

Virginia Tech

Spring 2020 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGE_1216_14313_202001: (14313) Foundations of Engineering-ENGE_1216_14313_202001
Instructor: David Gray *
Response Rate: 50/72 (69.44 %)

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)	3	6.12%								
Agree		(5)	11	22.45%								
Strongly agree		(6)	35	71.43%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)		5.65	0.60	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)	4	8.16%								
Agree		(5)	16	32.65%								
Strongly agree		(6)	29	59.18%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)		5.51	0.65	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)	1	2.04%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	8.16%								
Agree		(5)	15	30.61%								
Strongly agree		(6)	29	59.18%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)		5.47	0.74	6.00	17860	4.95	1.29	5.00	2049	5.28	1.00	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%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	2.04%										
Agree		(5)	12	24.49%										
Strongly agree		(6)	36	73.47%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)		5.71	0.50	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)	3	6.38%									
Agree		(5)	13	27.66%									
Strongly agree		(6)	31	65.96%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
47/72 (65.28%)		5.60	0.61	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	44/72 (61.11%)
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- Dr Gray is one of my favorite professors here at Tech. He does such an amazing job at doing his best to help every student succeed . Dr Gray is always available to talk through, whether that's email or office hours, and he is always eager to help. His assignment prompts are very detailed so you know what you are supposed to be doing and why you are doing it.
- Explaining the math for the unladen and laden stability memos were extremely helpful
- moths
- Professor Gray was great at explaining the material and helping us in class.
- Professor Gray encouraged us to learn and do projects on our own by setting an example for us. He also was very friendly and very responsive to the weekly course feedback that he solicited.
- He kept me engaged.
- Clearly explained and laid out what we were doing and how we could go about doing it
- Implemented a weekly survey to check in with students under the current outbreak circumstances. Also sent out weekly emails regarding objectives for the week, and any updates or open Canvas discussions to clarify issues with Canvas assignments Provided students with recorded online lecture videos to explain in greater details the concepts expected to be understood.
- mothbidity
- Projects.
- Made slides that were well prepared.
- He used multiple ways to discuss the material. (slides, videos, announcements, emails)
- He offered good discussions and had a good outline for the semester.
- Made the environment light-hearted.
- He didn't make class very talking heavy, let us work on what we needed to, gave us time with teams in class.
- Very entertaining
- The instructor provided encouragement and was engaging with fun topics.
- explained the assignments in a detailed way
- Dr. Gray was very helpful if there were ever issues with a grade or an assignment. He was eager to assist students and quick to reply to emails and issues during quarantine.
- His excitement for every class was motivating
- He did a great job in trying to connect what we were learning in class to real world examples (i.e. "Engineeringness"). I love the concept behind the Board, allowing students to openly voice their feelings and concerns. The exit surveys / weekly checkups made me feel as though I had genuine contact with the professor even in a large class - especially when he would respond to the comments I leave. Dr. Gray made an otherwise bland class a very enjoyable and memorable one, and there's something truly remarkable about that.
- Mutual Respect, comfortable atmosphere
- Provided tips on keeping organized and provided consistent reminders and helpful information related to the current topic of the course
- Instruction in class
- Presented material well.
- Listened to my concerns for my team's performance and structure the class assignments to by much more clarified. Also had engaging survey questions and moths.
- I found the weekly recaps and check in surveys to be extremely helpful for keeping track of assignments and time management for this class during quarantine. The way you split up our time in class helped to keep me engaged and it was effective for my learning.
- He told jokes and was interesting. It made the classes more fun and enjoyable to be there.
- He had good office hours to help us understand the projects.
- He had a detailed power point on the formulas and math that we had to do to learn more about different aspects of our drone.
- I maintained a proper connection with the students
- Was in contact with us during everything and supplied many different ways to learn.
- Dr. Gray genuinely cares about all his students and cares that we are all learning the material. The way he presents complicated material makes it seem less complicated and I can understand it. He makes class fun and enjoyable, which makes students want to learn the material.
- Dr. Gray always made class interesting and entertaining even when we had to transition to online classes. I genuinely looked forward to his class because he is such a charismatic and likeable person. It was very easy to stay focused in his class because he made it fun while still teaching all the course material.
- Live zoom lectures
- I like that the atmosphere of the class was kind of relaxed, but it was clear he still wanted us to do well and learn.
- Dr. Gray could easily relate to his students, which kept me engaged and interested in doing my best during his course.
- He was very enthusiastic about what he taught, and it made it easier and more exciting to learn.
- Engaged with students constantly, always making sure they were on track. Also made some very dry topics actually interesting.
- He genuinely seemed concerned in our well being as a student, which made me value the class even more.
- Being one of the best professors and teachers I've ever had.
- His office hours and good personality made it easier to learn
- He was respectful and showed that he cared
- Being straight up, being reasonable, being understanding, and most of all adding in non essential material between essential material during class to keep our brains engaged and intrigued, and most of all not bored

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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%			5.08	5.11	5.09			
Disagree	(2)	2	4.08%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	2.04%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	7	14.29%								
Agree	(5)	20	40.82%								
Strongly agree	(6)	19	38.78%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)	5.08	1.00	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%			4.98	4.85	4.95			
Disagree	(2)	2	4.08%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	3	6.12%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	9	18.37%								
Agree	(5)	15	30.61%								
Strongly agree	(6)	20	40.82%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)	4.98	1.11	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 39/72 (54.17%)

- I could have met with my engineering team more often. By meeting more often we could have had more in depth conversations about our projects instead of just texting in a group chat.
- Try to go above and beyond my own assign section in our group work
- I could have done more of the above and beyond section in each of his assignments.
- I could have taken leadership in my group earlier.
- Worked more outside of the classroom
- None worth to write. I was on task with assignments.
- taken assignments more seriously
- I could have been more engaged while at home digitally taking the class.
- I could have dove deeper in my own time to learn more about the various topics.
- Watched all of the zoom videos
- Managed my time better.
- Learn more advance Solidworks methods.
- I could have paid more attention to some of the rubrics. I think I did fine though.
- Payed attention more
- I could have participated more.
- collaborate more with my team
- Focus more in class
- Overall I could have spent more time with the class. It was a heavy semester which caused me to prioritize other classes over this one, however I don't believe it hindered my learning substantially.
- Participate more in class discussion
- Focus
- Focused more on the material
- Read the rubric earlier.
- I could have attended office hours to ask questions.
- Actually cared about the things we were doing in class
- Not much I am doing really well in this class.
- I could have looked at the power points before class to get a better understanding of the material each day.
- I could have communicated with my teammates better.
- Went to more office hours and engaged more.
- I could have put more time into the group work and assignments to get more out of them, but I think ultimately I was an effective student in this course.
- Gone to office hours
- Stayed on track of assignments
- I could have worked on my written communication skills a bit more to improve my performance on the different papers and projects.
- I could have been a better learner by staying more on top of things rather than resulting to procrastination.
- I could've spent more of my own time trying to master Solidworks and Matlab.
- Focus more on assignments
- Practice more outside of class.
- Took a lot more notes.
- Attend the zoom calls
- Nothing

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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 very much appreciate the amount of effort and care Dr Gray puts into the course he teaches. He knows that the course is not the most engaging or interesting (especially if you do not like planes) so he does his best to cater to everyone's interest. I am very sad that I have not been able to attend one of his classes since spring break, I miss them. Hands down one of the best professors at Virginia Tech.
- Mothbidity is amazing
- Better than 1215 but still a bit pointless. Dr. Gray is great.
- The course overall is really unnecessary and should be redone to better transition general engineering students into their choice major. Professor Gray was funny and comical, making his classes enjoyable.
- Enjoyed the class very much while it lasted, wish I had him for first semester
- Awesome professor. Willing to help you when needed. Nice mustache. Likes moths
- none
- I think it would be helpful for both the students and the graders if Dr. Gray made his templates more clear. I think there was often a disconnect between the descriptions given in brackets on the templates and the rubrics, which led to a needless loss of points. Updating the templates or rubrics makes it easier for both the students and graders to understand. That makes it easier for both parties to successfully complete/grade each assignment.
- Wonderful
- He was a good instructor to listen to and had a great plan laid out for the semester, however once we went online the work seemed to increase and though interest was shown in not overwhelming us, we still had huge assignments due the days we had major tests to worry about as well. Also, the grading was harsh and the point system did not really make sense.
- I think it worked out well. During the online part in quarantine, I think the talks going over aerodynamics could have been shorter. A big part of them was discussing the math, which we ended up just putting in matlab and we didn't necessarily need to comprehend the equations and variables. Also, it was annoying that the templates were not truly reflective of an assignments' rubric. I understand you only need to look at the rubric, but it didn't make much sense why they differed.
- He's awesome! He is always funny and kind.
- I really appreciated how much Dr. Gray made an effort to see how his students were doing during this time. Not all teachers were as personal and as caring, but his efforts to show his dedication to his students was recognized.
- Thank you for making this class as least stressful as possible but still educational
- Having Gray for both engineering courses made for a great freshman year at Virginia Tech. I tell anyone who is coming to Tech to try and get into his class because I know they'll love it too. Thank you Dr. Gray for an amazing year, I hope you have an excellent summer!
- Most caring professor I've had thus far in a STEM class at VT. You can tell he wants us students to succeed which is very important to me.
- Really cool guy; good humor as well. He's willing to adjust due dates if many students are dealing with lots of work in other classes.
- Good Guy
- He knows how to teach and improves on things that might not work out the first time.
- The enthusiasm and organization you had regarding this class made it much easier to learn and be engaged during your class. It really seemed like you care about your students and what they have to say and that was really refreshing.
- Nothing as of right now a good teacher he is.
- He is a fun and polite teacher that provided helpful feedback for our drone design.
- The teacher was very approachable.
- I liked the course a lot.
- Dr. Gray had a very effective transition to an online environment. I had some very poor experiences with other instructors in an online environment, but I think Dr. Gray was very effective in online class. He kept communication lines open and posted information in multiple places so that nothing fell through the cracks. I loved the personality of this class and it made me enjoy learning and engineering as a whole. Dr. Gray inspired me to pursue engineering further and grew my passion for engineering.
- The board was a great part of your class and you should continue doing that. It was really nice to see that you read everyone's comments and its cool to see that you respond sometimes personally. It shows that you actually care about your students and does a lot to generate respect.
- Greatful to have you as a teacher
- Thank you for the moths.
- Dr. Gray is hands down the best professor I have had at Virginia Tech. It was a pleasure to have him for 1215 and 1216.
- great professor
- Great Teacher and wonderful guy!
- Great instructor.
- Very charismatic professor. Very enjoyable to be in his class
- Best teacher ever no lie, and best mustache

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Response Rate: 50/72 (69.44 %)

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%		5.10	5.05	5.06		Question	College	Department	
Disagree		(2)	1	2.04%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.04%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	18.37%									
Agree		(5)	19	38.78%									
Strongly agree		(6)	19	38.78%									
					02550100								
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)		5.10	0.92	5.00	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)	4	8.16%										
Disagree		(2)	5	10.20%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	5	10.20%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	17	34.69%										
Agree		(5)	9	18.37%										
Strongly agree		(6)	9	18.37%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
49/72 (68.06%)		4.00	1.49	4.00	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)	1	2.08%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	14.58%										
Agree		(5)	14	29.17%										
Strongly agree		(6)	26	54.17%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
48/72 (66.67%)		5.33	0.88	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%		5.04	5.03	4.92					
Disagree				(2)	1	2.04%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	10	20.41%									
Agree				(5)	23	46.94%									
Strongly agree				(6)	15	30.61%									
							02550100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
49/72 (68.06%)		5.04	0.84	5.00	16264		5.03	1.17	5.00	1912		4.92	1.18	5.00	

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Instructor:

David Gray *

Response Rate:

50/72 (69.44 %)

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%		5.55		5.24		5.39						
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	6.12%												
Agree		(5)	16	32.65%												
Strongly agree		(6)	30	61.22%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
49/72 (68.06%)		5.55	0.61	6.00	17619		5.24	1.04	6.00	2037		5.39	0.82	6.00		