

Report: CS3114\_5040\_Summer\_2025

Response Rate: 50/68 (73.53 %)

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

## 1A - The instructor was well prepared.

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	6.00%										
Agree		(5)	19	38.00%										
Strongly agree		(6)	28	56.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
50/68 (73.53%)		5.50	0.61	6.00	712		5.28	0.96	6.00	189		5.21	1.04	5.00

## 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.

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)	2	4.17%										
Agree		(5)	20	41.67%										
Strongly agree		(6)	25	52.08%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
48/68 (70.59%)		5.42	0.77	6.00	701		5.11	1.15	5.00	185		5.11	1.17	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.

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree				(1)	1	2.08%									
Disagree				(2)	1	2.08%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	3	6.25%									
Agree				(5)	18	37.50%									
Strongly agree				(6)	25	52.08%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
48/68 (70.59%)		5.31	1.01	6.00	706		5.08	1.18	5.00	186		5.00	1.34	5.00	

## 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.

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	2.08%										
Agree		(5)	18	37.50%										
Strongly agree		(6)	29	60.42%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
48/68 (70.59%)		5.58	0.54	6.00	705		5.40	0.95	6.00	185		5.41	0.87	6.00

Virginia Tech  
Summer II and III 2025 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114\_5040\_Summer\_2025  
Response Rate: 50/68 (73.53 %)

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.															
Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses		Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			5.40		5.13		5.09				
Disagree		(2)	1	2.22%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.22%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	4.44%											
Agree		(5)	16	35.56%											
Strongly agree		(6)	25	55.56%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
45/68 (66.18%)		5.40	0.86	6.00	691		5.13	1.15	5.00	179		5.09	1.14	5.00	

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

Response Rate	37/68 (54.41%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answer questions at the end of the class, responded to emails very quickly.</li> <li>• Constantly helped on piazza and answered questions.</li> <li>• Even with such a large section it was easily attainable to get one on one help and feedback. The feedback was also clear and straight to the point so it was quick and easy. Professor Hicks was very reasonable about grades and you can tell he really wanted everyone to do the best they could in the course.</li> <li>• Explained the concepts well and provided multiple examples</li> <li>• He explained concepts well</li> <li>• He explained everything very clearly, helping me better understand the material.</li> <li>• He explained the abstract concepts very well, and there were animations as well.</li> <li>• He helped me when ever I have questions about the subject and made me feel comfortable in learning things and also helped me with my mistakes.</li> <li>• He helped when I asked him for help with testcases. However, he also proceeded to give me wrong advice which I did, and led to the same error. This was after asking him specifically if that would fix the problem. Even after that confirmation, his words of advice did not help in the project – which felt very much rushed at the end of the semester.</li> <li>• He offered to replace part of the exam score with attendance.</li> <li>• He was able to allow people to stay on call after zoom session for the office hours.</li> <li>• He was always prepared and always seemed to know what he was talking about.</li> <li>• He was patient and understanding, and always willing to explain things a hundred times in different ways to help.</li> <li>• He went over the topics really well and tried to compare to other things that we could relate to and understand better</li> <li>• He would go over the details well</li> <li>• His lectures were awesome</li> <li>• I like how long he stayed during the after class office hours, it really let us ask questions and get answers.</li> <li>• I like how the OpenDSA was set up; it forced me to go through the textbook.</li> <li>• Not a lecture thing, but in OpenDSA seeing the models of the topics was useful</li> <li>• Online lectures, office hours, flexibility, extra credit, and talked about the projects in class.</li> <li>• piazza assistance was very helpful</li> <li>• Professor Hicks and his TA's stayed very active on Piazza. He was responsive on emails too. I appreciated how accessible help was at anytime, as someone who couldn't make classes due to a full-time internship.</li> <li>• Provide zoom videos, lecture notes, active in piazza, and helpful guidance</li> <li>• Provided a lot of resources and was very responsive to student questions</li> <li>• provided recordings of all lectures</li> <li>• recorded the lessons</li> <li>• The forum that we could ask our peers questions about assignments.</li> <li>• The instructor having office hours immediatly after class was very helpful for questions and for getting help on the projects.</li> <li>• The instructor used lots of helpful examples to explain different concepts. I also appreciated being able to go back to the previous lecture videos afterwards.</li> <li>• The instructor's office hours after lectures were very helpful in bettering my understanding of what I had to do for the projects. He struck a good balance between guiding me to fixing my code without outright telling me what to do.</li> <li>• The recorded lectures and the piazza responses were very helpful. I was able to fit the class in with my full time job</li> <li>• The timely feedback on Piazza was incredibly helpful.</li> <li>• Thoroughly explained concepts, was very helpful in office hours, available to students.</li> <li>• ur the best thanks Mr Hlcks</li> <li>• Very quick communication</li> <li>• Was very active on Piazza for questions and answered questions during class time as well.</li> <li>• Went over the notes well.</li> </ul>	

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## Summer II and III 2025 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

**Report:** CS3114\_5040\_Summer\_2025

**Response Rate:** 50/68 (73.53 %)

**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%			Question	College	Department					
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.04%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	8.16%										
Agree		(5)	24	48.98%										
Strongly agree		(6)	20	40.82%										
					02550100									
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
49/68 (72.06%)		5.29	0.71	5.00	640		5.23	0.91	5.00	171		5.27	0.91	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%			Question	College	Department			
Disagree				(2)	2	4.26%								
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree				(4)	7	14.89%								
Agree				(5)	20	42.55%								
Strongly agree				(6)	18	38.30%								
							02550100							
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
47/68 (69.12%)		5.11	0.96	5.00	636		4.99	1.18	5.00	168		5.05	1.09	5.00

Virginia Tech

Summer II and III 2025 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

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Response Rate: 50/68 (73.53 %)

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?	
Response Rate	38/68 (55.88%)
<div><div><div>• Allocated more time to school instead of work. I spent over 50 hours a week on work which ate too much into my school time.</div><div>• As the semester went on I found it hard to focus in class because I felt I had to be working on the projects.</div><div>• Asked more questions</div><div>• be a better student</div><div>• Be more actively listenin gin class</div><div>• Be more attentive in class</div><div>• Better note taking during lecture</div><div>• Finished the milestone on time, like there were supposed to be.</div><div>• go to class more</div><div>• Gone to the office hours.</div><div>• I could have been a better listener. With me being at home, I was in an environment where there were a lot of distractions around me and because of that there were many instances where I was not listening as much as I should have.</div><div>• I could have done the OpenDSA with the lectures rather than waiting until close to the deadlines</div><div>• I could have gone to office hours more for clarification on projects and advice.</div><div>• I could have paid more attention in the lectures</div><div>• I could have started my final project sooner and not procrastinated.</div><div>• I could have structured my time better while studying and working on projects. I was a little disorganized in tackling the coursework.</div><div>• I could have taken more notes on the homeworks and studies them more.</div><div>• I could of participated more in class with the comments</div><div>• I could've took more time when reading textbook.</div><div>• I should have allocated my time better.</div><div>• I think that I should've read the OpenDSA modules before they were covered in lecture. That way, the lecture would help solidify my understanding of the topics rather than being my introduction to them.</div><div>• I wish I had more time. The subject matter was very interesting. But simply put, I had a lot going on and couldn't engage with the material to the extent I wanted to.</div><div>• Joined more classes</div><div>• Make learning more fun so that everybody can learn with more interest.</div><div>• More time with TAs</div><div>• Not procrastinated the projects and started earlier to make my life easier</div><div>• Nothing</div><div>• Participated more in in-class questions</div><div>• pay more attention during the lectures</div><div>• Review the animations.</div><div>• Started on projects earlier</div><div>• Started the projects earlier</div><div>• Study more before the exams</div><div>• Take better notes during class</div><div>• Taken better notes during class</div><div>• Took notes while in class</div><div>• Watched additional lectures on youtube.</div><div>• While technically the only thing I could've really improved was doing the OpenDSA more diligently, I believe that method of learning would not have stuck with me. It was tedious and pushed us to do it primarily for points considering how text-heavy any explanation was. I think what I should've done more though was to watch YouTube and learn from their more efficiently and effectively, but the point value of OpenDSA tied me back.</div></div></div>	

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

Response Rate

25/68 (36.76%)

- ...
- Alex was a great instructor and I learned a ton!
- amazing teacher!
- great guy pretty funny
- Great path and applications to the project with the lectures.
- Great professor, explains everything thoroughly and briefly.
- He was a great teacher
- I do a lot of software engineering and research in my job and I learned quite a few things regarding datastructures that I could've used in the past to make some things easier rather than the less efficient methods I chose originally
- I had a great experience with the course and learned a lot
- I wish the problem specs went a little deeper into what was expected, especially for project 3. I felt blind going into most of the testing.
- N/A
- N/A
- NA
- NA
- Professor Hicks seemed very knowledgeable and excited about course material.
- projects specs were so poorly explained, simple instructions could have saved hours trying to figure out small things
- started the projects earlier
- The course is good, even the instructor is good in teaching the subject.
- The course was at times a bit hard to follow. The openDSA text booked gave very vague definitions and explanations for things so when it came time to use them in a project I felt fairly underprepared. I had to do lots of outside research.
- The Open DSA distribution was kind of not balanced in my opinion. It was supposed to be 50% before the midterm and the last after. It was more like 70% and 30%. I needed to rush to finish them in the first half.
- The project requirements were vague and sometimes outright missing. While I do appreciate how active Professor Hicks was on Piazza, it's not a substitute for writing clear project criteria upfront. That was my biggest issue with the class but otherwise, as said before, the professor was very active and that in part made up for this.
- This class did not feel very well planned, project 3 had so many people struggling to understand the teacher's requirements.
- This man is one of the best instructors I've ever had. He has been kind and patient, and always willing to help out during a summer I'd consider very busy and chaotic for me. It's only because of him that I'm even passing this class due to his intelligence and understanding. His office hours are invaluable and his explanations are both helpful and allow the student to think on their own. He has never made me or others feel stupid for repeatedly asking very simple questions. Give this man a role as an actual professor and give him a fat raise because I've never had this good of an experience in a class where it's supposed to be one of the more difficult classes in my curriculum. If he was ever listed as a teacher on another subject, I'd recommend him to anyone who asked. 6 out of 5 stars.
- Very awesome professor! I liked how he was responsive on piazza.
- When asking questions to TAs, I often get responses that they don't know well, and I've received confusing answers more than once, which has led to wasting time rather than getting practical help. There have also been many TAs who didn't stick to the schedule.

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%		5.20		5.20		5.28					
Bad				(2)	0	0.00%											
Poor				(3)	1	2.00%											
Fair				(4)	7	14.00%											
Good				(5)	23	46.00%											
Very Good				(6)	19	38.00%											
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median			
50/68 (73.53%)		5.20	0.76	5.00	635		5.20	0.93	5.00	168		5.28	0.82	5.00			

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**Report:** CS3114\_5040\_Summer\_2025

**Response Rate:** 50/68 (73.53 %)

### 7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

**Response Rate** 17/68 (25%)

- .
- ....
- Although zoom, Professor kept us engaged and communicating to re enforce learning.
- doing it online was a bit weird
- It was virtual and I could be in the lecture anywhere.
- My computer is in my living room so it could be hard at times but I made it work.
- N/A
- N/A
- n/A
- N/A
- N/A virtual
- NA
- NA
- Online
- The class happened online and everything went very smoothly.
- The class was through zoom so I just was at my desk. Nothing that interesting at my desk.
- very helpful

### 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)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	8.00%								
Agree	(5)	23	46.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	23	46.00%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
50/68 (73.53%)	5.38	0.64	5.00	637	5.17	0.93	5.00	173	5.22	0.91	5.00

### 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)	1	2.00%								
Disagree	(2)	1	2.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	4.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	8	16.00%								
Agree	(5)	16	32.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	22	44.00%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
50/68 (73.53%)	5.06	1.13	5.00	636	4.64	1.39	5.00	173	4.82	1.25	5.00

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Response Rate: 50/68 (73.53 %)

**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)	0	0.00%		5.20	5.16	5.17		Question	College	Department	
Disagree		(2)	1	2.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	12.00%									
Agree		(5)	21	42.00%									
Strongly agree		(6)	21	42.00%									
					02550100								
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
50/68 (73.53%)		5.20	0.88	5.00	635	5.16	0.99	5.00	172	5.17	1.02	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)	0	0.00%		5.22	5.19	5.26		Question	College	Department	
Disagree		(2)	1	2.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	12.00%									
Agree		(5)	23	46.00%									
Strongly agree		(6)	20	40.00%									
					02550100								
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
50/68 (73.53%)		5.22	0.82	5.00	633	5.19	0.98	5.00	172	5.26	0.89	5.00	

**9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.**

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%		5.24	5.26	5.17						
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.04%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	12.24%										
Agree		(5)	22	44.90%										
Strongly agree		(6)	20	40.82%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
49/68 (72.06%)		5.24	0.75	5.00	685		5.26	1.02	6.00	182		5.17	1.04	5.00

**10 - I learned to apply principles from this course to new situations.**

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%										
Disagree		(2)	2	4.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	5	10.00%										
Agree		(5)	22	44.00%										
Strongly agree		(6)	21	42.00%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
50/68 (73.53%)		5.20	0.93	5.00	173		5.16	0.98	5.00	173		5.16	0.98	5.00