

Virginia Tech




Spring 2020 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1216_14313_202001: (14313) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1216_20283_202001
Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 34/72 (47.22 %)

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%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree		(5)	8	23.53%										
Strongly agree		(6)	26	76.47%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
34/72 (47.22%)		5.76	0.43	6.00	17991		5.26	1.04	6.00	2061		5.44	0.84	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%								
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	2.94%								
Agree		(5)	9	26.47%								
Strongly agree		(6)	24	70.59%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
34/72 (47.22%)		5.68	0.53	6.00	17869	5.01	1.25	5.00	2046	5.31	0.97	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)	0	0.00%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	2.94%										
Agree		(5)	11	32.35%										
Strongly agree		(6)	22	64.71%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
34/72 (47.22%)		5.62	0.55	6.00	17860		4.95	1.29	5.00	2049		5.28	1.00	6.00

Virginia Tech



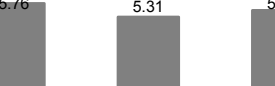
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Response Rate: 34/72 (47.22 %)

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)	0	0.00%										
Agree		(5)	8	23.53%										
Strongly agree		(6)	26	76.47%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
34/72 (47.22%)		5.76	0.43	6.00	17861		5.31	1.10	6.00	2047		5.53	0.81	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)	0	0.00%									
Agree				(5)	8	25.00%									
Strongly agree				(6)	24	75.00%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
32/72 (44.44%)		5.75	0.44	6.00	17772		5.01	1.27	5.00	2031		5.32	0.97	6.00	

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

David Gray

Response Rate 32/72 (44.44%)

- His ideas are really helpful for me to do those reports.
- He kept it interesting.
- Kept things interesting and therefore kept the class engaged and active.
- He was very clear and concise. If we ever had any issues, he would double back to make sure that we all understood the material and deadlines. I learned a lot of Dr. Gray.
- Presented topics of study and assignments in such a manner that they were very interesting, so I wanted to learn on my own.
- I really like how he made his lectures fun and always had something new to share with us. Even with coronavirus messing everything up he made an effort to make sure we were all doing okay and hosted virtual lessons still.
- David Gray had presentations going over the requirements for all of the projects that we had to submit, so it was extremely helpful for us so that we had a good understanding of what we had to do and what we didn't have to do.
- Could see life from a student's perspective.
- Kept the class engaging and interesting, interacted with the class through exit surveys etc.
- He made class fun and interesting
- Made assignment instructions very clear
- approachable and made material somewhat fun
- He related the concepts we learned to other phenomenons. These connections helped retain the facts in memory.
- Relating stuff to practical issues. Improving Team Ability to work remotely during COVID 19 pandemic. He focuses on learning and creativity.
- Provided relevant examples to further our understanding of the subject, kept the lesson entertaining and engaging.
- He is absolutely hilarious!! His humorous and light-hearted approach to this class galvanized me and I believe most of the other students as well, into a desire to learn about the course material. He developed a wonderful class atmosphere, and his dedication to our class made it very enjoyable to attend and work through this semester.
- He really helped when it came to guiding us through some of the more challenging things, as opposed to simply throwing us in the deep end with that material
- Dr. Gray was very funny and outgoing with students which I really appreciated. It made it easy to approach him and talk with him and he is very friendly so everyone felt comfortable sharing in class.
- He was very open to communication and made regular efforts to reach out to students.
- His personality was awesome, especially in a teaching environment.
- Dr.Gray is very knowledgeable and he always uses unique ways to teach us new materials. Very effective!
- Keep class interesting and fun, presented the content in a clear and understandable way.
- Dr. Gray set up the class in a way that made it feel more like an event that was guaranteed to be interesting and that I had specifically signed up for than a typical college lecture environment. I am confident that he spent a sizable amount of time considering the best way to set up the class, and went with the way that he did. The way that this course was set up is the primary factor that sets this class apart from others with respect to what I've learned and how consistently interested I have been in its materials.
- With the shift to online classes, something Dr. Gray did that I found very helpful was weekly communications. He highlighted upcoming topics to learn and assignments due, but only for the next week. He also would discuss the previous week's material which I thought was helpful because it provided a review for the class.
- He adequately and in detail outlined everything we need to be successful in the class.
- dude was hilarious and knowledgeable
- He was super motivating and always there to answer questions or just talk about life. Added lots of humor into our curriculum which made it easier to digest information and retain it.
- He created an atmosphere where the work was important and encouraged giving full effort and even more on assignments but it didn't have to be the whole of your life. He wanted us to do well and learn the material in the course but he also reminded us to have a life outside which would help improve the learning in class.
- Created a calm enjoyable informative environment.
- Was truly honest and trustworthy.
- was a good teacher
- Team based exercises and assignments really helped me understand how to conduct myself in a team based setting. Dr. Gray helped us along with each step of the design process and taught us how to address both failure and success while designing prototypes. Dr. Gray has helped me immensely when it comes to the engineering design process and working as a part of a team.

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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%		5.35		5.11		5.09				
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	8.82%										
Agree		(5)	16	47.06%										
Strongly agree		(6)	15	44.12%										
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
34/72 (47.22%)		5.35	0.65	5.00	16410		5.11	1.10	5.00	1934		5.09	1.03	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%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	5.88%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	17.65%												
Agree		(5)	9	26.47%												
Strongly agree		(6)	17	50.00%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
34/72 (47.22%)		5.21	0.95	5.50	16358		4.85	1.34	5.00	1930		4.95	1.19	5.00		

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

Response Rate	31/72 (43.06%)
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- If I can do a better job on CAD, I would be a better learner.
- Paid better attention in class
- I could've gone above and beyond with assignments more often.
- Taken more notes
- I think if i was able to attend all of his virtual lessons and try some of the above and beyond thinking parts I could have learned even more
- I could have participated more in the group settings and could have used the times that we worked in groups as opportunities to grow as a leader and communicator.
- Focus more.
- I could have spent more time outside of class learning how to use tools such as MATLAB and Solidworks. I also could have done research on aerodynamic math on my own.
- I could have put more time into studying the aerodynamic math.
- Put more attention into this class
- care
- I could have expanded further on my weak points such as creating more CAD models on Solid Works.
- Not focused solely on Grades.
- Looked more into the above and beyond parts of some assignments.
- I could have attended some more office hours to make sure I was sufficiently prepared for some assignments and projects throughout the class.
- I think I could have done more to dive into some of the material on my own time.
- I could have paid more attention and focused more on group work.
- Maybe spend more time researching topics outside of class
- Participated more in class discussions.
- focus more in class.
- Taken more time to understand how the math worked and what it meant.
- I could have worked better with the team that I was assigned. The students in my class was encouraged to do this on several occasions by Dr. Gray.
- Something I could have done to be a better learner is be proactive when working on assignments and not wait until a day or two before something is due to work on it.
- Asked more questions in class.
- done more stuff beforehand
- I think I did the best that I could.
- I could have started assignments prior to their due dates and spread out the work instead of procrastinating and cramming it all into one sitting.
- More attention to detail in certain assignments.
- I could have attended more office hours.
- Cared more about this course
- I could have been more careful with reading the rubrics on some assignments.

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

David Gray

Response Rate 23/72 (31.94%)

- Your course is really good.
- Dr. Gray brings a light hearted nature to the classroom. I was worried about changing my engineering teacher this semester, but he provided a very welcoming atmosphere and it wasn't difficult to get used to the change of scenery. Although the subject matter hasn't been my favorite, I would consider Dr. Gray to be one of the best, if not the best, professor I've had thus far at my time at Virginia Tech.
- Very good professor, interesting, intelligent, engaging
- DAVID GRAY IS THE BEST
- David Gray does a good job of keeping people engaged and responding to feedback that students give, as well as being empathetic to each individual student and their different situations.
- Class was very engaging and fun.
- I really enjoyed having him as a professor and class was enjoyable.
- None
- Amazing instructor. He is the best, I would recommend every GE student to take him. He explains the concepts really well.
- The instructor did an amazing job at explaining complicated engineering math and science in a simple and comprehensible way. The class could use some more structure when it comes to hands on projects through.
- His mustache is fire. His vests are fire. His mothbiness is fire. He developed some very memorable traditions throughout our class that were very enjoyable. He always related material to actual experiences we might have in the engineering world, which was always very valuable insight.
- I personally really enjoyed this course and thought that he handled the transition to online in a really good way.
- Best professor that I've had at VT so far. Keep up the good work. I'm happy I got to have him for two semesters. #WhalesAndMoths4Lyfe
- It was a pleasure learning in this class with Dr. Gray. When everything changed because of the pandemic he was the teacher I got an email from first, which really helped, and he was always there and cared for his students.
- Without a doubt, Dr. Gray is the best instructor I've had in either college or high school. Please promote this man because he most definitely deserves it (I would bet money that his other students' SPOT surveys concur with this statement).
- I enjoyed having him as a professor. Something unique about the class was including moths in both the in-person and online lectures, and I thought this was a nice comic relief and made the class fun.
- He was an overall effective teacher and he also worked to create personal relationships with students during my time taking this course. He is a very funny dude but also extremely knowledgeable and willing to help whenever he can. He is extremely responsive to email and so was his TA.
- favorite professor this semester
- Absolutely adore Dr. Gray, will miss his class and his dry humor. I would recommend him to anyone taking 1215 or 1216 next year because of the respect and care he puts into each student.
- Dr Gray is a fantastic professor who is excellent at conveying the course material and makes the class fun and interesting to be a part of.
- Great instructor, highly recommend.
- the instructor was very good
- Easily one of the greatest professors I've had, he actively seeks to better himself and the curriculum he teaches, he asks students for feedback and advice from their perspective. Dr. Gray puts a massive amount of effort into shaping the foundations of engineering course and with his guidance I think ENGE 1215 and 1216 will see great growth.

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)	0	0.00%							
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%							
Somewhat disagree				(3)	1	3.03%							
Somewhat agree				(4)	6	18.18%							
Agree				(5)	13	39.39%							
Strongly agree				(6)	13	39.39%							
							02550100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
33/72 (45.83%)		5.15	0.83	5.00	16375		5.05	1.08	5.00	1926	5.06	1.02	5.00

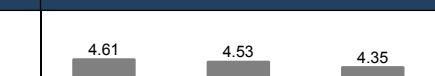
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Response Rate: 34/72 (47.22 %)


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)	0	0.00%		Question		College		Department				
Disagree		(2)	3	9.09%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	4	12.12%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	21.21%										
Agree		(5)	8	24.24%										
Strongly agree		(6)	11	33.33%										
					0	25	50	100						
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
33/72 (45.83%)		4.61	1.32	5.00	16290		4.53	1.46	5.00	1911		4.35	1.44	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)	0	0.00%		5.42		5.08		5.20				
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	3.03%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	3.03%										
Agree		(5)	14	42.42%										
Strongly agree		(6)	17	51.52%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
33/72 (45.83%)		5.42	0.71	6.00	16353		5.08	1.12	5.00	1923		5.20	0.96	5.00


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)	0	0.00%		5.28		5.03		4.92				
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	18.75%										
Agree		(5)	11	34.38%										
Strongly agree		(6)	15	46.88%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
32/72 (44.44%)		5.28	0.77	5.00	16264		5.03	1.17	5.00	1912		4.92	1.18	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)	0	0.00%		5.62	5.24	5.39				
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree				(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree				(5)	13	38.24%								
Strongly agree				(6)	21	61.76%								
							0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
34/72 (47.22%)		5.62	0.49	6.00	17619		5.24	1.04	6.00	2037	5.39	0.82	6.00	

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Instructor:	David Gray *
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