

Virginia Tech

Fall 2020 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1215_84278_202009: (84278) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1215_84278_202009
Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 59/72 (81.94 %)

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%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	1.69%												
Agree		(5)	6	10.17%												
Strongly agree		(6)	52	88.14%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
59/72 (81.94%)		5.86	0.39	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)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	1	1.69%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	3.39%								
Agree	(5)	9	15.25%								
Strongly agree	(6)	47	79.66%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
59/72 (81.94%)	5.71	0.70	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)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	5.08%								
Agree	(5)	11	18.64%								
Strongly agree	(6)	45	76.27%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
59/72 (81.94%)	5.71	0.56	6.00	25255	4.92	1.26	5.00	2248	5.41	0.89	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%																																																																																																															

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

David Gray

Response Rate 56/72 (77.78%)

- He made the class and assignments interesting
- The zoom classes were great!
- The class was very interactive and discussion based. The exit surveys were especially helpful. Since Dr. Gray read each of our responses and even discussed them in the class period after, it made the class seem more interactive even with it being online.
- I loved the sync classes with the jokes and the interactiveness.
- clear instructions and engaging zoom calls
- Teaching students with enthusiasm and humor
- During certain classes we discussed "engineeringness" which expanded my understanding of what it is to be a certain discipline of engineering
- Everything, I love this class, absolutely would take again.
- Professor David Gray makes every class worthwhile with the scenario we are in. His teaching has really stuck with me, and I always enjoy coming to class.
- Dr. Gray strove to present his material in a way that kept our interest, was relevant to engineering but also informative at the same time. Secondly, he was in touch with our schedules from our other courses. If any deadlines overlapped, he made sure to give us an extension
- He is able to engage his students well with interesting stories and visuals while also staying on topic. He also is very relaxed, so I feel more comfortable in the class.
- He takes attention to detail.
- Engaged with us during class and made each class period interesting.
- Helped during class work
- Made it fun and interactive
- The lectures were super interesting. Each one was different and I loved the way Dr. Gray and the TAs connected real life scenarios to our in-class content. Also, I always received great feedback whether positive or constructive.
- I appreciated how you engaged with us students and made the course interactive. Many professors did not do so.
- Very good communicator. Assigned activities that were fun. Made the class always engage the student.
- Made the class enjoyable and interesting.
- He made the classes fun and interesting. I was always able to stay engaged for the entire class, and the material became more interesting because of that.
- The beginning reports really helped to make sure I was on the right career path.
- He made class very fun and entertaining. It kept me engaged and excited for the next class.
- Had a good personality and made the class feel relaxing as opposed to stressful
- Good lesson plans
- The overall structure of the class was different than other classes that I have taken, and I really enjoyed it. The fact that it was project based was really good.
- Professor Gray, unlike most of the other classes that I took this semester taught during the class time that we had twice a week. This alone was a big help in my learning as an extra 7 hours of videos would have killed me.
- Classes were directly related to the current course work and showed interesting real world application for the subject matter.
- Team assignments
- Dr. Gray provided his students with a very calm non-threatening atmosphere which was ideal for being able to understand concepts and keep a level head through the course.
- Go over the assignments and answer any questions. I utilized the office hours a lot for this class when completing my matlab assignments and it helped me a lot.
- For the MATLAB unit, I really liked how he let the people with previous coding experience work on the projects for the class while he taught the concepts that were needed in the projects
- Was very interactive and each day was a little different so that it interested me day-in and day-out.
- My professor posted end of class surveys that counted as attendance for the day, but students also used the surveys to ask questions that they had, many of which benefited the rest of the students. My professor answered many questions at the start of the next class
- Professor Gray provided everyone with plenty of examples of the quality of projects he wanted to see. He also added real world applications of engineering into his lectures.
- He provided a pleasant atmosphere in his lectures to where I did not feel completely hopeless even though I felt overloaded with work. He understands how tough it is to be an engineering student with a massive workload.
- I love the fun segments at the beginning of each class
- Requiring us to do weekly plans helped me greatly.
- MATLAB assignments were crucial for me to learn code.
- He kept the classroom fun.
- his teaching style, I enjoyed being in class with him
- Took his time to go over stuff really in depth and was always open to questions to help us learn better.
- Managed to make the class material intriguing and did a good job at holding our attention.
- He gave us small and big assignments to go over our material and supplemented that with very informative lectures.
- He was straightforward with his teaching and gave help when needed. I liked all his real world examples for engineering.
- Made sure everyone was enjoying themselves and felt comfortable in their learning environment.
- He was organized and had a plan for all of the classes

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- Dr Gray explained everything in great detail and in a way that everyone understood. He would also constantly make sure we understood everything he said. Dr. Gray made the class very enjoyable despite the COVID circumstances.
- Have interactive assignments
- I felt like I was able to learn the material for this course best when we worked in groups to complete projects and by following Dr. Gray's example.
- Utilized a variety of different styles and activities during lectures that were relevant to the corresponding course module.
- He answered all of the questions that you had and he tried to make the class interactive even though it was online and get to know his students
- Made class fun and taught us well.
- For each assignment there was a rubric and drive that detailed everything I needed to know to do the assignment and a rubric so that I know how it will be graded.
- He had regular class and actually lectured during class, and had lots of office hours for questions.
- Assign team assignments
- The teacher was outstanding and taught every part of the course very well. He asked for feedback constantly and was very clear about due dates and assignment requirements, which was a refreshing change from a lot of other classes.

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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%			5.51	5.10	5.26			
Disagree	(2)	1	1.69%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	6.78%								
Agree	(5)	17	28.81%								
Strongly agree	(6)	37	62.71%								
					0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
59/72 (81.94%)	5.51	0.77	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	1.69%			5.54	4.84	5.09			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.69%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	6.78%								
Agree	(5)	11	18.64%								
Strongly agree	(6)	42	71.19%								
					0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
59/72 (81.94%)	5.54	0.92	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	48/72 (66.67%)
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- At first I was a little confused because I missed the first class but then I got it.
- I probably could have taken a few things in this class more seriously. When I had to choose between work in this class or any other class, I'd usually choose the other class because ENGE 1215 is more interesting and easier to work on which sometimes gave me lower grades than I could have gotten.
- Nothing, I loved every second of this class and I did my best.
- n/a
- Communicate misunderstandings
- Nothing, I just followed class instructions and went well.
- I could have more thoroughly read the feedback I receive from the TA's.
- I could have been a better leader and group mate to my team at the beginning of the semester, but meeting new people completely virtually makes that difficult.
- Gone to more office hours, especially when we were learning MATLAB.
- Turn camera on
- I could have attempted to go above and beyond on more assignments.
- I could have participated more in class.
- I cant think of anything maybe done work a head of time
- I could have done more research about topics discussed in class.
- I could have asked more questions and engaged more in class. I tend to be introverted and not participate too much.
- I could have taken more time on the programming module and really learn the language rather than learn just enough.
- I could have put more effort into the assignments, but there's always more effort that could be done.
- Participate in discussions more
- Time management
- Been mroe focused during class.
- One thing that probably would have enriched my academic experience, is going back over certain concepts after the lecture has ended to make sure I have truly gained that knowledge.
- Complete my assignments ahead of time
- I could have worked better with my group to make sure we did not leave things to the last minute
- I could have gone to office hours
- I did not take advantage of many office hours. Although I felt comfortable with the material, I could have easily sat in on an office hour and hear from other students
- Not procrastinate on big projects
- I could have spaced out more time for assignments.
- I could have gone to more office hours and participated more in class
- I general I'd just say payed more attention during zoom classes and eliminated distractions.
- Not procrastinate especially during COVID
- Not much... Won't lie I kinda carried my group.
- i feel as if i did the most i could to succeed
- Started working on assignments earlier
- Attend office hours even when small questions arose.
- I could have put more effort into the class as a whole.
- I could have been more open with my webcam and gone to more office hours.
- Been somewhat more attentive in class, although this was in no fault due to the instructor.
- Started some of the longer assignments earlier
- Read the assignment rubrics more carefully.
- Procrastinate less
- I think by taking more notes and engaging with presentations better I would have been a better learner in this class.
- I could have made more of an effort to have more worthwhile interactions with instructors and peers.
- I should have come to his office hours more to ask questions on topics that I was confused on
- payed more attention in class and submitted my work on time.
- I could've worked ahead of time on more assignments or maybe payed more attention in some classes.
- I could have gone to office hours and used all the resources he gave us.
- not procrastinate
- I could have planned out what assignments I was going to work ahead on rather than simply what dates assignments were due.

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

David Gray

Response Rate 42/72 (58.33%)

- None
- Not really. Dr. Gray's class is very interesting and I'm so glad I got him as an instructor for my first semester at Tech. His class is always a bright spot in my week and has made me more interested in becoming an Engineer.
- I loved the teaching style and sense of humor. Also, Dr. Gray's understanding and sympathy for our mental health really helped me out.
- good instructor, pay him more
- Overall fantastic teacher
- You're awesome, keep it up.
- Dr. Gray is one of the best professors and educators I have had in my academic career.
- I am excited to take ENGE-1216 with you
- He is a very understanding teacher and wants the best for his students. He wants us to remain interested in engineering and does a good job at not making the material intimidating or scary.
- He is an amazing proactive professor and he is super funny.
- Great guy
- Great mix of humor and seriousness, it keeps students involved while keeping their attention. Makes learning fun.
- Dr. Gray is the best instructor I have this semester. He has been supportive, helpful, and sparked my curiosity about engineering more and more every class. Thank you for a great semester Dr. Gray!
- I enjoyed this course and learned a lot. Thank you for actually teaching.
- none
- Very great teacher.
- This was by far my favorite class this semester due to having such a wonderful professor.
- Engineeringness was always fun and interesting.
- He was a great professor. I thoroughly enjoyed being in his class. I hope to have him as my instructor for next semester.
- Awesome
- Dr. Gray is an amazing teacher and I really enjoyed how he taught the class. He made it fun and interesting while effectively teaching the material.
- Very engaging teacher.
- Though challenging at times, I see how this course is able to aid students on their path to engineering.
- I really liked this professor
- I think you are a great person but I hated this class. I understand the purpose for the class but it felt like a waste of time.
- Was a great professor with an amazing attitude and was very consider to us freshman.
- Really loved having him as a professor; will be taking ENGE1216 with him next semester to finish out my engineering course.
- Can't wait to see ya next semester.
- One of the best teachers I've ever had. I look forward to his class every week.
- Moon facts were top tier.
- N/A
- Honestly just great
- Amazing teacher I wish I could have him again.
- I like his unusual examples to teach core principles.
- Great professor
- Dr. Gray was very easy to work with, he was always fast to respond to any questions and concerns, and I felt comfortable in his class.
- Great professor and I really enjoyed his class
- Best teacher I had all year and one of the best teachers that I have had.
- The teacher was excellent in making the course content both engaging and interesting.
- He was a really good instructor and I actually feel like I learned a lot, he does assign a lot of work, but nothing too unmanageable.
- Fun course, instructor was very enjoyable.
- Starting every class with comments from students after the previous class was brilliant and made every class start out fun.

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Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 59/72 (81.94 %)

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)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	6.78%										
Agree		(5)	16	27.12%										
Strongly agree		(6)	39	66.10%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
59/72 (81.94%)		5.59	0.62	6.00	20019		5.03	1.05	5.00	2055		5.18	0.98	5.00



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)	1	1.75%		4.89	4.54	4.55		Question	College	Department	
Disagree		(2)	2	3.51%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	4	7.02%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	14	24.56%									
Agree		(5)	10	17.54%									
Strongly agree		(6)	26	45.61%									
					02550100								
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
57/72 (79.17%)		4.89	1.26	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)	0	0.00%			5.67		5.08		5.33			
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	3.45%										
Agree		(5)	15	25.86%										
Strongly agree		(6)	41	70.69%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
58/72 (80.56%)		5.67	0.54	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)	0	0.00%													
Disagree				(2)	1	1.69%													
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%													
Somewhat agree				(4)	3	5.08%													
Agree				(5)	18	30.51%													
Strongly agree				(6)	37	62.71%													
								0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College			Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
59/72 (81.94%)		5.53	0.75	6.00	19799			5.01	1.15	5.00	2036		5.14	1.03	5.00				

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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%									
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	1.69%									
Agree	(5)	6	10.17%	■								
Strongly agree	(6)	52	88.14%	■								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
59/72 (81.94%)	5.86	0.39	6.00	24854	5.19	1.02	5.00	2240	5.46	0.76	6.00	