BIOS 10130 7 - Principles of Biology - Instructor(s) - Beatrice Fineschi

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **48**
Number of Responses: **18**

Report Comments

Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

The learning objectives of the course were clear and I understood how to achieve them.

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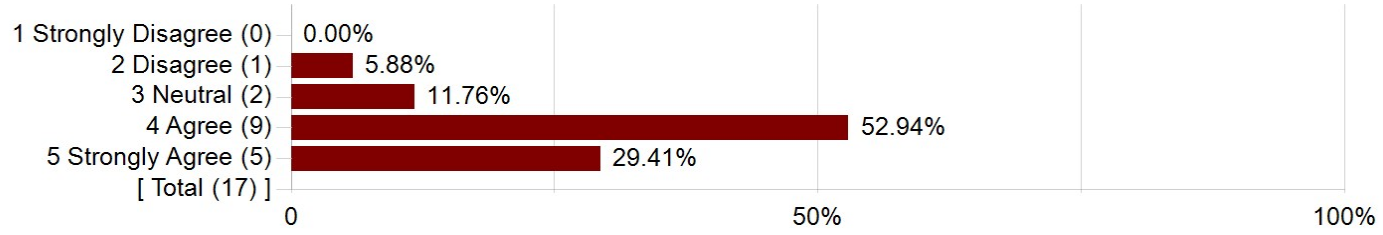

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.06
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.83

The course helped me to make important progress toward the stated objectives.

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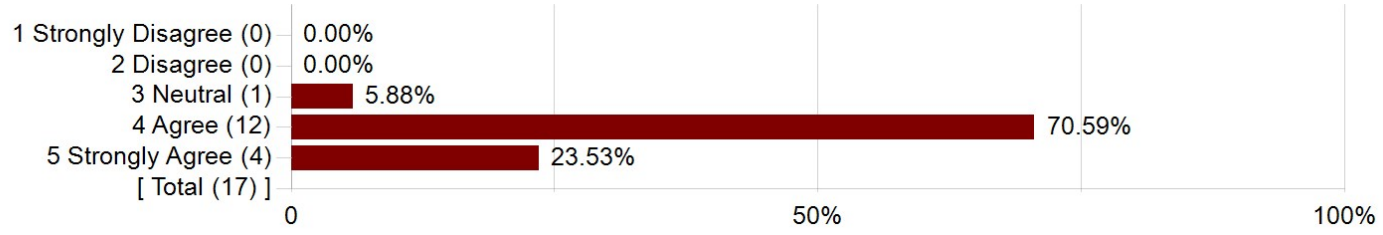

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.18
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.53

The graded elements of the course were directed toward assessing my progress toward the stated course objectives.

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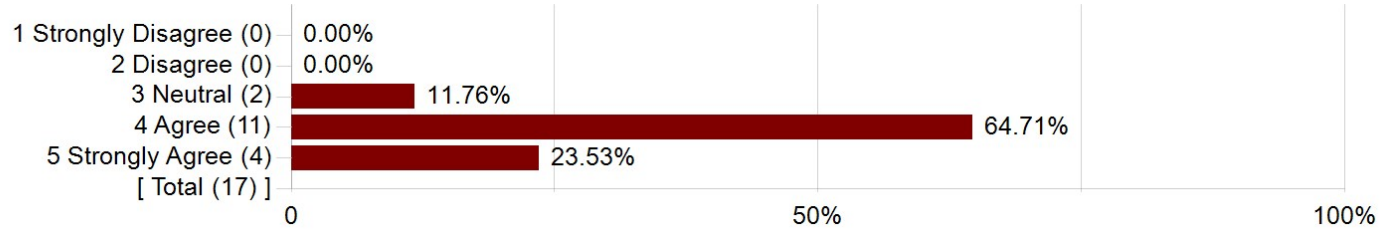


Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.12
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.60

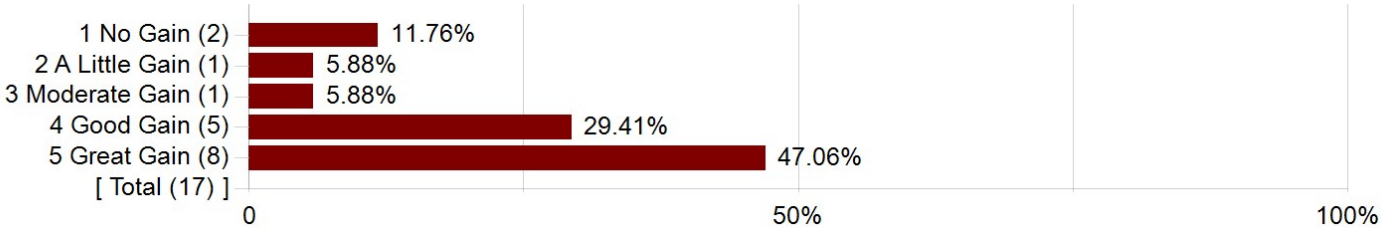
This course had more than one instructor and they connected well with each other.

This course had more than one instructor and they connected well with each other.

Statistics	Value
Response Count	0
Mean	NRP
Median	NRP
Standard Deviation	NRP

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

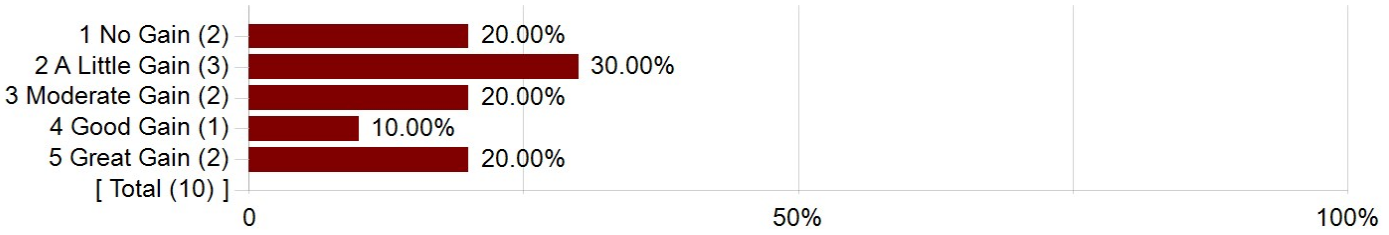
1. Classroom Lectures



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	2	11.76%
A Little Gain	2	1	5.88%
Moderate Gain	3	1	5.88%
Good Gain	4	5	29.41%
Great Gain	5	8	47.06%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	3.94
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.39

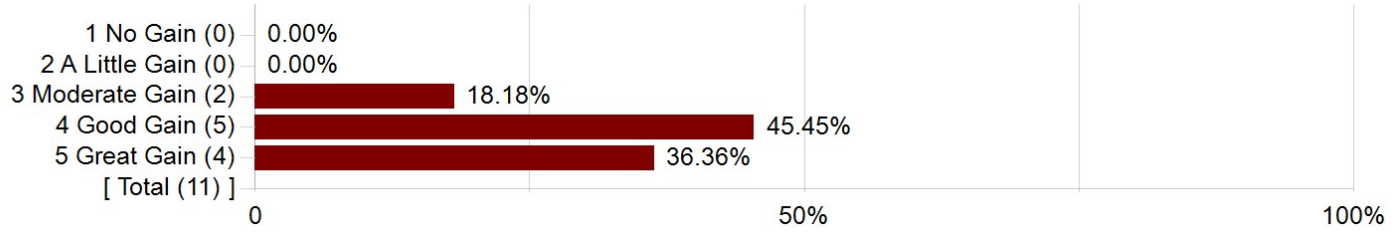
2. Classroom Discussions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	2	20.00%
A Little Gain	2	3	30.00%
Moderate Gain	3	2	20.00%
Good Gain	4	1	10.00%
Great Gain	5	2	20.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	2.80
Median	2.50
Standard Deviation	1.48

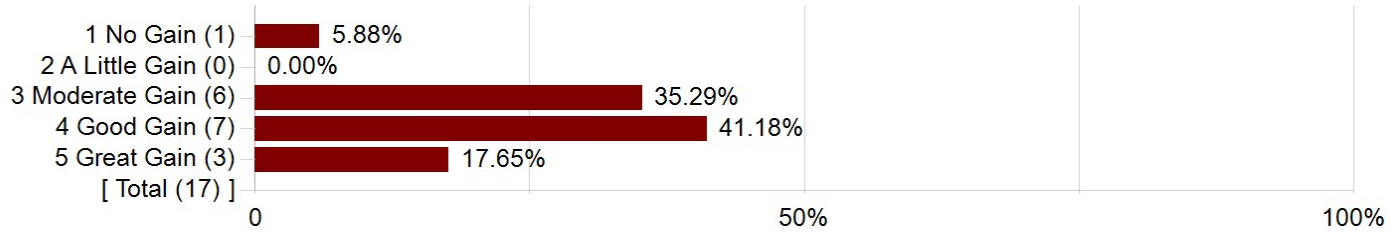
3. Assigned Readings



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	2	18.18%
Good Gain	4	5	45.45%
Great Gain	5	4	36.36%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	11
Mean	4.18
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.75

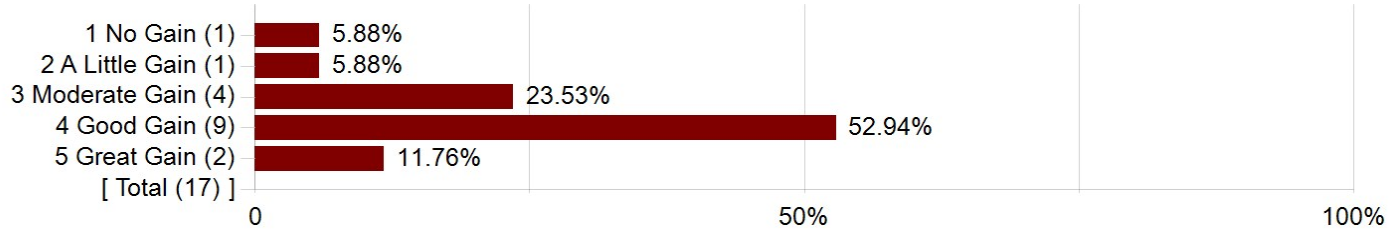
4. Homework Exercises



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	5.88%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	6	35.29%
Good Gain	4	7	41.18%
Great Gain	5	3	17.65%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	3.65
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

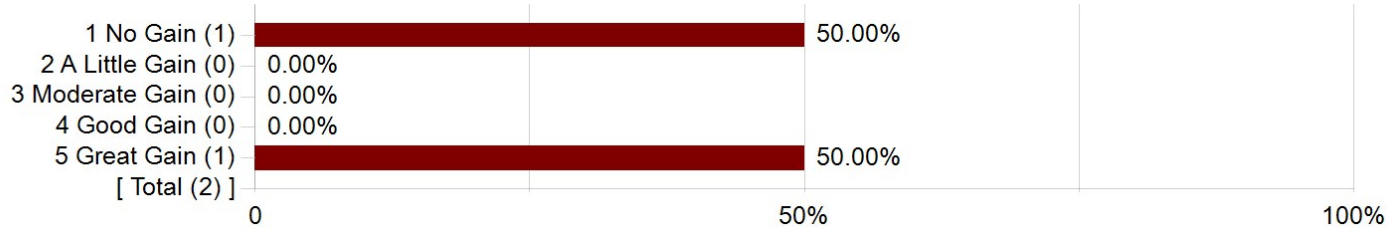
5. Lab Experiences



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	5.88%
A Little Gain	2	1	5.88%
Moderate Gain	3	4	23.53%
Good Gain	4	9	52.94%
Great Gain	5	2	11.76%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	3.59
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

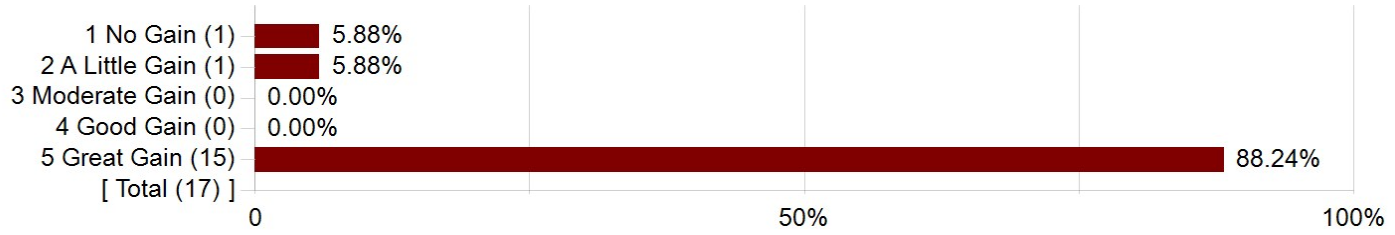
6. Discussion Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	50.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%
Great Gain	5	1	50.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	2
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	2.83

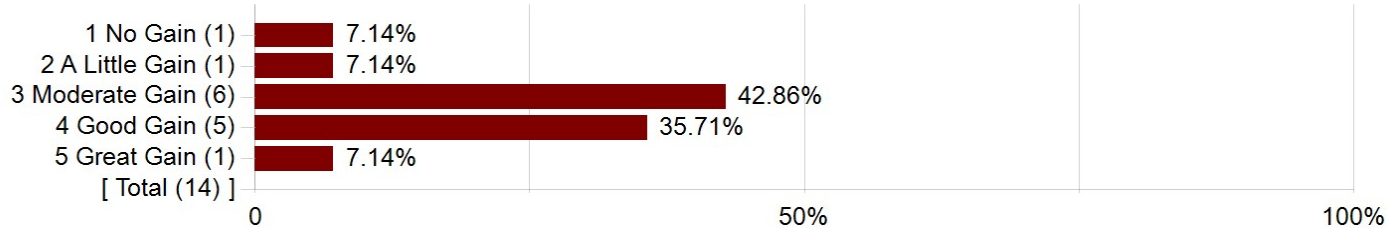
7. Review Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	5.88%
A Little Gain	2	1	5.88%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%
Great Gain	5	15	88.24%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.59
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.18

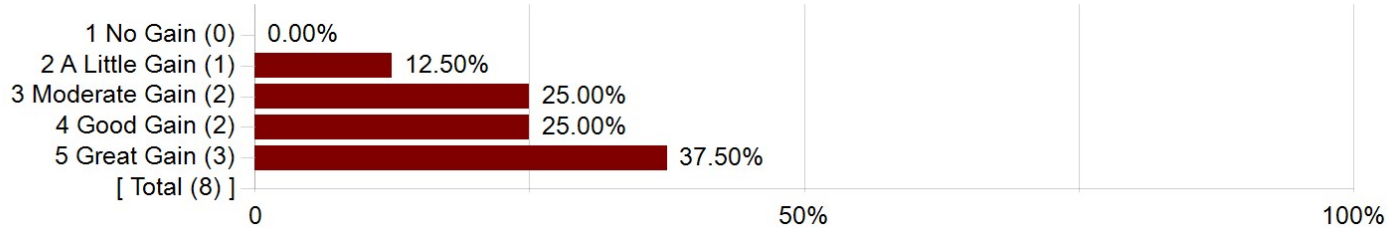
8. Interactions with Other Students



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	7.14%
A Little Gain	2	1	7.14%
Moderate Gain	3	6	42.86%
Good Gain	4	5	35.71%
Great Gain	5	1	7.14%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	3.29
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.99

9. Faculty Office Hours

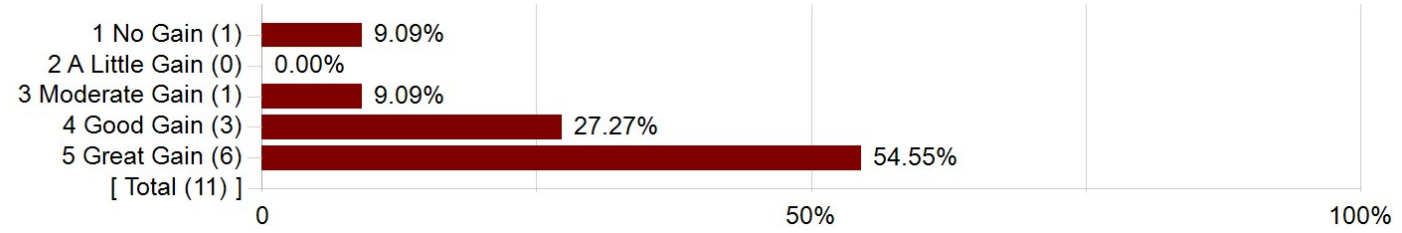


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	12.50%
Moderate Gain	3	2	25.00%
Good Gain	4	2	25.00%
Great Gain	5	3	37.50%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	3.88
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.13

How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains? (continued)

10. Teaching Assistant Office Hours



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	9.09%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	9.09%
Good Gain	4	3	27.27%
Great Gain	5	6	54.55%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	11
Mean	4.18
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.25

What was the most important thing (to you) that you learned in this course? What aspect of the material is still unclear for you, that you wish you could have learned better?

Comments
immunology
evolution
The immunology section was the most important part of this course since it is very relevant to my life and was very interesting. Some parts of cell biology are still unclear to me.
I really enjoyed learning how different viruses enter our host cells and the process of their replication. I am curious to learn more about gene expression.
The most important thing I learned was about the spread of viruses and the many ways mutations and new strains can be made, such as through horizontal gene transfer. I believe this is an incredibly relevant topic considering not–quite–post–pandemic circumstances. One aspect that is still unclear to me is helper T cells and exactly how immunity works.
The most important single concept I learned in this class was the central dogma of biology, and how the process from DNA, to RNA, to proteins guides the direction of living organisms.
Cell cycle and basic biology were very helpful. Questions about HIV were not.
General cell/biology knowledge.
The basics of cell biology, microbiology, and immunology. Was a pretty clear cut survey course of biology topics
The most important things I learned were how influenza works and how our DNA leads to different traits. I wish we had gone into more depth on DNA.

How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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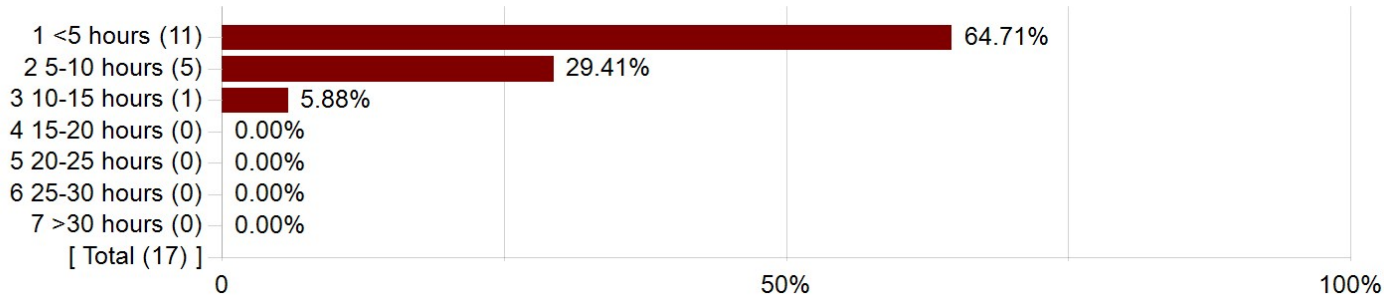
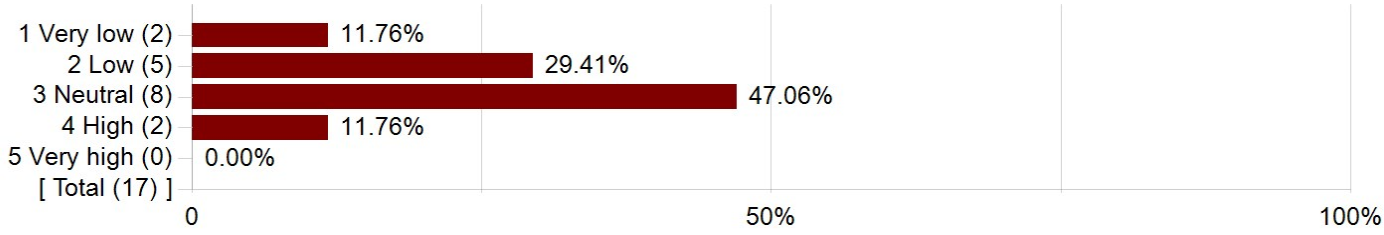


Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	1.41
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.62

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

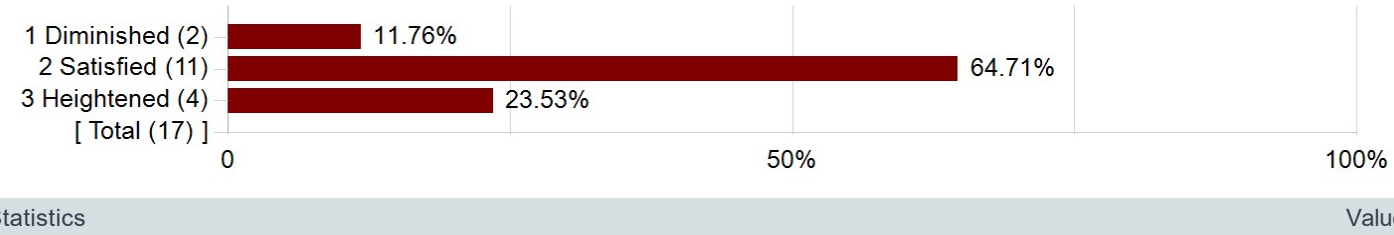
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	2.59
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.87

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	2.12
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.60

Overall, this was an excellent course.

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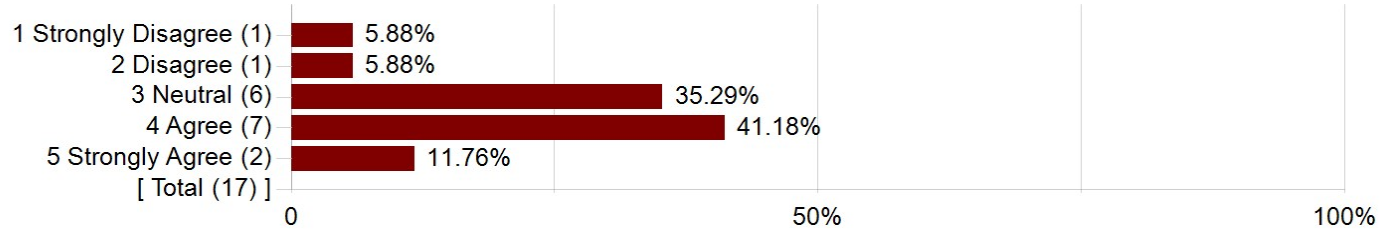


Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	3.47
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.01

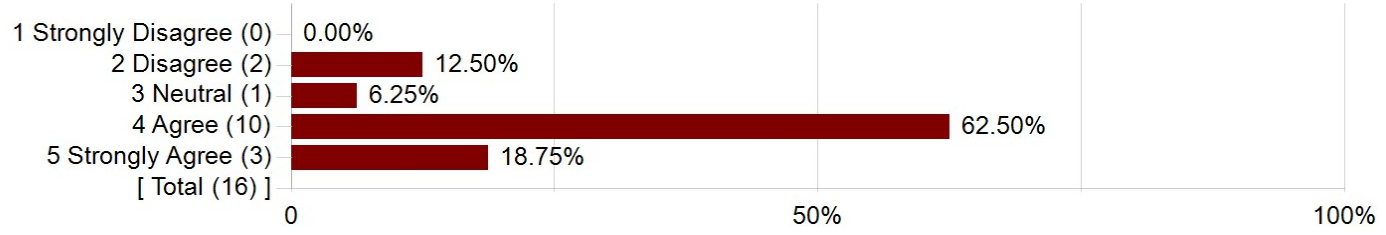
Please share any advice you have for students who are considering taking the course.

Comments
Show up to the quiz review sessions.
Take careful notes during the review sessions
Going to office hours with Professor Fineschi and the TAs was very helpful
The materials themselves (homework + related chapter readings) are not particularly time–consuming, but I highly suggest reviewing the content outside of simply doing the homework and attending labs. You will have a much better understanding when it comes to exams if you consistently go over your notes!
Very doable class, whatever base level biology you learned in high school should be enough to help you succeed in this course. Tests are weighted heavily though so make sure you attend the review sessions, they are very helpful
Understand the keywords well.
A is 94%.

Laboratory Meetings

For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement.

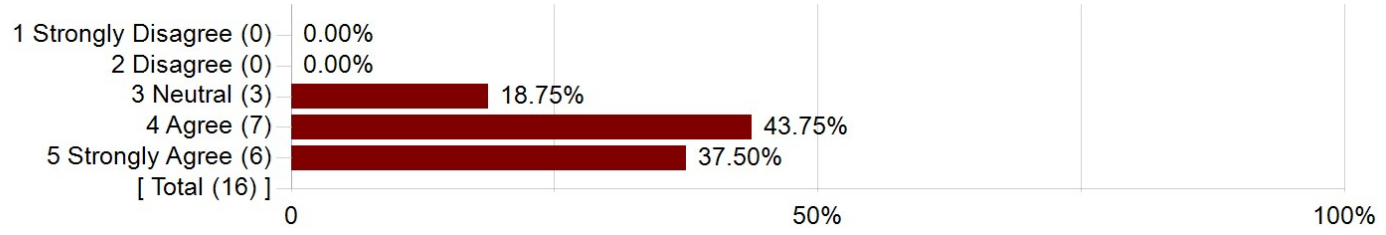
1. The laboratory protocols and instructions were clear and well organized.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	2	12.50%
Neutral	3	1	6.25%
Agree	4	10	62.50%
Strongly Agree	5	3	18.75%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	3.88
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.89

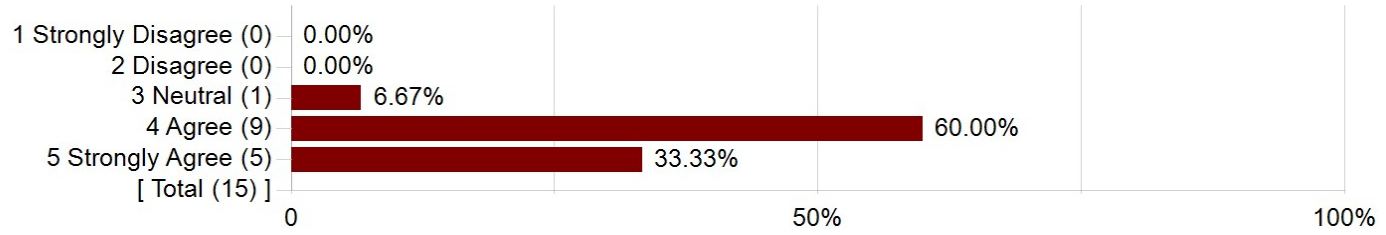
2. Materials and equipment needed for performing the exercises were readily available.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	3	18.75%
Agree	4	7	43.75%
Strongly Agree	5	6	37.50%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.19
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.75

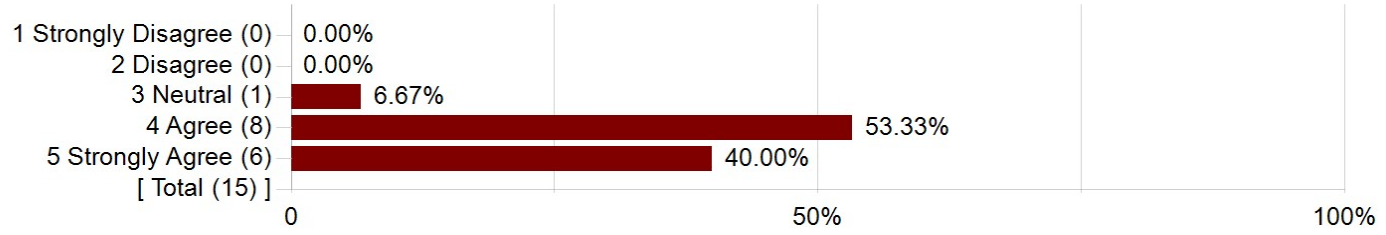
3. The lab exercises had clear educational goals.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	6.67%
Agree	4	9	60.00%
Strongly Agree	5	5	33.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.27
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.59

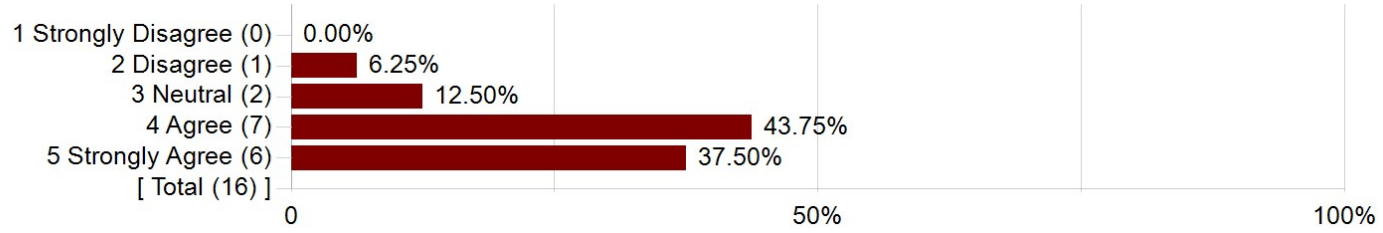
4. The goals of the lab exercises were well integrated with the overall objectives of the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	6.67%
Agree	4	8	53.33%
Strongly Agree	5	6	40.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.33
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.62

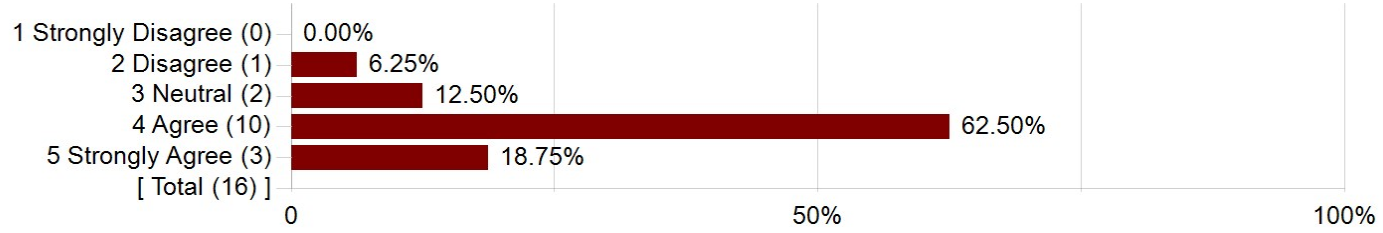
5. The lab exercises explored course topics in ways that could not have been accomplished in lecture or discussion.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	6.25%
Neutral	3	2	12.50%
Agree	4	7	43.75%
Strongly Agree	5	6	37.50%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.13
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.89

6. Overall, this was an excellent laboratory experience.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	6.25%
Neutral	3	2	12.50%
Agree	4	10	62.50%
Strongly Agree	5	3	18.75%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	3.94
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.77

The time allocated for completing the lab was:

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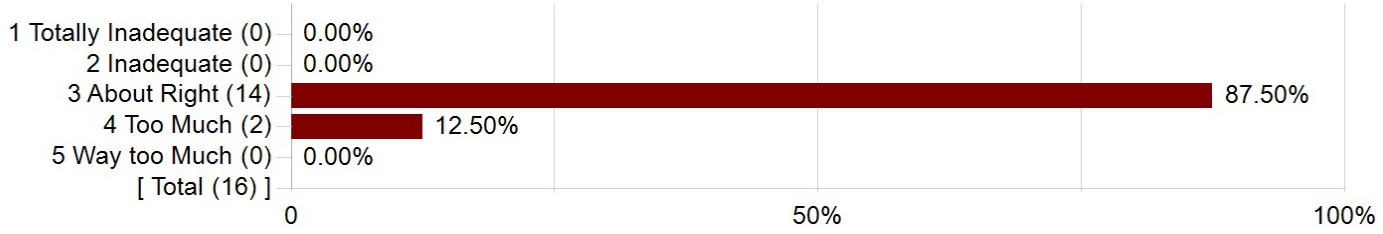

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	3.13
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.34

What observational, analytical, or technical skills did you gain during the laboratory exercises that enhanced your understanding of how biologists answer questions in this particular field?

Comments
PCR and DNA testing
I got better at pipetting from the labs and better at thinking with a more quantitative mindset.
It was very interesting to go through the whole procedure of the lab, test our hypothesis, and observe how the results ended up, especially in the ELISA lab. We could apply what we learned in lab concretely to the material on exams.
I became quite good at using different pipettes to create a variety of different biological soups. I also learned about PCR, protein folding, and antibody tests.
How the experiments impacted patients and real life.
Basic lab skills.
Learning how to use microscopes, analyzing and sequencing DNA, using PCR technique, and understanding segments of the genome
I did not gain any specific skills. I just learned more about the things we were learning through applications. I guess I did learn how to use a microscope.

Please share any recommendations to improve the laboratory learning experience.

Comments
N/A
I think it would be helpful to spend a bit more time at the beginning of each lab explaining the procedure in more detail, as a lot of us did not have any prior experience.
More detailed demonstrations for pipetting
The final Elisa lab didn't have nearly enough fluid for antibody 1 or antibody 2, which made completing the lab pretty difficult.