

# Virginia Tech

## Spring 2020 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Course:** ENGE\_1216\_14313\_202001: (14313) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE\_1216\_20286\_202001  
**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)	1	1.79%			5.64	5.26	5.44	Question	College	Department		
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	3.57%										
Agree		(5)	11	19.64%										
Strongly agree		(6)	42	75.00%										
					0	25	50	100						
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
56/72 (77.78%)		5.64	0.82	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)	1	1.75%										
Disagree		(2)	1	1.75%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	5.26%										
Agree		(5)	9	15.79%										
Strongly agree		(6)	43	75.44%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
57/72 (79.17%)		5.58	0.96	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)	1	1.75%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.75%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	3.51%												
Agree		(5)	8	14.04%												
Strongly agree		(6)	45	78.95%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
57/72 (79.17%)		5.65	0.88	6.00	17860		4.95	1.29	5.00	2049		5.28	1.00	6.00		

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**Response Rate:** 59/72 (81.94 %)

**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	1.75%								
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	1.75%								
Agree		(5)	6	10.53%								
Strongly agree		(6)	49	85.96%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
57/72 (79.17%)		5.77	0.76	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)	1	1.75%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	5.26%									
Agree		(5)	8	14.04%									
Strongly agree		(6)	45	78.95%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
57/72 (79.17%)		5.67	0.83	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** 45/72 (62.5%)

- he was always willing to answer questions and give very helpful feedback
- Added a lightness to the atmosphere while still making sure everything got done at a high quality.
- Lectures where interesting
- Made the learning applicable to future jobs
- He provided timely, relevant feedback on assignments so we knew what areas to improve on moving forward.
- He did a very good job of keeping us engaged and interested in whatever we were working on at the time.
- Gave us templates to base our assignments off of for reference.
- Showed he was dedicated to helping us learn and understand the material. He made class interesting and kept us engaged.
- Adapted very well to online learning. Could tell he cared a lot about our success
- Responded quickly to questions
- weekly check ins after the switch to online learning were really helpful. Dr. Gray always took the time to address my concerns personally and had respect for every student's views. He responded to our needs, moving back deadlines if everyone had multiple tests in a week and things like that. He was great.
- Dr Gray always made sure that we completely understood what we were assigned to do any why we were doing it. It's easy to blow off a class if it means nothing to you, but this was not the case in Dr Gray's class; everyone really was able to appreciate what we were doing. He also made it easy to understand the class and learn no matter what type of learner his students are.
- made the material memorable
- He explained everything well.
- Presented information in a fun and interactive way
- He made the course fun, it was certainly a nice transition from core, rigorous engineering classes.
- He gave us examples and covered all the math and necessary topics so that we could create a successful drone
- He kept the class interesting and didn't bore me.
- He is an engaging person. That's enough to be helpful in my learning.
- He made the class more interesting and helped make the content more interesting.
- He's seriously the best! I really enjoyed the project based nature, as much as I might not have loved my group. The respect of the students was through the roof, and I really felt welcomed in the classroom.
- Made the class fun.
- humor
- Keeping the class engaging with his humor and good feedback.
- He presented the material in a way that was very engaging and he did a great job of keeping my attention.
- His ability to adapt to whatever problems the class was having
- He was extremely personable and he truly cared about his students! He made a really big difference for me
- Was funny and entertaining which fostered a creative learning environment
- Kept the class atmosphere light and always made sure that class wasn't a burden.
- Used moths effectively in the context of our class lesson
- Dr. Gray was organized and always helpful and nice.
- Group work
- Dr. Gray did so much, he made the class enjoyable, made sure to not focus on what he felt were unnecessary aspects of the curriculum. His class was fundamentally different from the other classes and we were going to do great things.
- I liked his lecture style, with slides and occasional dry humor to lighten the mood.
- He was extremely understanding, especially after the transition to online learning.
- he was very helpful and interested in our progress
- When we moved online, Dr. Gray uploaded zoom lectures and tutorials, which were helpful.
- The detailed assignment descriptions were helpful, especially during the online portion of this class. It was nice to have a clear expectation for every assignment.
- Dr. Gray provided practical applications to nearly everything that we learned. For example, during our ethics unit he tied the concepts to the very relevant Boeing 737 MAX crashes, which made the lectures much more interesting. I also deeply appreciated how much effort he put in to making the class enjoyable and free of busy work. He seemed to truly care about his students.
- He added a dash of fun with the moth facts that made the class worth looking forward too.
- Regular communication and fun and positive learning
- He was available during the entirety of the class to ask questions
- Gave thorough lectures and made sure everyone had a chance to ask questions if they did not understand.
- He made the material engaging with his entertaining teaching style, and effectively communicated the important things that we needed to learn in the class. Also, he is one of the professors that I feel still very engaged with even after this whole covid situation started, with weekly updates along with the normal class lectures, and optional meetings with supplemental learning and communication between him and students.
- Cared about students

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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	1.75%		5.37		5.11		5.09					
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	10.53%											
Agree		(5)	19	33.33%											
Strongly agree		(6)	31	54.39%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
57/72 (79.17%)		5.37	0.90	6.00	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)	1	1.75%												
Disagree		(2)	2	3.51%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	5.26%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	10.53%												
Agree		(5)	18	31.58%												
Strongly agree		(6)	27	47.37%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
57/72 (79.17%)		5.09	1.18	5.00	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** 36/72 (50%)

- i could have spent more time on group projects
- Worked better with my team.
- Work on assignments earlier.
- More individual research
- Paid more attention to the online lessons he provided us.
- Completed the assignments earlier.
- Attended the Zoom lectures
- Watched all lectures
- I could have participated more with my group, instead of just doing what was required of me.
- I could have gone more "above and beyond" in my efforts during this class, mostly i just did what was required of me.
- not had a national pandemic that destroyed my motivation
- To be more engaged.
- Paying more attention during lectures.
- I could've done more research on drones to make mine fly better
- Easily could have paid more attention in class.
- I could have spent more time working with the material outside of class.
- Taken the class more seriously, probably. I definitely did not put a ton of mental effort in, and only got what I gave, outside of the fun of building in the Frith Lab.
- Watched more zoom lectures.
- I could have asked more questions during lectures
- I can't think of anything in this class
- not procrastinated on the work so much
- Been more engaged in the course material
- Watched the lectures after they went online
- Asked more questions.
- Ask more questions
- I wish I had more time to spend on the course, but besides that, not much really.
- I could have missed fewer classes.
- I could have engaged more during the online lectures.
- i think i was a good learner in this class
- I could have been more proactive.
- I could have worked on communication within my team
- I could have planned things with my team earlier.
- Start projects earlier.
- Work on my projects/assignments a little bit each day.
- Done research outside of class on related subject matter, i guess?
- better time management

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

David Gray

Response Rate	34/72 (47.22%)
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- i really appreciate how much care he puts into making sure we value our time in his class and making sure we are doing okay in other classes and in his class
- Keep doing what you're doing, I think it worked well
- moths
- The moth facts were a fun addition to the course material, and I enjoyed the engineeringness lessons.
- MOTHS
- Incredibly nice and easy-going guy. Nice facial hair too.
- My favorite professor by far this year; he also made a great transition to online and still managed to keep the material engaging.
- Very personable and engaging. Added humor to the class to make this class less stressful.
- Best professor I've had, I wish I got to finish out the semester in person with this class.
- Great professor
- Dr. Gray has a healthy sense of humor, which helped keep normalcy after the switch.
- Dr. Gray really cares about all of his students and he wants us to not only work hard and challenge ourselves, but also to enjoy what we are doing. This class made me feel like I mattered as an individual and that we are all in this together, especially in these stressful times.
- he was cool
- Dr. Gray is chill and a good professor.
- I really appreciate how Dr. Gray was able to keep this course intriguing.
- Please allow for us to chose our groups next time. I seriously had the A team set up in my class, but I couldn't get to be with my friends like I had planned. One of my group members from last semester was there, so I really wanted to group with him, but sadly we couldn't. Otherwise, keep it up! I'm definitely going to miss ya next semester
- He was an awesome person and an awesome teacher.
- He was good other than the fact that he tried to do his stand up act every class
- Thank you so much for caring and being such a great professor!
- You are an amazing professor
- N/A
- Significantly outperformed the course that was given to him. Folks, give him a better course.
- I enjoyed Foundations of Engineering with Dr. Gray.
- Great professor who really cares about his students
- I know you read these so I just want to say that I'm really sad that we didn't get to have a full semester. Really. I was so excited to see where we were going after spring break and that was all taken away from us. I was sad about it for a while, but then I decided to put my full effort into the assignments that we had left to show what my group could do even in the face of a global crisis. I'm really going to miss your class. I'm sad about a lot of things, but not being able to complete my freshman year has stayed on my mind as much as not being able to see my family members has. I selected your class because I heard you were a good professor from my friend, but I had no idea what I was in for. You've proven to me that not all professors are just out to get students, and that some of them actually care about what they teach and want to make a difference in the world. You've made that difference and I hope that you keep doing what you do :).
- Fantastic EngE 1216 instructor. Highest regards.
- Things like mothbidity and the board really helped to keep the mood up. Also, I appreciated how you would work/learn with us and always had a good outlook and sense of humor about everything.
- very good teacher
- Dr. Gray is probably one of the most effective and caring professors I have ever had in my experience at VT. He made sure to check in with us every week, asking both about our project status and our emotional status as COVID19 changed the way we learn. I recommend him by far to anyone taking ENGE courses.
- I am really going to miss him because he made the class enjoyable.
- He was an amazing instructor
- The course was very interesting and enjoyable due to Dr. Gray's method of teaching and sense of humor.
- Dr. Gray was one of if not my favorite professors this semester, and I enjoyed the class and the drone project. I wish we could have completed them according to the original plan, but that was out of everyone's control.
- Really good teacher

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### 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	1.75%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	5	8.77%											
Agree		(5)	20	35.09%											
Strongly agree		(6)	31	54.39%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
57/72 (79.17%)		5.42	0.73	6.00	16375		5.05	1.08	5.00	1926		5.06	1.02	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)	3	5.36%									
Disagree		(2)	6	10.71%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	8	14.29%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	10	17.86%									
Agree		(5)	13	23.21%									
Strongly agree		(6)	16	28.57%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
56/72 (77.78%)		4.29	1.55	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%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.57%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	3.57%												
Agree		(5)	17	30.36%												
Strongly agree		(6)	35	62.50%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
56/72 (77.78%)		5.52	0.74	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)	1	1.75%								
Disagree		(2)	1	1.75%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.51%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	8	14.04%								
Agree		(5)	13	22.81%								
Strongly agree		(6)	32	56.14%								
					02550100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
57/72 (79.17%)		5.23	1.12	6.00	16264	5.03	1.17	5.00	1912	4.92	1.18	5.00



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Instructor:

David Gray \*

Response Rate:

59/72 (81.94 %)

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%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div>5.70</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>5.24</div><div></div></div>	<div><div>5.39</div><div></div></div>				
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	3.51%								
Agree		(5)	13	22.81%	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>	<div><div></div><div></div></div>				
Strongly agree		(6)	42	73.68%	<div><div></div><div></div></div>							
					02550100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
57/72 (79.17%)		5.70	0.53	6.00	17619	5.24	1.04	6.00	2037	5.39	0.82	6.00