree		(6)	15	48.39%										
					0	25	50	100						
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
31/33 (93.94%)		5.23	0.88	5.00	23500		4.94	1.28	5.00	1931		4.89	1.30	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%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	3.23%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	9.68%										
Agree		(5)	9	29.03%										
Strongly agree		(6)	18	58.06%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
31/33 (93.94%)		5.42	0.81	6.00	23532		4.87	1.31	5.00	1930		4.98	1.26	5.00

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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 Todd Gray

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.81	5.25	5.35				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	6	19.35%								
Strongly agree	(6)	25	80.65%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
31/33 (93.94%)	5.81	0.40	6.00	23510	5.25	1.11	6.00	1929	5.35	1.01	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%		5.37	4.91	4.90				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	3.33%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	10.00%								
Agree	(5)	10	33.33%								
Strongly agree	(6)	16	53.33%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
30/33 (90.91%)	5.37	0.81	6.00	23371	4.91	1.32	5.00	1919	4.90	1.32	5.00

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**Response Rate:** 32/33 (96.97 %)

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


**David Todd Gray**

**Response Rate** 28/33 (84.85%)

- always gave an overview of what had happened/what was to come
- Well teach on class
- He's funny
- He was always there to help me with matlab and explore new ideas in the program
- He was a great professor, as a first year professor I was afraid he might not be well prepared or knowledgeable about this subject but I was wrong. He is very intelligent and I would recommend him to any student at Virginia Tech.
- He went through and explained the material well.
- His presentations had many visuals and examples, which is most effective for me.
- Try to explain the core concepts in a way that they relate to us.
- He taught me a lot about using resources and solving problems. While engineering is not a very material heavy class, he taught me a lot about how to get around obstacles I faced with challenges like coding in MATLAB.
- Nothing.
- Provided us with engineeringness. which are examples how engineers apply their work to every situations.
- Taught us how to use MATLAB in class which made the at-home assignments go much smoother.
- His involvement with the class really helps us stay interested in learning.
- Fun Lessons.
- Very entertaining and funny
- Provided thorough examples.
- He did in class examples of matlab which was helpful.
- He made it fun so the class didn't put me to sleep.
- he always encouraged us and tried the best to explain anything we asked
- He made class enjoyable by making jokes to make sure we were paying attention and he also gave us many example problems and real life scenarios
- David did a mid semester survey and actually listened to the suggestions.
- Feedback allowed me to fix my mistakes and learn not to make those mistakes again in the future.
- I am an international student and I couldn't fit in class at the very beginning. I went to talk to Dr. Gray. He fully understood me and gave me many suggestions that could help me adapt to the new environment. I felt my emotion was respected and I really made big progress with the help of him.
- He helped me to get better at coding
- He was very interactive. He brought in and talked about real life examples of the engineering we were learning about. He was very open to questions, and conducted individual help during class.
- He made things interesting
- Provided detailed comments and constantly asked for feedback from us to improve his lectures.
- Dr. Gray helped in our learning by getting real-world applications of what we were learning in order to make the content as clear as possible. Being at office hours also helped as he answered all of the questions I had for the course and he explained the reason why we learn specific applications in his class for the jobs we may want.

### 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%		5.16	5.02	4.88									
Disagree				(2)	2	6.45%													
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%													
Somewhat agree				(4)	3	9.68%													
Agree				(5)	12	38.71%													
Strongly agree				(6)	14	45.16%													
								0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College			Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
31/33 (93.94%)		5.16	1.07	5.00	18189			5.02	1.17	5.00	1902		4.88	1.21	5.00				

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### 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%											
Disagree		(2)	3	9.68%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	12.90%											
Agree		(5)	11	35.48%											
Strongly agree		(6)	13	41.94%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
31/33 (93.94%)		5.00	1.21	5.00	18124		4.73	1.40	5.00	1895		4.65	1.37	5.00	

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

**Response Rate** 25/33 (75.76%)

- more study time
- Stay more on top of assignments
- Done the extra matlab practice
- I could have studied more, and attended more office hours; although he was so well prepared that he left no room for error as he was diligent in his teaching.
- I could of taken more notes.
- Payed attention more.
- Paid more attention.
- Paid more attention in class instead of working on assignments.
- Learn stuff myself and on my own time.
- Practiced the materials in class
- N/A
- I could have payed a little more attention in class, however the instructor did a very good job of keeping it in the first place.
- Better practice for matlab.
- Pay more attention in class
- Paid better attention in class.
- I could have paid more attention in class.
- Done more practice coding
- Pay more attention in class
- Not procrastinated
- Payed greater attention to the lecture and the slides presented
- I need to be more active involved in group work. I could communicate with my group members more to get the work done quicker and better.
- Go to more office hours
- I could have procrastinated less on some of the projects.
- I could have paid more attention during the lectures and taken more copious notes.
- Going to more office hours may be proven to be more effective. Going on canvas and looking through his presentation again can help me understand the information better as well.

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**Response Rate:** 32/33 (96.97 %)

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

#### David Todd Gray

**Response Rate** 15/33 (45.45%)

- Keep this way
- I dont think its his fault but what is required in assessments is vague sometimes
- I believe he is a great instructor and I would take him again.
- The course is useless, and can be taught in week going over MATLAB. The rest of the material is absolutely unnecessary and to top it off the course professor didn't make it interesting at all, although it isn't his fault that this course is extremely dull.
- N/A
- Better practice for matlab.
- I liked how he incorporated everyday things into class about engineering (like toast).
- good, patient professor!
- David Gray was an awesome professor who made engineering class fun
- Needs more T??\_??o??????a,??\_s?t,?????
- Dr. Gray is an excellent professor who respects students and prepares well for every his class.
- Good sense of humor
- I enjoyed his class and his teacher very much. He is a good teacher.
- Dr. Gray did a great job of keeping long-term goals in mind while teaching so that he was able to focus on making understood topics important to the big picture and not be nitpicky. Dr. Gray also liked to show us things that were currently happening in the field of engineering at the end of his classes and it helped to remind us why we chose to pursue engineering and give us motivation to get through the hard and grueling aspects of pursuing an engineering degree.
- Dr. Gray is a very chill and interesting teacher. He tries to get everyone's attention in a productive way and is not strict at all. He encourages creative thinking by having discussions with the class that may seem bizarre to other people. At the end of class, he talks about specific engineering problems either he himself or the world is having and talks about the process that he or other people are going through to solve the problem in an engineering fashion.

### 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%			4.71		5.09		5.20			
Bad		(2)	2	6.45%										
Poor		(3)	2	6.45%										
Fair		(4)	7	22.58%										
Good		(5)	12	38.71%										
Very Good		(6)	8	25.81%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
31/33 (93.94%)		4.71	1.13	5.00	18054		5.09	0.99	5.00	1899		5.20	0.86	5.00

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**Response Rate:** 32/33 (96.97 %)

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

**Response Rate** 18/33 (54.55%)

- All good
- kinda hot
- The rooms temperature was always hot, it smelled bad in there, and the a/c was so loud that the back tables could not here Dr. Gray.
- Randolph hall is terrible, our room had noise problems with inconsistent heat/ac that made it difficult to hear.
- Randolph 316 was never comfortable (temperature wise), it was typically very hot and many classes I began to sweat just sitting still. The room is very large and sound does not carry very well. For the majority of the class, my group sat in the back corner and it was hard to hear other people asking and answering questions across the room. The room can be improved by installing a FUNCTIONAL A/C unit and a teacher microphone system, like the ones used in Davidson 281 lectures.
- Very hot and crowded classroom.
- Classroom was very outdated. AC unit was so loud that you could not hear the professor from the back of the room. Very hot and stuffy. Chairs are hard to move.
- It always smells and is vert hot in here
- is was hot in the summer
- It was way too hot in the classroom
- its good
- Very hot at the beginning of the semester.
- It is good. The air condition works well.
- The AC was inconsistent throughout the year.
- Was always very hot, smelled weird, and the air conditioning/ heat units were very hot.
- AC in one corner is loud but he was always conscientious about it
- Sometimes the fans were loud and it was hard to hear the instructor.
- The third floor of Randolph is very warm and stuffy, which encourages sleep in a 3:30 class, which is the optimal environment to go to sleep during class. Finding a cooler, dryer, more ventilated room would prove to be a more effective learning space.

### 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	4.94	4.94				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	12.90%								
Agree	(5)	13	41.94%								
Strongly agree	(6)	14	45.16%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
31/33 (93.94%)	5.32	0.70	5.00	18142	4.94	1.13	5.00	1899	4.94	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)	1	3.23%		4.16	4.39	4.01				
Disagree	(2)	4	12.90%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	4	12.90%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	9	29.03%								
Agree	(5)	6	19.35%								
Strongly agree	(6)	7	22.58%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>
31/33 (93.94%)	4.16	1.44	4.00	18001	4.39	1.51	5.00	1875	4.01	1.59	4.00

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**Instructor:** David Todd Gray \*  
**Response Rate:** 32/33 (96.97 %)

### 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)	1	3.23%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	9.68%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	8	25.81%										
Agree		(5)	9	29.03%										
Strongly agree		(6)	10	32.26%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
31/33 (93.94%)		4.74	1.21	5.00	18111		4.99	1.17	5.00	1896		4.82	1.27	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%		4.87	4.93	4.67		Question	College	Department	
Disagree		(2)	3	9.68%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	6.45%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	9.68%									
Agree		(5)	11	35.48%									
Strongly agree		(6)	12	38.71%									
					02550100								
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
31/33 (93.94%)		4.87	1.28	5.00	17979	4.93	1.24	5.00	1881	4.67	1.31	5.00	

### 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%												
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	2	6.67%												
Agree				(5)	9	30.00%												
Strongly agree				(6)	19	63.33%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
30/33 (90.91%)		5.57	0.63	6.00	23066		5.14	1.10	5.00	1935		5.20	1.02	5.00				