

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%										
					02550100	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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Summer II and III 2025 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2025

Response Rate: 50/68 (73.53 %)

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

Response Rate	37/68 (54.41%)
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- Answer questions at the end of the class, responded to emails very quickly.
- Constantly helped on piazza and answered questions.
- 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.
- Explained the concepts well and provided multiple examples
- He explained concepts well
- He explained everything very clearly, helping me better understand the material.
- He explained the abstract concepts very well, and there were animations as well.
- 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.
- 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.
- He offered to replace part of the exam score with attendance.
- He was able to allow people to stay on call after zoom session for the office hours.
- He was always prepared and always seemed to know what he was talking about.
- He was patient and understanding, and always willing to explain things a hundred times in different ways to help.
- He went over the topics really well and tried to compare to other things that we could relate to and understand better
- He would go over the details well
- His lectures were awesome
- I like how long he stayed during the after class office hours, it really let us ask questions and get answers.
- I like how the OpenDSA was set up; it forced me to go through the textbook.
- Not a lecture thing, but in OpenDSA seeing the models of the topics was useful
- Online lectures, office hours, flexibility, extra credit, and talked about the projects in class.
- piazza assistance was very helpful
- 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.
- Provide zoom videos, lecture notes, active in piazza, and helpful guidance
- Provided a lot of resources and was very responsive to student questions
- provided recordings of all lectures
- recorded the lessons
- The forum that we could ask our peers questions about assignments.
- The instructor having office hours immediatly after class was very helpful for questions and for getting help on the projects.
- 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.
- 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.
- The recorded lectures and the piazza responses were very helpful. I was able to fit the class in with my full time job
- The timely feedback on Piazza was incredibly helpful.
- Thoroughly explained concepts, was very helpful in office hours, available to students.
- ur the best thanks Mr Hlcks
- Very quick communication
- Was very active on Piazza for questions and answered questions during class time as well.
- Went over the notes well.

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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%		5.29	5.23	5.27				
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%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
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%												
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%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
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		

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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 %)

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate	38/68 (55.88%)
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- 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.
- As the semester went on I found it hard to focus in class because I felt I had to be working on the projects.
- Asked more questions
- be a better student
- Be more actively listenin gin class
- Be more attentive in class
- Better note taking during lecture
- Finished the milestone on time, like there were supposed to be.
- go to class more
- Gone to the office hours.
- 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.
- I could have done the OpenDSA with the lectures rather than waiting until close to the deadlines
- I could have gone to office hours more for clarification on projects and advice.
- I could have paid more attention in the lectures
- I could have started my final project sooner and not procrastinated.
- I could have structured my time better while studying and working on projects. I was a little disorganized in tackling the coursework.
- I could have taken more notes on the homeworks and studies them more.
- I could of participated more in class with the comments
- I could've took more time when reading textbook.
- I should have allocated my time better.
- 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.
- 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.
- Joined more classes
- Make learning more fun so that everybody can learn with more interest.
- More time with TAs
- Not procrastinated the projects and started earlier to make my life easier
- Nothing
- Participated more in in-class questions
- pay more attention during the lectures
- Review the animations.
- Started on projects earlier
- Started the projects earlier
- Study more before the exams
- Take better notes during class
- Taken better notes during class
- Took notes while in class
- Watched additional lectures on youtube.
- 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.

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

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Response Rate	25/68 (36.76%)
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- ...
- 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 book 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.

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means											
Very Bad				(1)	0	0.00%													
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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Summer II and III 2025 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

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

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2025

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%					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%						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%					Question	College	Department	
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							
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%					Question	College	Department			
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									
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

Virginia Tech

Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate: 39/45 (86.67 %)

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)	2	5.13%		5.26		5.31		5.18			
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	1	2.56%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	3	7.69%									
Agree				(5)	10	25.64%									
Strongly agree				(6)	23	58.97%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.26	1.25	6.00	24647		5.31	1.01	6.00	4508		5.18	1.09	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)	2	5.13%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	7.69%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	7.69%									
Agree		(5)	14	35.90%									
Strongly agree		(6)	17	43.59%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.00	1.30	5.00	24466	5.14	1.15	5.00	4455	5.05	1.20	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)	2	5.13%									
Disagree				(2)	1	2.56%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	1	2.56%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	5	12.82%									
Agree				(5)	9	23.08%									
Strongly agree				(6)	21	53.85%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.08	1.36	6.00	24446		5.10	1.17	5.00	4459		5.02	1.19	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)	1	2.56%		5.51		5.41		5.31					
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	1	2.56%											
Agree		(5)	12	30.77%											
Strongly agree		(6)	25	64.10%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.51	0.91	6.00	24424		5.41	0.95	6.00	4451		5.31	1.02	6.00	

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Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report:CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate:39/45 (86.67 %)

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)	2	5.13%											
Disagree		(2)	1	2.56%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	7.69%											
Agree		(5)	13	33.33%											
Strongly agree		(6)	20	51.28%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.15	1.29	6.00	24242		5.13	1.18	5.00	4407		5.02	1.23	5.00	

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

Response Rate	24/45 (53.33%)
<div><div><div>• Answer questions during class and office hours</div><div>• At the beginning of the semester, I was struggling with the class and considered dropping it only to retake it in the following semester. This caused a great deal of stress and was frustrating as I continued to struggle throughout the course. After addressing my concerns about my performance and the potential outcome of the class with Professor Hicks, my Academic Advisor, and some of the TA's for assistance on the projects or the readings for better understanding, I was advised of my two options (1) persevere or (2) drop the class. I was encouraged by Professor Hicks to go with (1) and go to as many office hours (both his and the TA's) to get as much help as possible and that I what I did. Thus far I have managed to bring up my grade from a highly concerning F to a high C+. Professor Hicks was mindful of the stress and pressure I was under to do well in this class and took the time to explain things in a way that I was able to grasp and understand them. Thank you!</div><div>• clear explanation of the topic</div><div>• Fast response and clear explanation to all questions.</div><div>• Go through the clickable animation that demonstrates the concept.</div><div>• He explained the concept clearly and concisely and he provided real work examples and which structures were used in those cases.</div><div>• He was understanding of my accommodations and had helpful in class comments.</div><div>• he would take breaks to check on the chat to see if there were any questions asked, and would always answer them all very thoroughly</div><div>• He's responsive in his communication and clear in his feedback. He encourages asking questions and always gives his answers with patience and understanding.</div><div>• I certainly believe the projects were very helpful in developing a problem solving mindset.</div><div>• I would say it's the well-prepared materials and the structured schedule that helped me easily find resources and understand what I should do next.</div><div>• Instructor helped me to relate concepts to practical use cases. Assignments provided by instructor are very helpful to improve myself to be efficient in writing quality code by following principles and design patterns.</div><div>• Mandatory attendance was actually helpful for learning. It gave an incentive to go to class.</div><div>• Professor Hicks did a great job making the lectures engaging. He often provided examples/metaphors for topics outside CS to relate to whatever we were learning at the time, and I found those examples to really help me understand and remember that material. Professor Hicks provides a welcoming environment for his students, and I was never afraid to ask questions. I really enjoyed his class.</div><div>• Professor Hicks was very good at student interaction during lectures (and via piazza and email). He gave good answers or hints as needed, and presented the content of the class clearly. His exams and projects are designed to show how well you can apply the material, rather than rote memorization.</div><div>• Provided an interactive and educational environment which allowed for everyone to feel comfortable to ask questions (and responding to the questions as soon as possible was very helpful)</div><div>• Quick response times and office hours helped me identify what I didn't understand in a way I can understand better.</div><div>• self-learning projects! well done!</div><div>• The instructor is very patient with in-class question. And good at giving big picture about the projects and share useful project management experience</div><div>• The instructor went through the design document of the project, which helped me to understand more about the project</div><div>• The office hours were crucial and were very helpful in debugging the project and determining where in your project code should be worked on</div><div>• Unfortunately, I did not feel like this course or this professor ever took much of an interest in fostering a productive learning environment outside of just reading through the prepared slides for each lecture.</div><div>• Very helpful during office hours</div><div>• Was prompt and clear.</div></div></div>	

Virginia Tech
Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate: 39/45 (86.67 %)

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)	2	5.13%	<div><div></div></div>								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%	<div><div></div></div>								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	2.56%	<div><div></div></div>								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	7.69%	<div><div></div></div>								
Agree	(5)	15	38.46%	<div><div></div></div>								
Strongly agree	(6)	18	46.15%	<div><div></div></div>								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)	5.13	1.22	5.00	22731	5.19	1.04	5.00	4379	5.13	1.06	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)	5	13.16%	<div><div></div></div>								
Disagree	(2)	1	2.63%	<div><div></div></div>								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	5.26%	<div><div></div></div>								
Somewhat agree	(4)	9	23.68%	<div><div></div></div>								
Agree	(5)	11	28.95%	<div><div></div></div>								
Strongly agree	(6)	10	26.32%	<div><div></div></div>								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
38/45 (84.44%)	4.32	1.63	5.00	22595	4.98	1.24	5.00	4343	4.91	1.30	5.00	

Virginia Tech

Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report:CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate:39/45 (86.67 %)

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate23/45 (51.11%)

- apply the concepts with different cases
- attend more office hours to discuss the project
- Better familiarize myself with the terminology associated with this course. Prior to this course, I have only had 12 weeks of coding experience with Java from the VT Java Bridge Program.
- Go to office hours more, ask in class questions
- I certainly could've communicated more and used more of the resources available to me in my first project's time period, but that's about it.
- I could have completed the openDSA assignment much earlier
- I could have done a better job at consistently keeping up with the Open DSA
- I could have kept up with the material better, completing the OpenDSA chapters before class as is recommended would have been helpful.
- I could have put in more hours for the coursework
- I could've kept up more with the OpenDSA's
- I feel I went above and beyond to foster an environment in which I would be able to learn this material with no success. I will elaborate further below. My answer will be split up between this box and the next due to character limits. 4B: I have so many comments about this course I have had to spend quite a bit of time just distilling them down into something that I think has a chance to be read by whoever goes over these surveys. They are organized in 4 main categories: Projects, Piazza, TA/Office Hours, and Instructors. First, the interactions on Piazza were infuriating and I eventually gave up even trying to get support from there. When instructors didn't just flat out refuse to answer questions, they would answer questions with conflicting information. Rather than understanding that piazza is an asynchronous form of communication and therefore, much slower than a normal conversation, and answering questions directly, instead would constantly reply with short, unclear answers or would tell you to "read the spec" or "consult an OpenDSA section" as if we hadn't done that dozens of times. If "reading the spec" would solve my problem, I wouldn't need to go back and forth on Piazza trying to squeeze a drop of an answer out of the staff for hours. Second, The TAs/Office Hours were completely useless. To be clear, I don't fully fault the TAs for this as I'm sure they are just students too and aren't paid to know all of the answers the way the instructors are. However, I went to office hours for help on projects multiple times and I never once received actual help on my problems. After waiting for up to 2-3 hours in a queue to see someone, this is very frustrating. They either did not understand the project they were meant to help us on or didn't understand the solution code they had been given. At one point I had to explain to a TA how the code worked (not MY code, mind you. The STARTER code) before I could even ask my question, by which point I had completely lost faith in their ability to help me. After spending most of the time walking through my code with them, the overwhelming response was "All of this looks good I don't know why it's not working". And then they would say they have to move on to help someone else. Finally, there were multiple instances of TAs just not showing up to their listed hours and there were multiple times where a TA said they were going to put me into a breakout room, help someone else, and then come back to help me and they just never returned.
- I think I did pretty well.
- I'm the best learner
- It will be better if I have some background with Java to learn this course.
- Maybe I could have spent more time delving deeper into data structures and algorithms, as they are essential for our future careers.
- Put more time into the projects
- Spent more time on the projects earlier in the semester.
- Spent more time studying. Unfortunately my other class took precedence.
- Take advantage of the TA office hours as soon as the project is issued. Take time to thoroughly review the project background and requirements before starting the actual work
- Taken an in-person section if possible. I have a lot of trouble focusing during online lectures
- To be able to practice the concepts more, it's challenging to do that when projects take up so much time to complete that that often gets chosen over the other.
- tried to follow more closely with the class timeline with openDSA
- Try to understand the open DSA questions better rather than continuously answering the questions until I get them right

Response Rate	22/45 (48.89%)
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Virginia Tech

Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate: 39/45 (86.67 %)

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%		5.33	5.30	5.25						
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%										
Poor		(3)	1	2.56%										
Fair		(4)	4	10.26%										
Good		(5)	15	38.46%										
Very Good		(6)	19	48.72%										
					02550100	Question		College					Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
39/45 (86.67%)		5.33	0.77	5.00	22489		5.30	0.87	5.00	4328		5.25	0.90	5.00


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

Response Rate 16/45 (35.56%)

- -
- I had no issues about this
- My class was virtual so it was on me to find a quiet and distraction free. No issues with audio or video.
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A - the class is Online
- n/a, course was online. Though the virtual features of the course (zoom, myDigitalHand) were good.
- N/A, online.
- NA
- No complaints. Was good.
- None
- There was no physical environment.
- This class was on Zoom.
- This is a virtual Class.
- Wish I could've taken lectures in person

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)	1	2.56%		5.23	5.13	5.06				
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	5	12.82%								
Agree		(5)	15	38.46%								
Strongly agree		(6)	18	46.15%								
					02550100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
39/45 (86.67%)		5.23	0.99	5.00	22628	5.13	1.01	5.00	4362	5.06	1.06	5.00

Virginia Tech

Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate: 39/45 (86.67 %)

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	2.56%											
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	7.69%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	7.69%											
Agree		(5)	11	28.21%											
Strongly agree		(6)	21	53.85%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.21	1.15	6.00	22524		4.70	1.38	5.00	4350		4.74	1.35	5.00	

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	2.56%											
Disagree		(2)	1	2.56%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	5.13%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	10.26%											
Agree		(5)	11	28.21%											
Strongly agree		(6)	20	51.28%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.13	1.22	6.00	22588		5.17	1.06	5.00	4352		5.05	1.13	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)	1	2.56%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.56%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	7.69%									
Agree		(5)	15	38.46%									
Strongly agree		(6)	19	48.72%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.26	1.02	5.00	22393	5.11	1.11	5.00	4322	5.08	1.11	5.00	

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

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	2.56%			5.21		5.31		5.16				
Disagree		(2)	1	2.56%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.56%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	5.13%											
Agree		(5)	15	38.46%											
Strongly agree		(6)	19	48.72%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/45 (86.67%)		5.21	1.13	5.00	24062		5.31	0.97	6.00	4389		5.16	1.04	5.00	

Virginia Tech

Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS5040_Fall_2024

Response Rate: 39/45 (86.67 %)

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

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	2.56%		5.21		5.10		5.10		
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	15.38%								
Agree		(5)	14	35.90%								
Strongly agree		(6)	18	46.15%								
					0 25 50 100	Question	College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
39/45 (86.67%)		5.21	1.00	5.00	4363	5.10	1.06	5.00	4363	5.10	1.06	5.00

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

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%		5.25	5.41	5.41
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	1.64%				
Somewhat agree	(4)	7	11.48%	■			
Agree	(5)	29	47.54%	■■■■			
Strongly agree	(6)	24	39.34%	■■■■■			
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median
61/73 (83.56%)	5.25	0.72	5.00	659	5.41	0.87	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.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.16	5.29	5.34
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat agree	(4)	11	18.03%	■			
Agree	(5)	29	47.54%	■■■■			
Strongly agree	(6)	21	34.43%	■■■■■			
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median
61/73 (83.56%)	5.16	0.71	5.00	655	5.29	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.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means		
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.03	5.23	5.22
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat agree	(4)	19	31.15%	■■			
Agree	(5)	21	34.43%	■■■			
Strongly agree	(6)	21	34.43%	■■■■			
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median
61/73 (83.56%)	5.03	0.82	5.00	651	5.23	1.04	6.00

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%		5.34	5.52	5.52
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%				
Somewhat agree	(4)	7	11.48%	■			
Agree	(5)	26	42.62%	■■■■			
Strongly agree	(6)	28	45.90%	■■■■■			
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median
61/73 (83.56%)	5.34	0.68	5.00	651	5.52	0.83	6.00

Virginia Tech

Summer II and III 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

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%											
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	15.52%											
Agree		(5)	30	51.72%											
Strongly agree		(6)	19	32.76%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
58/73 (79.45%)		5.17	0.68	5.00	647		5.28	1.01	6.00	295		5.33	0.87	6.00	

Virginia Tech

Summer II and III 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

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

Response Rate43/73 (58.9%)

- Allowing us to forego attendance helped immensely. I was juggling several classes at once for this Summer semester, so being able to go at my own pace was very beneficial.
- clear notes and help i piazza
- detailed explanation of class material and prompt answers on piazza
- Easily accessible and adjusted to students' needs.
- Explain content really well
- Flexibility for attendance
- Gave really detailed explanations in class and responded quickly when I reached out.
- good and engaging content
- good lectures
- Having a large selection of videos to go back to was great and much more helpful than lectures where I'd take my own notes.
- He always gave good feedback on the issues with my projects when I have asked about them.
- He explained things thoroughly and slowly.
- He gave detailed examples during lectures on whatever we were learning from the opensa passages, and I found that to be very helpful.
- He is very, very well spoken.
- He made sure he was available to answer all questions and replied quickly to any emails
- He made the class content easy to understand and encouraged students to enjoy learning coursework
- He provided helpful online resources to help understand the content.
- He provides clear explanations.
- He regularly hosted office hours and had an abundance of TA office hours to help us succeed and make sure someone was always available to provide assistance.
- He rescheduled finals when I was unable to attend the normal times due to work
- He was very approachable and amicable. He is very knowledgeable and helped guide you to the the answer to your problem instead of giving you the answer.
- I liked his explanations of course material beyond opensa
- I really liked that office hours were right after class.
- I struggled to attend office hours due to my schedule, and I really appreciated the hints on where to debug for my project that he would respond with in Piazza.
- I think the class slides were really nice to have, and the structuring of the projects were really helpful in understanding how to do them.
- Instructor was able to explain subjects matters and projects well.
- Lectures were nice
- n/a
- Office hours were helpful
- Office hours were very interactive
- Office hours.
- Provided many opportunities to ask questions during class and office hours
- Really liked how Alex Hicks took time to explain each project spec in detail during lecture. Also how he did not mind re explaining something again. Even if someone else asked & I didn't really understand (specifically via piazza and office hours). I have experienced a lot with previous professors (here at VT) that you can tell they get mad or catch a slight annoyance for this. Never once felt this with Mr. Hicks, which as a student coming to a professor I value a lot much. For a virtual summer class this was easy to follow with Mr.Hicks. I really appreciate the consistent canvas announcement reminders he would send out when we had important deadlines. Overall, 10/10 would recommend.
- recorded lectures
- Recorded lectures that could be viewed later to relearn tougher material
- The instructor asked questions which helped make classes more engaging.
- The instructor provided a very flexible schedule to be able to ask questions in office hours, and other modes of communication to clearly communicate the coursework.
- The instructor was incredibly in depth about everything.
- The office hours were helpful, had my questions answered well whenever I was stuck.
- The Open DSA was very helpful in learning some topics
- was flexible during the summer as I was working
- Was very responsive via email/
- Whenever I had questions, he was able to reach back to in a timely manner and help troubleshoot anything I was having trouble with. Apart from that, his lecture recordings have also been very useful to help relearn and absorb the material. He also explains the content very well and always kept us updated on any deadlines and important dates that were coming up, and it allowed me to be sure that I was on track to making good progress.

Virginia Tech

Summer II and III 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

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%									
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	13	21.67%									
Agree		(5)	25	41.67%									
Strongly agree		(6)	22	36.67%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
60/73 (82.19%)		5.15	0.76	5.00	620	5.26	1.01	6.00	264	5.32	0.85	6.00	

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%											
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.33%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	18	30.00%											
Agree		(5)	21	35.00%											
Strongly agree		(6)	19	31.67%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
60/73 (82.19%)		4.95	0.87	5.00	619		5.02	1.16	5.00	264		5.06	1.05	5.00	

Virginia Tech

Summer II and III 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate	43/73 (58.9%)
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- attend more meetings
- Attended class
- Better paid attention during class time
- do homework and projects earlier
- focus on lectures better
- Given myself a lot more time since it was summer course.
- Gone to class
- I could have attended more lectures and Office Hours
- I could have been more attentive at the zoom meetings and participated more.
- I could have been more attentive in class and followed along with the Zoom polls.
- I could have payed attention more.
- I could have read the opensda passages before each class.
- I could have read the textbook (did OpenDSA) assignments as the subjects were being taught in class.
- I could have spent more time understand the material more fully, although it was challenging as it was a remote summer course.
- I could have started my projects a lot earlier
- I could've paid more attention to the lectures.
- I could've reviewed the open dsa textbook before class.
- I made a mistake in choosing a partner for a project which worsened my grade but made sure to bounce back for the end of the course.
- I needed to start earlier on the projects
- I personally got overwhelmed by the projects very easily, by looking at them holistically instead of breaking them down into smaller problems. This is a bad habit of mine, and something I intend on correcting.
- I should have been doing the OpenDSA assignments more in line with when we did the subjects in class.
- I think I could have taken notes, which I wasn't sure because i didn't need to in 2114. I also think I could have payed attention more in class. I think it considering the lectures are more about process, it is more of a class that I should have taken in person.
- I was a bit lazy at times and I could've gotten started on my projects earlier.
- I would have revised what I have learned in the textbook thoroughly and continue to search and work on more practice problems to be better prepared for the exams.
- If I actually did the OpenDSA on schedule, I would have learned it better than just cramming.
- If I did the OpenDSA while doing the projects instead of doing everything at the end
- Instead of attendance by exam i couldve done normal attendance but i ended up getting a job which didnt allow me to do this
- Just need better time management on my end, was good at first but towards end started to slip slightly. Also I took this class during my summer internship. It's doable but you have to be sharp, start projects early. Highly recommending note taking the lectures where you go over project spe, in full detail. With timestamps of where information was said, so that you can reference for later.
- Made more time to study the textbook
- Manage my time better.
- n/a
- Nothing.
- Online learning does have more distractions
- Open DSA was pretty buggy, I lost points on chapters not working for me, but I also left those for the last day so that can be on me as well.
- Paid a little more attention
- Paid attention in class
- Practice coding often!
- Spent more time per day learning the content than diving right into the projects.
- Starting projects earlier
- Starting the projects early and not missing the milestones
- time management
- virtual classes are hard for me in general, but I think he did a good job of making it a smooth process
- Work harder on the projects.

Summer II and III 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

Response Rate	29/73 (39.73%)
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- great work!
- Had a good summer semester.
- He explains the material very well that is easy to follow and understand the content. He is also very helpful on helping people troubleshoot things on projects and assignments and answers emails in a timely manner. Every time I need clarification on things, I could always approach him for ask questions and concerns and get them answered in a timely fashion.
- He provided lots of bonus pt opportunities.
- He was good over all
- He was very good at explaining the content and making it easy to understand.
- He was very helpful and very responsive in the piazza, and made the course easier to understand in the short amount of time that we had.
- I hope there would be extra points for achiving milestones on projects
- I like how the projects were 50% of the grade. I do believe though that adding more CodeWorkout exercises as part of the homework would be helpful for understanding the material better. The textbook did well with helping me visualize what the data structures were doing, but I feel like I was lacking understanding on their exact implementation.
- I think open dsa was really wordy and hard to understand. I think recording lectures would help more because watching an explanation in real life is always more effective and going through slides. I also think that the beggining of the course was too much of a review of 2114 and it sort of became difficult to understand how to manage the class like notes, hw, etc, becuase the beggining felt too much like review.
- I think responsiveness on Piazza and/or more accessible TA hours would've been very helpful, especially on project due date days. There was a day where I posted a question on piazza the day of submission probably about 6 hours before it was due and didnt get a response until the next day passed the second 12 hour late period. so I was not able to improve my project at risk of getting a lower score
- Love professor Alex!
- N/A
- n/a
- N/A
- n/a
- n/a
- n/a
- N/A
- N/A
- No complaints keep up the good work.
- Not directed at the professor since its not his fault But the course having a broken DSA for the whole semester is extremely frustrating
- Overall, I think the class was well-taught and the course material/assignments were spaced out reasonably.
- The class was very enjoyable and filled with valuable information.
- Trying to get credit with OpenDSA was frustrating and sometimes it would not load properly. The requirements in some of the docs for the project were unclear (Sample output had errors) and WebCat tests gave little to no feedback.
- Very friendly and knowledgeable
- very helpful, understanding, cares about his students
- Very professional.

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)	15	25.42%												
Good				(5)	27	45.76%												
Very Good				(6)	17	28.81%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
59/73 (80.82%)		5.03	0.74	5.00	607		5.34	0.85	6.00	261		5.38	0.74	6.00				

Virginia Tech

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

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)	0	0.00%										
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	12	20.34%										
Agree		(5)	29	49.15%										
Strongly agree		(6)	18	30.51%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
59/73 (80.82%)		5.10	0.71	5.00	616		4.80	1.26	5.00	263		4.94	1.07	5.00

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)	0	0.00%		5.05	5.29	5.28						
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.45%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	11	18.97%										
Agree		(5)	27	46.55%										
Strongly agree		(6)	18	31.03%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
58/73 (79.45%)		5.05	0.80	5.00	618		5.29	0.91	6.00	262		5.28	0.83	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)	1	1.72%		5.14	5.18	5.31								
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	10	17.24%												
Agree				(5)	25	43.10%												
Strongly agree				(6)	22	37.93%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
58/73 (79.45%)		5.14	0.91	5.00	605		5.18	1.06	5.00	259		5.31	0.90	6.00				

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

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree				(1)	0	0.00%		5.17	5.39	5.40					
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	1	1.67%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	10	16.67%									
Agree				(5)	27	45.00%									
Strongly agree				(6)	22	36.67%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
60/73 (82.19%)		5.17	0.76	5.00	647		5.39	0.84	6.00	295	5.40	0.74	6.00		

Virginia Tech

Summer II and III 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Report: CS3114_5040_Summer_2024

Response Rate: 61/73 (83.56 %)

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)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	3.33%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	10	16.67%								
Agree		(5)	31	51.67%								
Strongly agree		(6)	17	28.33%								
					02550100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
60/73 (82.19%)		5.05	0.77	5.00	264	5.30	0.87	5.00	264	5.30	0.87	5.00

Virginia Tech



Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_4104_13401_202401: Data and Algorithm Analysis-CS_4104_13401_202401
Instructor: Alex Hicks *
Response Rate: 40/46 (86.96 %)

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

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%		5.28	5.30	5.22		6.00	4511	5.22	1.03	5.00
Disagree		(2)	1	2.56%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	4	10.26%										
Agree		(5)	16	41.03%										
Strongly agree		(6)	18	46.15%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
39/46 (84.78%)		5.28	0.86	5.00	20951	5.30	1.03	6.00	4511	5.22	1.03	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.

Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%										
Disagree		(2)	1	2.56%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	7.69%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	6	15.38%										
Agree		(5)	16	41.03%										
Strongly agree		(6)	13	33.33%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
39/46 (84.78%)		4.95	1.02	5.00	20794	5.12	1.19	6.00	4476	5.06	1.16	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.

Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means										
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%			4.97		5.09		5.00					
Disagree		(2)	1	2.56%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.56%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	23.08%												
Agree		(5)	15	38.46%												
Strongly agree		(6)	13	33.33%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
39/46 (84.78%)		4.97	0.96	5.00	20801		5.09	1.20	5.00	4488		5.00	1.23	5.00		

Virginia Tech

Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_4104_13401_202401: Data and Algorithm Analysis-CS_4104_13401_202401

Instructor: Alex Hicks *

Response Rate: 40/46 (86.96 %)

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.

Alex Hicks

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	2.56%								
Agree		(5)	13	33.33%								
Strongly agree		(6)	25	64.10%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
39/46 (84.78%)	5.62	0.54	6.00	20781	5.38	0.99	6.00	4476	5.31	1.01	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.

Alex Hicks

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree				(1)	0	0.00%								
Disagree				(2)	1	2.56%								
Somewhat disagree				(3)	2	5.13%								
Somewhat agree				(4)	4	10.26%								
Agree				(5)	18	46.15%								
Strongly agree				(6)	14	35.90%								
							0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
39/46 (84.78%)		5.08	0.96	5.00	20662		5.11	1.22	5.00	4459		5.01	1.23	5.00

Virginia Tech

Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_4104_13401_202401: Data and Algorithm Analysis-CS_4104_13401_202401

Instructor: Alex Hicks *

Response Rate: 40/46 (86.96 %)

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

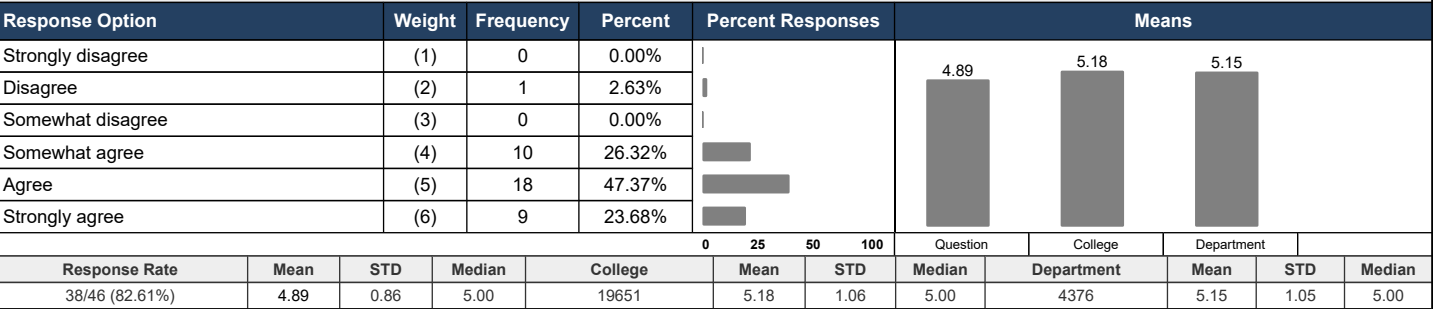
Alex Hicks

Response Rate 26/46 (56.52%)

- He checked if students had questions or thoughts on the subject matter in general.
- good
- Loved the type of problems we went over in lectures and on the homeworks, I found them super interesting. I like how they weren't just copy and pasted from Leetcode, they were real-world problems and sometimes abstract. They really made me think. I felt like I could pay attention and follow along in the lectures and that they were engaging, even for an 8 am. The courseload wasn't overwhelming, but we definitely had to start the homeworks early and use office hours a couple of times.
- Posted the slides online and was always available during office hours
- Answered questions
- He went in-depth in working on problems during class, which helped for exams on how to think.
- I liked his grading scale, and it definitely helped me with working hard in the class
- Post the slides for after class review and studying.
- The homework had good questions on them that helped reinforce what I learned in class
- Upload all presentations online
- Related what we were covering to the real world; covered why these things we were learning are important as computer science students.
- He was very well prepared for class material, and he has been ready to answer questions from the students.
- He explained things clearly and seemed to know the material well.
- Professor Hicks was very kind and not strict. I've found that I learn most effectively in classes where I don't feel a ton of pressure to do some crazy hard assignment and where there's harsh grading on difficult concepts. He made the content accessible and encouraged learning through his grading style. I felt encouraged to attend lecture and study, but not forced, which makes a huge difference.
- Had multiple options in how we can learn and how we can go about class.
- Make the powerpoint more readable
- The Abominal Snowman game really helped me understand the adversary argument. I think more examples like that would help us learn the material.
- Share notes, and give plenty of time for homeworks
- The professor reply email very quick.
- Hands on assignments
- He was very helpful after/outside of class when I had trouble understanding complicated concepts.
- Made the material relevant to what he tested us on, and the homeworks reflected what he expected us to know which was very helpful
- He had very extensive slides and we could tell he understood a lot about the subject, which made it easy to ask clarifying questions.
- Posting the lecture notes online when I was unable to attend class made falling behind much less likely for me.
- Giving constructive feedback and modifying the structure of the class to fit the students taking it.
- The professor provided comprehensive notes.

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.



Virginia Tech

Virginia Tech

Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_4104_13401_202401: Data and Algorithm Analysis-CS_4104_13401_202401

Instructor: Alex Hicks *

Response Rate: 40/46 (86.96 %)


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

Alex Hicks

Response Rate 21/46 (45.65%)

- good
- I know that Alex Hicks is a graduate student and it was an 8 am class, however, it was clear to me that he did not understand some of the material he was supposed to be teaching us. He said that the slides were not his and it was apparent that he did not read (at least some of them) ahead of time. Therefore, he spent a lot of time reading off of the slides and speaker notes, which I found to be a very ineffective teaching strategy. It was hard to pay attention, especially when he made some fairly egregious mistakes when working examples, because I felt like I could learn better if I just read the slides on my own time and spent the remaining time reading the textbook or OpenDSA. So that's what I did during class time because attendance was part of our grade. Please do not let any lecturer use attendance to directly affect grades. Whether that's through the obvious "attendance quiz" scheme or the less obvious "pop quizzes" strategy. If a class is discussion based or something like senior design where you need to work with your group that's different, but in general I have never enjoyed a lecture-based course with mandatory attendance.
- Would love to take more courses from Professor Hicks in the future. This was one of my favorite classes I've taken at the school so far, I like how algorithm and math oriented the problems were. I feel like he presented the material in a clear and engaging way and it really made the class enjoyable to go to.
- The way the math is presented on the slides is hard to follow sometimes, which left me confused on how to solve some problems.
- Very good teacher
- None
- Good professor and great educator, just sometimes the course was a little "boring" from the subject matter itself.
- Great class, great professor, just found it hard waking up at 8am for class every week.
- At a point studying for quizzes were difficult as those questions were heavily based on problem solving abilities.
- Thank you so much
- It was difficult to stay engaged because it was 8am and it was a more traditional lecture so I wasn't always paying attention
- Great class, great professor!
- Honestly loved the class. I think its worth waking up for the most part at 8am
- N/A
- I think more explanations in the slides might have been good, so it would be easier to understand what was going on when reviewing the material.
- N/A
- He was a great professor!
- if there are sample exams would be better.
- Sometimes he explained things in the slide when I wish he wrote out more logic visually on the board. Some things were hard to understand when I didn't know where the math came from. But overall a well structured class.
- Prof. Hicks was an absolute pleasure to learn from. Smart guy.
- I felt that the course material taught in class was tangentially related to our homework and quizzes. It often felt like the materials we were assessed on were entirely different from those we were learning during class. I also felt like the in-class presentation materials were too closely adapted from OpenDSA, and while I appreciate the more technical approach it takes, I would have liked the slides to focus more on concise explanations of the concepts with alternative examples and explanations. This would have allowed OpenDSA to serve as an additional resource; instead I felt like it was so similar to the presentation material that studying both was pointless, so I prioritized the more comprehensive OpenDSA materials.

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)	1	2.56%		5.26		5.27		5.22				
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%										
Poor		(3)	0	0.00%										
Fair		(4)	4	10.26%										
Good		(5)	16	41.03%										
Very Good		(6)	18	46.15%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
39/46 (84.78%)		5.26	0.97	5.00	19473		5.27	0.91	5.00	4334		5.22	0.95	5.00

Virginia Tech

Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_4104_13401_202401: Data and Algorithm Analysis-CS_4104_13401_202401

Instructor: Alex Hicks *

Response Rate: 40/46 (86.96 %)

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

Response Rate 17/46 (36.96%)

- good
- Good classroom.
- It was an 8am class
- All good!
- good environment for the course and amount of students.
- Class was scheduled too early in the morning
- Good, standard classroom
- Good
- Pretty good
- environment was fine, easy to read screen and hear him
- nothing it seems chill
- N/A
- N/A
- Bad time and too far
- Slightly cold all the time
- that was good
- N/A

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)	9	23.08%										
Agree		(5)	18	46.15%										
Strongly agree		(6)	12	30.77%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
39/46 (84.78%)		5.08	0.74	5.00	19602		5.15	1.01	5.00	4359		5.12	1.00	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)	4	10.26%											
Disagree				(2)	3	7.69%											
Somewhat disagree				(3)	7	17.95%											
Somewhat agree				(4)	8	20.51%											
Agree				(5)	8	20.51%											
Strongly agree				(6)	9	23.08%											
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median			
39/46 (84.78%)		4.03	1.61	4.00	19499		4.73	1.37	5.00	4334		4.79	1.33	5.00			

Virginia Tech

Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_4104_13401_202401: Data and Algorithm Analysis-CS_4104_13401_202401
Instructor: Alex Hicks *
Response Rate: 40/46 (86.96 %)

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%	<div><div></div></div>	<div><div>5.21</div><div>5.16</div><div>5.08</div></div>							
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	17.95%									
Agree		(5)	17	43.59%									
Strongly agree		(6)	15	38.46%									
					02550100	Question	College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
39/46 (84.78%)		5.21	0.73	5.00	19538	5.16	1.08	5.00	4345		5.08	1.09	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%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	2	5.13%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	23.08%												
Agree		(5)	14	35.90%												
Strongly agree		(6)	14	35.90%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
39/46 (84.78%)		5.03	0.90	5.00	19377		5.11	1.12	5.00	4298		5.08	1.13	5.00		

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

Alex Hicks

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree				(1)	0	0.00%									
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	1	2.56%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	4	10.26%									
Agree				(5)	17	43.59%									
Strongly agree				(6)	17	43.59%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/46 (84.78%)		5.28	0.76	5.00	20554		5.31	0.98	6.00	4420		5.16	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)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	2.56%											
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	17.95%											
Agree		(5)	19	48.72%											
Strongly agree		(6)	12	30.77%											
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
39/46 (84.78%)		5.08	0.77	5.00	4371		5.12	1.05	5.00	4371		5.12	1.05	5.00	

Virginia Tech


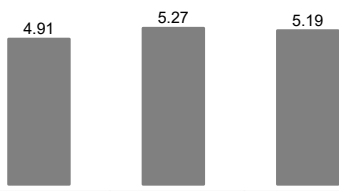
Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301
Instructor: Alex Hicks *
Response Rate: 56/67 (83.58 %)

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

1A - The instructor was well prepared.


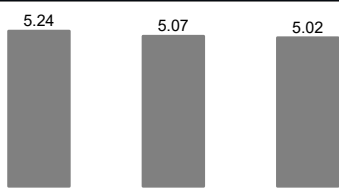
Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1.82%									
Disagree		(2)	2	3.64%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	4	7.27%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	16.36%									
Agree		(5)	17	30.91%									
Strongly agree		(6)	22	40.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
55/67 (82.09%)		4.91	1.22	5.00	20791	5.27	1.05	6.00	4364	5.19	1.09	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.

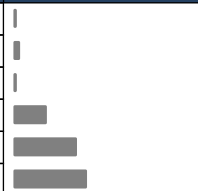
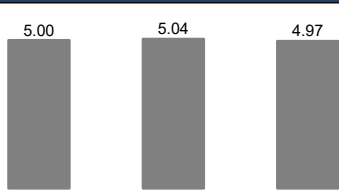
Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1.85%									
Disagree		(2)	1	1.85%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	7	12.96%									
Agree		(5)	18	33.33%									
Strongly agree		(6)	27	50.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
54/67 (80.60%)		5.24	1.03	5.50	20640	5.07	1.21	5.00	4322	5.02	1.24	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.

Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1.82%										
Disagree		(2)	2	3.64%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.82%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	10	18.18%										
Agree		(5)	19	34.55%										
Strongly agree		(6)	22	40.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College		Department		
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
55/67 (82.09%)		5.00	1.14	5.00	20641		5.04	1.24	5.00	4321		4.97	1.26	5.00

Virginia Tech


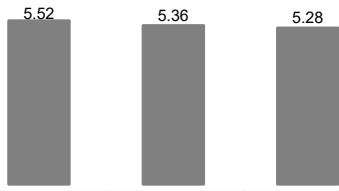
Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301
Instructor: Alex Hicks *
Response Rate: 56/67 (83.58 %)

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.


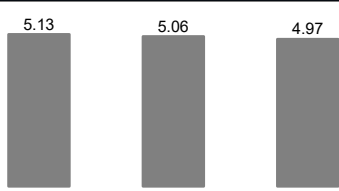
Alex Hicks

Response Option		Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means										
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1.85%												
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%												
Somewhat agree		(4)	3	5.56%												
Agree		(5)	15	27.78%												
Strongly agree		(6)	35	64.81%												
					0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median		
54/67 (80.60%)		5.52	0.86	6.00	20631		5.36	1.02	6.00	4310		5.28	1.08	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.

Alex Hicks

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree				(1)	1	1.82%								
Disagree				(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree				(3)	3	5.45%								
Somewhat agree				(4)	9	16.36%								
Agree				(5)	16	29.09%								
Strongly agree				(6)	26	47.27%								
							0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
55/67 (82.09%)		5.13	1.07	5.00	20542		5.06	1.25	5.00	4293	4.97	1.30	5.00	

Virginia Tech

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course:CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301

Instructor:Alex Hicks *

Response Rate:56/67 (83.58 %)

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

Alex Hicks

Response Rate42/67 (62.69%)

- The assignments did help me learn a little bit about some new software.
- He is very kind and helpful
- N/A
- At times the instructor felt somewhat unprepared mostly in regard to the project, but given the circumstances, it is understandable as to why.
- Provide lecture slides.
- Used great slides that described different topics within Software design and provided real world examples on how they could be applied.
- Clearly explained everything in details.
- I enjoyed the level of enthusiasm that the professor brought to each class and how he related the material to practical uses.
- Gave good lectures that are going to be useful in the future. Have always been helpful if I ran into a issue with assignments.
- Absolutely nothing at all.
- Responded to my emails really quickly, and cleared doubts well.
- I like his style of teaching class, but I would like to have more project working with my classmate.
- Post the notes online and gave very detailed lectures.
- I liked that he made his quizzes fairly straightforward and how they were like a review of the notes in class. He also would let us know of one coming up so that we had time to prepare.
- He was very insightful and went in to very great detail about every aspect of the class material
- Professor Hicks was always looking for ways to improve the course and was passionate about teaching and the students learning. This helped keep the lectures feeling alive and interesting.
- Quizzes
- I really like how we learned about real life development cycles. I thought it was really cool getting to learn about Agile.
- Very understanding and helpful.
- He connected everything being taught to real life scenarios to make the connection better when discussing some complex topics.
- Teach about real world scenarios that most computer science students will go through at some point.
- The hands-on part of the group projects.
- Professor had excellent knowledge of the subject material and conveyed it well. He took time to help students with assignments or any concerns after class.
- He provided clear material of what was discussed in class for our review. He made it clear what the objective of each topic was and how it could be theoretically be applied in real world applications.
- setup
- He explained things very well and was able to keep me interested in what he was talking about. He felt very relatable and like he knew what he was talking about rather than being a robot and reading directly off of the slides.
- He was very understanding of every student and provided a safe class environment. The slides presented in class definitely helped students with future quizzes and assignments.
- He would always post the notes and let us know when quizzes were, which was super helpful.
- I thought his lectures were really good, and taught about modern technologies. He would say for example, "This technology has seen a emergence in this field."
- I think the contents of the slide were super helpful because they discussed tactics used in the workforce, which is not something covered about in-depth in the CS core curriculum at the moment. It very much prepares you for what it's like to be in the workforce.
- He did a great job giving examples and specific real world applications and scenarios.
- He really made teaching personalized by teaching classes no matter the size, as the population started to dwindle towards the end of the semester
- The instructor provided a lot of material and explanations from the powerpoint presentation which helped be understand a lot about software design.
- The presentation slides he had prepared for each class really helped me to conceptualize the advanced programming topics we were learning about.
- He broke down the lectures quite easily and even provided a syllabus in which he stuck to, throughout the entire semester. This made it easy to follow and definitely helped my learning experience in the class.
- Provide examples
- He explained concepts well during class.
- I think Dr.Hicks was incredibly patient with students and cared more about the fact that we learnt the material properly than most professors. He made sure we got our assignments done but also provided ample support when we were struggling. Overall I would recommend this class to my peers in the future! Thank you again!
- Gave great lectures
- Professor clearly communicated with students and presented material and an easy way to understand.
- Explained concepts in a way that was easy to grasp.
- The most inspiring thing I have heard from Professor Hicks is that students struggle with Development Operation skills. I am now trying to distinguish myself from other students by learning how to use tools to improve work flow.

Virginia Tech

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301
Instructor: Alex Hicks *
Response Rate: 56/67 (83.58 %)

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%			4.88	5.14	5.08				
Disagree	(2)	1	1.79%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	3.57%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	12	21.43%	■								
Agree	(5)	24	42.86%	■								
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	
56/67 (83.58%)	4.88	1.05	5.00	19646	5.14	1.09	5.00	4195	5.08	1.14	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%			4.80	4.89	4.84				
Disagree	(2)	3	5.56%	■								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	4	7.41%	■								
Somewhat agree	(4)	12	22.22%	■								
Agree	(5)	17	31.48%	■								
Strongly agree	(6)	18	33.33%	■								
					0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
54/67 (80.60%)	4.80	1.16	5.00	19561	4.89	1.32	5.00	4175	4.84	1.36	5.00	

Virginia Tech

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course:CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301

Instructor:Alex Hicks *

Response Rate:56/67 (83.58 %)

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate38/67 (56.72%)

- I could have paid better attention in class, but in my defense, there was no actual incentive to try to learn the content.
- Nothing
- be better with deadlines
- Attended office hours more often.
- Go further in depth via extra materials and readings.
- Spend more time on course materials.
- I could have done more research after classes to better understand some of the real life applications from the material.
- Come to class more often
- Nothing at all, the course was presented in a way that discouraged learning.
- I found the subject matter of the course interesting because I am currently working in industry and the course covers a lot of the basics. The course covers a lot of the core subjects which are important to always be refreshed on. However the importance of these core subjects (ie. testing, mono service, micro services) is only apparent if someone has hands on experience. For example the importance of testing is not obvious if someone has only worked on solo projects or small group projects that only last a few weeks. However, after working on a large application along with multiple teams of engineers the importance of testing becomes much more obvious. I would suggest adding demonstrations to the course to show the importance of each topic. Maybe the demonstrations don't even have to be technical.
- Be more attentive during class.
- Start projects earlier and attend class more.
- I could have started some of the assignments earlier in order to learn better.
- It was a bit difficult for me to get invested in the course because there weren't really any places for me to apply the knowledge I received
- It might be controversial to say, but I feel like the assignments could have been a lot better and in greater numbers. The class felt like it had like 2 assignments, as I believe it had around that many, but it could have done more to reinforce the material learned in class. Also, the assignments themselves were not of the highest quality because I and many people I talked to usually were confused while working on the assignments due to the lack of clarification for many parts. The instructions on how to do them, except for the first group assignment, were great.
- More work on project development
- I wish I had paid more attention then I did at some points in the class
- Start assignments earlier.
- More out of class assignments related to the topic at hand.
- Take notes for future classes.
- I missed a couple class sessions, but overall, I did what was expected for me for the class.
- I could've used my free time to dive deeper into the topics explored in class, but seeing as class barely was touching on the topics I would have had to dive a lot deeper.
- I think there should have been more assignments to reflect the content we were learning in class (although given the circumstances it is understandable why we didn't have more assignments)
- Attending the in person class more often instead of reviewing slides on my own time would've definitely helped me become a better learner, I wouldn't have missed in person quizzes as well if I had attended every class.
- Gone over the slides more, there is some useful information in most of them, you just have to find it.
- Go to class more.
- I definitely neglected to come to class a few times, so I think I could have been a better learner by showing up to more classes.
- I missed a few more classes than I would have liked.
- I believe I did everything right, as I came to class everyday and understood the material, and my grade reflects that
- I could have looked over the presentation slides more after class so that I could better remember the material.
- I think I could of taken better notes on the slides provided and maybe reviewed them more frequently. But since I do have an A in the course, I think I did well prepping and studying for the course as a whole.
- Show up more
- I did what I could to be a good learner, genuinely couldn't have done anything more.
- I could have been more proactive about my assignments
- Took notes in class
- I think if I reviewed notes more after lectures I could better retain the information.
- I could have attended class more to learn the material.
- Do more self-exploration

Virginia Tech

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301

Instructor: Alex Hicks *

Response Rate: 56/67 (83.58 %)

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

Alex Hicks

Response Rate 25/67 (37.31%)

- The only thing I would say about this class would be that there was no incentive to actually participate or learn the content. Because the only type of evaluation was open note quizzes, I was just able to find every answer to every question in the powerpoints, and do other homework in class. This class also required a disproportionate amount of troubleshooting. Because the instructions were very unclear and the professor was slow to respond at times, I had to figure out a lot of the assignments by myself, which took a long time sometimes.
- - understand was difficult time with deaths of grandparents for professor, maybe better structure for the class
- He was fantastic.
- n/a
- He's a good instructor. Easy and be respectful to those who want to learn
- Thank you so much for the semester.
- He was unprepared for the semester. We were setting up our environments two months into the semester. 50 percent of our grade is supposed to be from a semester long group project, but he has not yet released the project and the semester ends next week. When he did somehow manage to put out an assignment for the class to do it would be riddled with bugs, especially for Windows users. It seems as though this professor had this class at the bottom of his list of academic priorities, which can possibly be explained by the fact that he is a grad student. Even with this in mind, hiring somebody who is unprepared to teach a course reflects poorly on the CS program and the university as a whole. I sincerely hope that improvements will be made for future students.
- There were a few programming assignments here and there, and a group assignment. The group assignment didn't really feel like a group assignment, we just worked on that group assignment but we didn't really have anything else other than that.
- Thanks for a great semester!
- Very understanding, responds to emails promptly, is willing to help with whatever you need
- It felt a little weird doing all this set up for a project that never really happened
- Amazing and helpful Professor
- Very nice, just wish that there was more interaction with the group project. It got pushed back too much so we didn't get to do a whole lot.
- There was supposed to be a semester long project that we did not have. The professor took many sick days, which probably impacted the pacing of the course.
- Alex was responsive, engaging, and helpful; however, the course needs more thoroughly developed. More out of class assignments would have helped to stimulate learning / build on the concepts discussed in class. We did three environment setup assignments over the course of Feb-Apr, with no actual application assignment over the course of the semester. Severely disappointed on the level of actual programming done in a class titled "Intermediate Software Design". Material discussed in class has plenty of real world applications, but little was done to demonstrate it's use.
- You were a great professor, I think in the future you should just release more assignments.
- He's a great professor! He works well with students.
- Great guy and real nice guy.
- He was a great professor! Super nice and accommodating, and I liked that he touched upon toxic work environments, as it is an issue that is prevalent in many workplaces, unfortunately.
- This course was great and I hope there are more hands-on experience with either individual assignments or group work!
- Great professor to teach the subject, we as students could tell it was something that he was passionate about and it in turn helped us learn better.
- - Very good teacher, easy to learn from and someone who is always available to talk to.
- Unable to get the full project ready for students to do.
- Awesome professor
- None

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%			5.45	5.18	5.13						
Bad	(2)	0	0.00%											
Poor	(3)	2	3.77%											
Fair	(4)	1	1.89%											
Good	(5)	21	39.62%											
Very Good	(6)	29	54.72%											
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
53/67 (79.10%)		5.45	0.72	6.00	19486		5.18	0.96	5.00	4138		5.13	1.00	5.00

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Response Rate: 56/67 (83.58 %)

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

Response Rate	19/67 (28.36%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It got very hot in the room, but other than that it was fine • n/a • The learning environment is pretty good, I was able to concentrate on topics that he discussed about. • It was pretty good. • No comment • Good classroom • Good environment, just wish more people would show up for class. • Physical environment was just fine. • Besides there being days with only 4x students in the classroom, the physical environment was adequate. • It's hard to concentrate in any classroom in Surge, I'm not sure exactly why but that classroom building is not a good learning environment. • Typical classroom. • It was good! The only problem is that the room only had outlets in the front and back of the room, and my laptop has a short battery life so it quite often died during class. • Very welcoming and fostering • Classroom is a bit small for the class size, but people did stop showing up to class so it definitely got better. • Good • No comments • Room needed more power outlets • None • There is something wrong with that physical classroom, the first ten minutes of being in that classroom made me feel congested and I would sneeze constantly. This does not happen in other classrooms. 	

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%		4.85		5.10		5.03						
Disagree				(2)	3	5.45%												
Somewhat disagree				(3)	3	5.45%												
Somewhat agree				(4)	12	21.82%												
Agree				(5)	18	32.73%												
Strongly agree				(6)	19	34.55%												
							0	25	50	100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median				
55/67 (82.09%)		4.85	1.13	5.00	19584		5.10	1.05	5.00	4160		5.03	1.11	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)	3	5.45%								
Disagree		(2)	3	5.45%								
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	5.45%								
Somewhat agree		(4)	12	21.82%								
Agree		(5)	14	25.45%								
Strongly agree		(6)	20	36.36%								
					02550100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
55/67 (82.09%)		4.65	1.44	5.00	19493	4.63	1.41	5.00	4146	4.67	1.41	5.00

Virginia Tech

Spring 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: CS_3704_20811_202301: Intermed Software Des-CS_3704_20811_202301
Instructor: Alex Hicks *
Response Rate: 56/67 (83.58 %)

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	1.85%			5.07		5.11		5.03			
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	3	5.56%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	8	14.81%										
Agree		(5)	20	37.04%										
Strongly agree		(6)	22	40.74%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
54/67 (80.60%)		5.07	1.04	5.00	19525		5.11	1.12	5.00	4145		5.03	1.18	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	3.70%									
Disagree		(2)	4	7.41%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	5	9.26%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	10	18.52%									
Agree		(5)	14	25.93%									
Strongly agree		(6)	19	35.19%									
					02550100	Question		College		Department			
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
54/67 (80.60%)		4.61	1.43	5.00	19408	5.06	1.16	5.00	4118		5.03	1.20	5.00

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

Alex Hicks

Response Option				Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree				(1)	0	0.00%			5.30	5.30	5.17				
Disagree				(2)	1	1.79%									
Somewhat disagree				(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree				(4)	5	8.93%									
Agree				(5)	25	44.64%									
Strongly agree				(6)	25	44.64%									
								0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median	
56/67 (83.58%)		5.30	0.78	5.00	20433		5.30	1.00	6.00	4250		5.17	1.08	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)	1	1.82%										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.82%										
Somewhat agree		(4)	12	21.82%										
Agree		(5)	18	32.73%										
Strongly agree		(6)	23	41.82%										
					02550100	Question		College		Department				
Response Rate		Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD	Median	Department		Mean	STD	Median
55/67 (82.09%)		5.11	0.94	5.00	4167		5.07	1.12	5.00	4167		5.07	1.12	5.00