

Virginia Tech



Spring 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1216_13948_201901: (13948) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1216_13950_201901
Instructor: David Todd Gray *
Response Rate: 57/70 (81.43 %)

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%			5.39		5.15		5.18				
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	10.71%											
Agree		(5)	22	39.29%											
Strongly agree		(6)	28	50.00%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
56/70 (80.00%)		5.39	0.68	5.50	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%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.57%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	5	8.93%									
Agree		(5)	25	44.64%									
Strongly agree		(6)	24	42.86%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
56/70 (80.00%)		5.27	0.77	5.00	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%		5.45	4.87	5.06								
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	7.27%												
Agree		(5)	22	40.00%												
Strongly agree		(6)	29	52.73%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
55/70 (78.57%)		5.45	0.63	6.00	20167		4.87	1.32	5.00	1909		5.06	1.18	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%											
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree		(5)	9	16.07%											
Strongly agree		(6)	47	83.93%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
56/70 (80.00%)		5.84	0.37	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)	1	1.79%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	3.57%									
Agree		(5)	19	33.93%									
Strongly agree		(6)	34	60.71%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
56/70 (80.00%)		5.54	0.66	6.00	20065	4.88	1.34	5.00	1900	5.05	1.23	5.00	

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

David Todd Gray

Response Rate	
48/70 (68.57%)	

- Made the class very interesting with his jokes
- He was very good at giving feedback, and answering questions. I appreciate that he cared enough to let us give him feedback on his teaching, which showed that he wanted to be better for us.
- Was very blunt about explaining why stuff should be turned in and what we should focus most of our attention on.
- When we started providing rubrics the overall ability to succeed in the class felt like it increased like crazy.
- started making his assignments more clear
- Made class fun.
- Made classes fun.
- Dr. Gray explained the material well and made the class much more enjoyable than the previous section. I never found myself dreading going to this class (besides waking up early).
- He made the class fun, so I wanted to learn
- Provide outside context
- I really liked his Engineeringness presentations at the end of class. It reminded me every class that these seemingly tedious and difficult abstract problems we were struggling with actually lead up to something that can help us make a difference in the world. I know that the course requirements were vague, and it's difficult to teach a ton of kids how to build functional planes when the vast majority of us have no practical aero knowledge, however he did the best that he could by explaining stuff in office hours, putting helpful documents and links on Canvas, and most importantly, listening to our concerns and making adaptations to his teaching performance to better accommodate our wants and needs.
- Allowing us to struggle with problems so we could problem solve on our own but still being available for help if needed.
- Answered questions
- He tried to make the class interesting - the course itself is really boring but I appreciated him trying
- he made the class interesting even though it sucks
- He wasn't like the instructor I had for ENGE 1215
- made sure everyone was on the same page
- He was amazing at keeping the class engaging and fun!
- Provide words of encouragement
- He helped me learn about drones
- He is a teacher that applies what is being learned to real life examples, and as such he is able to keep students engaged with the material.
- Made class interesting and it helped he concentrate on the tasks
- His announcements made assignments clear
- He made class interesting and engaging, and offered a fair bit of humor but not too much to be distracting.
- He made the lessons interesting by engaging our attention right away in class. He also varied his teaching strategies so it was more personal to each individual student. He is also funny as heck.
- Dr. Gray is extremely good at keeping the class engaged through jokes and the unexpected. Very rarely have I seen a teacher put this much effort into their class and it felt good to be apart of it.
- He was very honest and upfront about how all of us where learning the course and material together but was still able to earn the respect of an instructor. I also appreciate how he interacted with the students and made an above and beyond effort to learn our opinions about his teaching and the project itself.
- Really went above and beyond to ensure the class was giving feedback and he was willing to address certain problems with that feedback, and he ACTUALLY made change as a result.
- He kept a good working atmosphere that promoted learning and was always engaging.
- It was really nice to see that he really cared about us. He came to the frith lab many times to help us with building and always provided new ideas when we were lost.
- The opening slides of his presentation always got me in a good mood ready to do whatever it was we were doing
- Was a great teacher and understanding of the workload we had
- Doing in class activities.
- kept me engaged in class
- Meet with all the groups one on one and helping get on track.
- David had open and honest conversations with our class. He tried to be as transparent as possible at all times.
- He was a very fun, engaging professor. Moments that were dire and cumbersome, he managed to make it fun and enjoyable. Very honest and he worked well with students when he too was confused.
- He started each class with fun bits of information that intrigued the class. This helped us get engaged with the class early on.
- Dr. Gray made each class fun and exciting while teaching the curriculum. Instead of dreading going to this class, i actually looked forward to it because it wasn't too stressful and it made me love engineering even more.
- He is very good at keeping the class engaged and always presents the information in a way that is easy to understand
- He was very personal when teaching and took feedback very seriously. He understood when we were confused and tried his best to make sure everyone was beig heard and understood what they were doing.
- Added his personality into it to make it less boring as well as talk about his past experiences in engineering
- He kept the class interesting and kept our attention for the most part.
- Made the class engaging, especially with hippobidness
- The material for this course is very boring and Rev. Gray did everything he could to make it engaging. He was also very approachable. Overall an amazing teacher.
- He gave us the tools to help foster our own experience in the class' project thus preparing us more as engineers.

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- He was very approachable and personable.
- He was funny, personable, and made the class fun. He made what easily could have been a boring class an enjoyable class that was almost worth the walk to Goodwin, which is slightly shorter than the walk from where teacherman parks his car in the Goodwin lot ;). But seriously, he did a great job.

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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	1.79%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.79%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	12.50%									
Agree		(5)	26	46.43%									
Strongly agree		(6)	21	37.50%									
					02550100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
56/70 (80.00%)		5.14	0.92	5.00	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)	1	1.79%												
Disagree		(2)	2	3.57%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.79%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	11	19.64%												
Agree		(5)	21	37.50%												
Strongly agree		(6)	20	35.71%												
						0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median			
56/70 (80.00%)		4.95	1.12	5.00	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	44/70 (62.86%)
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- Paid more attention in class
- I could have paid more attention.
- More participation in class.
- nothing
- Gone to class more.
- Pay attention more during class.
- I could have tried harder on some assignments.
- I could've applied myself more on a couple of assignments
- Done more out of class
- I could have done more research on planes and aerospace design before beginning this project.
- nothing
- Spent more time out of class
- N/A. The Dr. Rev Gray made it perfect
- been more involved with the team
- Payed more attention in class, but also I feel like most of the stuff we learn in class is pretty useless.
- Take notes
- I couldve gone to office hours
- Cared a bit more
- I could have done work early and sought out office hours more.
- Be more active in class
- Nothing.
- I could have improved my time management.
- I could have done more outside research on drones and aerospace engineering.
- Stopped and enjoyed it rather than worrying about assignments so much
- I learned a lot from this course, a good amount was self-taught to go above and beyond the coursework, I do not believe this could have been improved.
- I could have been more invested in building from the beginning. I didn't know where to start so I put it off for a long time.
- Get more insight into making a drone
- I could have been more engagedd
- Pay more attention in class.
- payed attention to on MATLAB days
- Be more active in class.
- I could have payed more attention to class
- I could have asked more questions and done additional, outside research.
- We could have better used the tools given to us rather than using just guess and check.
- Nothing
- I could have been more awake
- I could have done more background research on the topics I didn't understand.
- came to more classes
- Made sure to turn everything in on time. I missed the deadline on two assignments.
- Put more effort into some of the assignments.
- Not do homework for other classes during class.
- Been more involved in the in class activities and lectures.
- Taken more time to learn about coding.
- Put more time into the course

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

David Todd Gray

Response Rate 39/70 (55.71%)


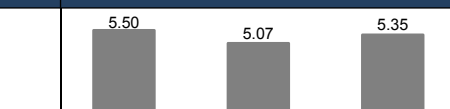


- He has been one of my favorite teachers at Tech. He really cares about the students, and has a way of engaging the class using humor.
- Would recommend for anyone else to have. Good teacher with a great personality. Always willing to take the time to further explain stuff outside of class.
- I know that you said the original survey we all took kind of hurt, but that it was necessary to grow. I wouldn't get too down on yourself about it. It was your second semester, there's always a learning curve. I would 100% recommend taking your class to any future engineering students.
- I love dr gray, but Im not a fan of this course because of the semester long group project. I got stuck in a not very good group, so their poor work has been affecting my grade even though I've been doing as best as I can while picking up 3 of my group members slack
- Amazing teacher.
- Dr. Gray was a good teacher for a mediocre course. 1216 didnt really foster any engineering skills that I didnt already have, and I dont think it would help anyone else either.
- He did not give rubrics for the first part of the semester, which made the assignment requirements confusing.
- Dr. Gray is one of my favorite instructors that I have had over the past two semesters, and I believe that he will be an admired professor.
- Dr. Gray is really cool. His students appreciate him as well as relate to him, and with more experience and training, I think he could be a great teacher. He is approachable, and I don't feel stupid asking questions that I know are probably stupid questions. He constantly reassures us that we are all capable of doing this, which is nice especially when these things are easy to forget.
- He is a great instructor who takes what would be a totally boring class interesting.
- He's a funny guy, nice guy
- Engineering 1216 is dumb and does not help my future as an engineer at all. Maybe we could actually learn about the engineering majors instead of random stuff. This is not David Gray's fault, but due to the structure of the class.
- Legendary. 11/10 IGN
- Hippos
- Pretty nice
- nil
- Mr Gray is a great instructor that does not deserve to be teaching this class. The curriculum is very broad and does not teach anyone anything. People wanting to go into anything but mechanical or aerospace are out of luck as the only two projects are based around those two majors. Those that do want to go into those fields are bored since the projects are such basic applications of their major that they are probably already doing more advanced things in their clubs or design teams. Additionally, for those that do not know what they want to do yet, the class does not explore all the majors VT has to offer, leaving the student just as stranded and confused as before. This course does not prepare engineers for success, but rather is a filler for a first year engineer.
- good teacher
- Really funny dude
- Best engineering professor I've had yet.
- Great teacher, knows a lot about what he is teaching, but is also humble.
- I think Dr. Gray is a very good teacher. The one problem I have with the class is that it really fosters the mentality of either succeeding or failing as a group. While this can be a very good thing, it can also be a little discouraging in relation to the turnout of GPA resulting from group work.
- Has a great sense of humor. The board and hippobidness were highlights of my day.
- I was a fairly average course made better by Dr. Gray.
- Good job.
- 10/10 would recommend
- David is awesome
- I still don't understand how assignments are graded.
- Great professor.
- He was an amazing teacher and I actually looked forward to his class. He treats us as equals and is open to our ideas. He also incorporated real world issues into class time discussion. Overall great guy.
- David Todd Gray is one of the best instructors i have ever hade
- Definitely my favorite instructor this semester, I really enjoyed his class
- Dr. Gray is an amazing professor. He made every student feel welcomed. Even though the class was confusing at some points and sometimes he didn't even know what was going, he made sure get back on track and make sure everything was okay.
- Hes great. I want him to be the reverend at my wedding
- You're doing a great job for your first year teaching! I really enjoyed this class.
- He made the class engaging and interesting, even if the material wasn't that enjoyable.
- He made the drone project feel way more approachable and broke it down well for the class.
- The instructor was doing to best he could regarding the poorly structured overlying course of ENGE 1216. Adjusting the course structure would definitely remove restrictions on the professor.
- He is the man! He is a great teacher for 1216 and knows how to make the class fun and interesting. Hippobidness and Engineeringness for the win! The man needs (deserves) a raise. At first his above and beyond thing scared me, but it turned out to motivate me and gave me something to work for and look forward it. It allowed/made me have fun with the assignments. Keep up the good work Dr. Gray.

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Response Rate: 57/70 (81.43 %)

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)	1	1.79%									
Good		(5)	26	46.43%									
Very Good		(6)	29	51.79%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
56/70 (80.00%)		5.50	0.54	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	23/70 (32.86%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A • Kinda crowded in class. • I don't like crossing campus to get to Goodwin Hall, but it is my favorite building to learn in regardless. • Goodwin Hall is very nice! • Class size was a little too big • I learned more about hippos than I did engineering • I want to move the tables even though they are wired for power • Nice room • class size was large • Good physical environment. • Chairs and tables were quite cramped • N/A • It was fine • NONE • This classroom is so much nicer than Randolph. • na • N/A • Good for teams. • Its better than mcbryde which in that it doesn't feel like I just entered a prison. • N/A • Very clean and easy to work in groups. • None • It was great! 	

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)	2	3.57%								
Somewhat disagree				(3)	3	5.36%								
Somewhat agree				(4)	6	10.71%								
Agree				(5)	20	35.71%								
Strongly agree				(6)	25	44.64%								
02550100								Question	College	Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
56/70 (80.00%)		5.13	1.05	5.00	17026		4.98	1.10	5.00	1845		4.95	1.10	5.00

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Instructor: David Todd Gray *
Response Rate: 57/70 (81.43 %)

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)	9	16.36%											
Disagree		(2)	4	7.27%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	7	12.73%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	17	30.91%											
Agree		(5)	6	10.91%											
Strongly agree		(6)	12	21.82%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
55/70 (78.57%)		3.78	1.70	4.00	16923		4.39	1.52	5.00	1833		3.96	1.64	4.00	


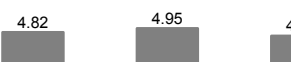
8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The objectives of the course were clearly explained.

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1.79%										
Disagree		(2)	3	5.36%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	9	16.07%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	10	17.86%										
Agree		(5)	21	37.50%										
Strongly agree		(6)	12	21.43%										
						0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
56/70 (80.00%)		4.48	1.25	5.00	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)	2	3.57%												
Disagree				(2)	2	3.57%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	3	5.36%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	7	12.50%												
Agree				(5)	25	44.64%												
Strongly agree				(6)	17	30.36%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
56/70 (80.00%)		4.82	1.24	5.00	16908		4.95	1.22	5.00	1829		4.70	1.30	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)	3	5.36%													
Agree				(5)	15	26.79%													
Strongly agree				(6)	38	67.86%													
								0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College			Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
56/70 (80.00%)		5.63	0.59	6.00	19610			5.17	1.07	5.00	1909		5.24	0.98	5.00				

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