



PHSC 10100 1 - Origin and Evolution of the Solar System and the Earth - Instructor(s): Andrew Davis

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

Number Enrolled: **103**

Number of Responses: **49**

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, March 28, 2024**

What are the most important things that you learned in this course? Please reflect on the knowledge and skills you gained.

Comments
This was hands down one of the worst classes I have ever taken at this school. I learned nothing. Grading was so different among the TAs and I would receive a high grade to which a TA would lower it later and say something stupid like "you didn't add bold titles for each question answered???" They would revisit assignments and hope to lower your grade. The prof would add questions to the quiz like "which hand had a cast left or right on the 15th" to make sure you were coming to the useless lectures.
This professor hardly provided any meaningful knowledge
the solar system and cool details that make it more interesting
I learned a lot about the solar system.
Earth is awesome
I learned how to do a lab report slightly better. Other than that I don't really know.
I learned about the solar system and individual planets' compositions.
i literally cannot think of one thing that i learned
Solar system, greenhouse effect
Fun facts about earth and other planets. Also history on many space missions
I've learned more about the solar system and how it functions and how it came to be
I learned essential physics knowledge.
I mostly learned a bunch of cool space trivia that I can use in quiz bowl later.
We learned about our Solar System
The moon exists.
Moon cycle
Surprisingly a lot more enjoyable things about the solar system than I anticipated I would. Honestly, great class.
Things about the origin or the earth
Learned a lot about the solar system, and the moon.
earth's origin
evolution of the solar system and the earth. great course for overall history of our solar system and planet!
A lot of myth-busting and correcting of misconceptions about the earth and solar system. Underlined climate science and pressingness of global warming.
info about comets, the moon, rocks
I learned a lot about the moon thanks to the lunar observation project.
Stuff about planets + meteors + climate.
I learned about astronomical objects in our solar system and beyond as well as important geological and environmental factors and processes present on the Earth and other planets.
I learned about the heavenly bodies and about the Earth. This was an overview course, but it still went into a lot of detail, which was nice.
Honestly, I did not learn anything. I suppose I learned some neat facts about the universe (such as ice being a mineral), but no skills per se.
Moon Phases! The patterns and etc of the moon. Other things like Global Warming, Rocks, Radioactive Decay, and things about the Earth like gravitational pull and etc.
Moon phases, meteorites, history of the solar system, earth science/plate tectonics
The origins of the Earth and the Moon. The conditions of other planets in our solar system and their implications.
I learned about the Earth and the solar system
Properties of objects and planets within the solar system, how tides work, dating methods, etc.
Learned a lot about the origin of the universe and gained some insight into basic astrology
The solar system and what it is and how it formed
like the basics of the solar system, the earth, etc

Describe how aspects of this course (lectures, discussions, labs, assignments, etc.) contributed

to your learning.

Comments
Nothing was connected the homework and labs had nothing to do with each other and if you do not know physics u should brush up on that or u will see the TAs a lot and they really seem to hate the students.
Maybe the lectures at most. Completely unrelated to the assignments. You have to self-teach everything for the homework, because it has nothing to do with what you see in class. The instructions for everything are completely unclear and also contradictory. The TA's are rude and do not know how to use the programs that are assigned.
thorough slides; the after-lecture quizzes sometimes ask questions not found in the slides which challenges u to think more and ultimately learn more; the quizzes are appropriately difficult
The lectures were interesting but the HW was the most substantive. Labs were busywork.
labs
The lectures were not helpful at all. They had too much information. The learning objectives were unclear in general.
The lectures and powerpoints were always quite helpful. The labs were also helpful in visualizing concepts from class.
possibly the lectures if i had shown up to them and paid attention but there is not much reason to do so
Lectures were helpful and labs were simple but productive
Labs didn't do much. Class was a waste of time too because he lectures at people with a lot of useless info
Quizzes were a great way to remember what was covered in the previous lecture, labs were relatively easy and fun to do with a group, and homework assignments helped us to apply what we have already learned to a topic in astronomy
Labs allowed me to do more independent research which I found to be very valuable.
The labs were very basic, but the lectures were cool and exciting.
Quizzes were a nice recap of what we discussed in class
Assignments.
The quizzes after each class
lectures and PowerPoint slides are basically everything. I did not like the labs or the assignments much, except for the minerals one. They are all relatively enjoyable, though, if you actually like geo/physics. I loved taking the data for the moon project, although I hated it sometimes when the weather was awful. I wasted half the quarter trying to spot the moon and then spent the second half trying to take a photo of it with my not-so-good phone camera.
Lecture slides
Labs were fun to do outside of class and the assignments were helpful to my understanding.
slides were useful; would have liked it if the math were included in class
labs were never overly challenging and enhanced my ability to understand the universe! whether it was calculating rotations of planets or analyzing rocks, they were all fun!
Lectures were not engaging what so ever. The lectures had nothing to do with the quizzes.
The lectures don't really add much other than just reading through the lecture slides and notes. The moon journal activity is actually pretty rewarding if you do it properly.
assignments seemed to be separate from what was actually covered in lectures
The lectures were very informative.
Lectures had the beef of the content + the quizzes had all the necessary content. HWs taught us nothing related to the quizzes and was mostly just rational thinking (you can complete the HW in maybe 20 minutes). The labs felt like busy-work and were almost entirely unnecessary for learning in the class, but were chill and easy. There is no midterm and only weekly quizzes that are exceptionally easy and open-book. The final is also open-book and online, and information throughout the course is well disseminated through slides which make studying for the final very easy.
Lectures with shared power-point presentations included the majority of information, canvas quizzes after each class tested basic information, homework assignments tested concepts with math and some research, labs varied but also touched on important topics, the quarter-long moon journal included some math and expanded our discussion of the Moon and its relation to Earth.
The lectures were extremely helpful in learning the material. Office hours with the TAs were also very helpful.
The lectures were alright and led me to learn some neat facts. The assignments did not contribute much at all to my learning.
Lectures were available to us in the Mornings. There were Office Hours with different T.A.'s all throughout the week! So getting help and assistance in assignments was available. The labs we did ourselves which I think definitely worked with everyone's schedule and etc.
The quizzes after the lectures were the most useful for staying on track. The labs were dropping a ball, counting m&ms, and finding rocks— I did not think they added to my learning.

Comments
Lectures were pretty helpful; Professor Davis will highlight the "important" points that are usually covered in the quiz.
The powerpoints were really helpful with infomation
Lectures were helpful for the quizzes, but the labs and homework assignments were so far removed from the lecture content that I was a bit confused—why was there a whole lab about finding rocks when we're in the middle of talking about Neptune? I also genuinely enjoyed the lunar observation project (it was cool to take pics of the moon every night) but it felt thrown into the course content. However, the lectures were extremely detailed and Professor Davis is hugely knowledgeable; I definitely still learned a lot.
Lectures were pretty interesting although lengthy, but sometimes I felt that the assignments and labs were disjointed from what we were learning and that we had to figure out what to do on our own
Lectures are enough
the quizzes helped

Please respond to the following:

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
This course challenged me intellectually.	3.18	3.00	8.89%	13.33%	37.78%	31.11%	8.89%
I understood the purpose of this course and what I was expected to gain from it.	3.72	4.00	6.98%	4.65%	27.91%	30.23%	30.23%
I understood the standards for success on assignments.	3.73	4.00	9.09%	2.27%	25.00%	34.09%	29.55%
Class time enhanced my ability to succeed in graded assignments.	3.26	3.00	11.63%	23.26%	18.60%	20.93%	25.58%
I received feedback on my performance that helped me improve my subsequent work.	3.42	3.00	6.98%	16.28%	27.91%	25.58%	23.26%
My work was evaluated fairly.	3.89	4.00	6.82%	4.55%	18.18%	34.09%	36.36%
I felt respected in this class.	3.86	4.00	6.98%	2.33%	16.28%	46.51%	27.91%
Overall, this was an excellent course.	3.67	4.00	6.98%	2.33%	32.56%	32.56%	25.58%

Additional comments about the course:

Comments
the slides are posted so u dont have to attend class in person BUT for one of the quizzes a question asked if he was wearing a bandage and on which specific body part which was really annoying; idk which limb it was and it was a bit silly goofy of him to do that but it was amusing
N/A
I went to 1 lecture the entire quarter. EVERYTHING is at home – labs, quizzes, exam, so it's very easy.
take it. very fair grading and enthusiastic professor who appears to actually care about what he is teaching.
Easy course for the core requirement but has too many assignments that are pointless and take too much time.
Easy class. Going to class is not that important, which is good. just focus on assignments, and go over slides carefully. well designed course.
Lab instructions were sometimes outdated and confusing. Wish the professor focused more on intriguing topics like potential alien life.
It's a fun class. You're likely not going to learn everything from every lecture because most of it is information vomit without very much explanation on how to conceptualize deeper things. Regardless, you learn some fun facts for sure.
This is a fun and informative class, especially for those with an interest in astronomy and geophysics but no expertise.
Great course! I would take it if you need a Core Class in PHSC out the way.
Some of the questions on homeworks and labs were vague, but only one answer was accepted due to the rubric system, so this made it hard to succeed.
Easy phys core
it's easy, but it's a lot of busy work. there's a lot of stuff to do, some which isn't even relevant to the class

I would recommend this course to:

	No	Yes
Highly-motivated and well-prepared students	28.89%	71.11%
Anyone interested in the topic	11.11%	88.89%

Thinking about your time in the class, what aspect of the instructor's teaching contributed most to your learning?

Comments
Nothing, he seemed like he hated his job and always shared useless stories of his family instead of teaching us how to do the lab or anything.
Nothing. He seems like hes hardly there. Its really worrying
great personality; pedagogy; thorough slides
None of them.
The quizzes.
Prof. Davis' lectures were always very well thought out and provided a lot of information, which I could then go back and review on the powerpoint slides
Good lectures, very dry humor
Posting the slides
He has come up with engaging assignments that really enhanced my understanding of the material
The instructor was very open and very passionate which made me more interested in the class.
The slides definitely helped the most.
Lecture time
The quizzes.
He was very knowledgeable and passionate about the subject
His enthusiasm and his clearly deep knowledge about the Earth and the solar system.
Slides
slides
his lectures were informative and very detailed. his social commentary was also always fun
Going to lectures is fun if you like the material but honestly not particularly engaging if you're just taking this as a core class requirement.
Professor Davis had great and informative lectures, and the chronology of these lectures was also well done.
Lectures were good, kinda slow, but still fine. Releasing the slides helped a lot and the quizzes were good for review.
Professor Andy has an affable personality and was always willing to take questions during class. During lectures he was well-informed on material and enriched his teaching with personal stories.
Lectures were the most helpful. Homework was helpful too if a little on the simple side. For me, the TAs were the most helpful—they were readily available during their office hours, they answered any and all of my questions about the labs, homeworks, Moon Project, etc., and they responded really quickly to emails.
The lectures were pretty good overall, the content was fairly interesting and Professor Davis wasn't a particularly dry lecturer.
He came to class everyday which I think is a testament to the commitment to not only the class but the subject himself. Was a good and nice lecturer.
The lectures and, especially, the slides.
the lectures were kind of necessary to learn the infomation
He always allotted a lot of time during class for any questions we might have and brought in a lot of fun examples and anecdotes of recent astrology discoveries
Lectures and funny stories

What could the instructor modify to help you learn more?

Comments
Stop forcing students to come to lecture with your petty questions like which hand had a cast on Friday. I barely went to lectures because everything was just physics and I used my previous knowledge to do it.
Not even trying to mean, but probably retire.
perhaps explain the answers to the quizzes
Having lecture content related to HW and labs.
Clear learning objectives and simplified slides.
He could condense his information to include just the important info or at least talk in depth about the stuff we should know
I would like it if he could go through the lecture slides slower, but I like that he always took breaks throughout to ask people if they have any questions
n/a
Nothing!
The assignments.
He was great!
nothing much. maybe add more videos or fun material as sometimes the class can get a little information—dense and, as an 11 am class for non—physics majors, this was not ideal.
Lectures being more engaging
be more engaging
maybe give more incentive to come to class? i found myself skipping quite a lot of classes as there was not too much purpose to watch the lectures in person, maybe bring snacks or something!
Re—order the material in a way that makes more sense, maybe vaguely by chronology, or by size/scope. The order of the lectures felt a little random, and it's always nice when it feels like the material builds on itself.
Nothing, he is a great professor.
Nothing, well—done class, enjoyable
Professor Davis could remove some of the labs—or remove them altogether. I didn't really get much out of the labs, and as we did them, they started to feel more like tedious busywork. The rock identification lab was my favorite one and the only one that didn't feel like I could have done it in my sixth grade science class.
The assignments need to be different. Pretty much the opposite of what they were this quarter would be good. I was never sure of how I was doing on any assignment.
He is goated in his field! honestly nothing.
Make the labs more realistic. Also, there is far too much granular info on the slides, and there was a slide on each PowerPoint saying a summary/"what you should know", but we were frequently asked questions beyond this slide.
nothing!
the lectures went off topic a lot
Make the class a bit more focused by cutting out some of the more tangential assignments and honing in on the more important ones. The quizzes were fine but the weekly homework felt like busywork.
It felt like we learned so so much stuff at surface level in the class so I wish that he went more in depth about fewer topics
Was good overall, not much needs to change
N/A

The Instructor . . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Organized the course clearly.	4.02	4.00	4.44%	6.67%	13.33%	33.33%	42.22%	0.00%
Presented lectures that enhanced your understanding.	4.00	4.00	4.44%	2.22%	17.78%	40.00%	35.56%	0.00%
Facilitated discussions that were engaging and useful.	3.49	4.00	11.11%	4.44%	20.00%	20.00%	22.22%	22.22%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the course.	3.56	4.00	11.11%	8.89%	17.78%	37.78%	24.44%	0.00%
Challenged you to learn.	3.58	4.00	8.89%	6.67%	24.44%	37.78%	22.22%	0.00%
Helped you gain significant learning from the course content.	3.69	4.00	8.89%	6.67%	17.78%	40.00%	26.67%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	3.68	4.00	9.30%	2.33%	20.93%	39.53%	23.26%	4.65%
Motivated you to think independently.	3.72	4.00	11.11%	2.22%	15.56%	40.00%	26.67%	4.44%
Worked to create an inclusive and welcoming learning environment.	3.91	4.00	6.67%	4.44%	15.56%	33.33%	35.56%	4.44%
Overall, this instructor made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.70	4.00	6.67%	6.67%	24.44%	28.89%	28.89%	4.44%

Please include the name of the TA/CA/Intern you are evaluating. What aspects of the TA's teaching contributed most to your learning? What could the TA modify to help you learn more? Please include any additional feedback for the TA/CA/Intern.

Comments
I am not sure if it was just me but I thought the TAs were awful except Alice she was kind and didn't make me feel stupid. Julie was petty and sarcastic. If you ever asked anything she would always say "I can't tell you everything" She could not tell one thing or help in any way. Branson truly didn't know anything and would go off–topic for an hour in office hours. Freya just disappeared and wouldn't respond for days or even weeks. Owen was an awful grader and very mean in his comments on work. He never really gave OH I think he hated being a TA. I hated this class so much that I felt like nobody wanted to help. They also had weird office hours like Julie was right before class and some had 9 am office hours like nobody going at 9 am to OH when they have so many morning classes that day too.
the TAs were actually not helpful unless you bother them constantly. As someone with 3 jobs, I don't have time to be begging TA's for help. I'd like help the first time I ask, not after the third time just because theyare trying to get rid of me.
Bowen Fan; such a silly goose
Julie Korlymeyer
Bowen Fan
Bowen – loved him! Answered our emails and checked over our labs!
Bowen Fan was always there to answer questions about labs or homework which was very helpful .
Freya Chen
?
Bowen Fan
Alice
Julie. Great TA, very helpful and accommodating of personal issues. She also took the time to explain things to me, even if they seemed silly or too easy. Responds quickly to emails. Most of the other TAs are also helpful.
Alice Turham
Julie Korsmeyer
Julie Korsmeyer, Bowen Fan. TA's left very minimal feedback on homework and labs, often taking away large numbers of points without any explanation. Furthermore, grading of assignments seemed to generally be anal, harsh, and inconsistent relative to other courses I've taken. For example, assignments submitted at 12:01am will receive a full day late penalty of multiple points. This course will be stronger if the professor works with the TAs to create more outlined rubrics that will be consistent and shared with students before assignments. The grading policy is certainly within the TA's rights, but from my experience, I would look to other classes if you want a little bit more grace from your TAs.
Julie Korsemeyer! Very kind and willing to help out over email. Made HWs a lot easier.
Bowen Fan—he responded to questions and graded assignments quickly, including lab reports and our final project. Sometimes when he responded to questions, I didn't quite understand what he said, so perhaps he could be more clear with his responses.
Julie Korsmeyer, Alice Turnham, Camilla Liu. I frequented these TAs' office hours the most, and I sent them the most emails. I think they were exceptionally helpful and understanding, and they never dismissed any of my questions, which I was grateful for. I would take this class again solely to work with these TAs once more.
shoutout girly
Bowen Fan
Julie Korsmeyer. She was very helpful in answering emails and clarifying concepts outside of class.
Julie Korsmeyer– I didn't interact with her besides a few emails but overall she was quick in responding and helpful

The TA/CA or Intern. . .

	Mean	Median	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
Facilitated discussions that supported your learning.	3.81	4.00	7.41%	3.70%	14.81%	22.22%	29.63%	22.22%
Gave you useful feedback on your work.	3.76	4.00	11.11%	3.70%	18.52%	22.22%	37.04%	7.41%
Stimulated your interest in the core ideas of the class.	3.63	4.00	11.11%	3.70%	18.52%	29.63%	25.93%	11.11%
Challenged you to learn.	3.88	4.00	7.41%	0.00%	22.22%	25.93%	33.33%	11.11%
Helped you succeed in the class.	3.85	4.00	7.41%	7.41%	18.52%	25.93%	40.74%	0.00%
Was available and helpful outside of class.	4.11	4.00	3.70%	3.70%	14.81%	33.33%	44.44%	0.00%
Overall, this individual made a significant contribution to your learning.	3.80	4.00	14.81%	0.00%	14.81%	22.22%	40.74%	7.41%

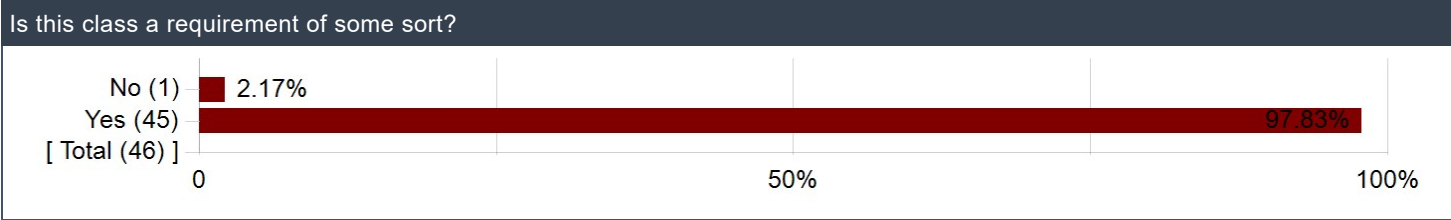
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains?

	Mean	Median	No Gain	A Little Gain	Moderate Gain	Good Gain	Great Gain	N/A
Laboratory Experience	2.97	3.00	16.13%	25.81%	19.35%	22.58%	16.13%	0.00%
Field Trips	1.00	1.00	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	93.33%
Library Sessions	1.00	1.00	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	93.33%
Review Sessions	1.00	1.00	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	93.33%
Writing Seminars	1.00	1.00	6.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	93.33%

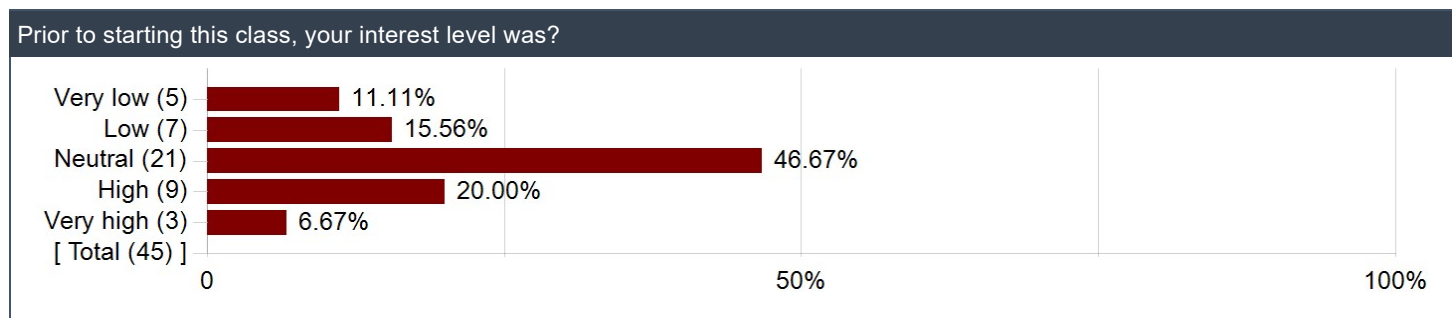
Other course elements not mentioned above:

Comments
The labs had nothing to do with the class and you receive zero instruction other than the confusing instructions on the files tab
N/A
Tedious class in terms of doing the moon journal and labs yet not intellectually stimulating.
Quarter long project—moon journal, not bad if you start early; just don't procrastinate it.
Our class had to complete a quarter—long Lunar Observation Project worth 10% of the grade. It's not difficult, but it can grow tedious in the analysis section of the lab. If you take this class, start the analysis portion early—it will save you when the end of the quarter comes around.

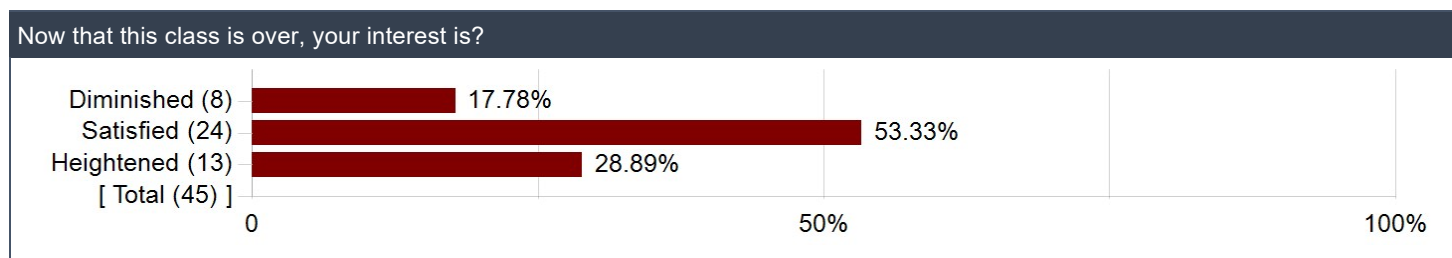
Is this class a requirement of some sort?



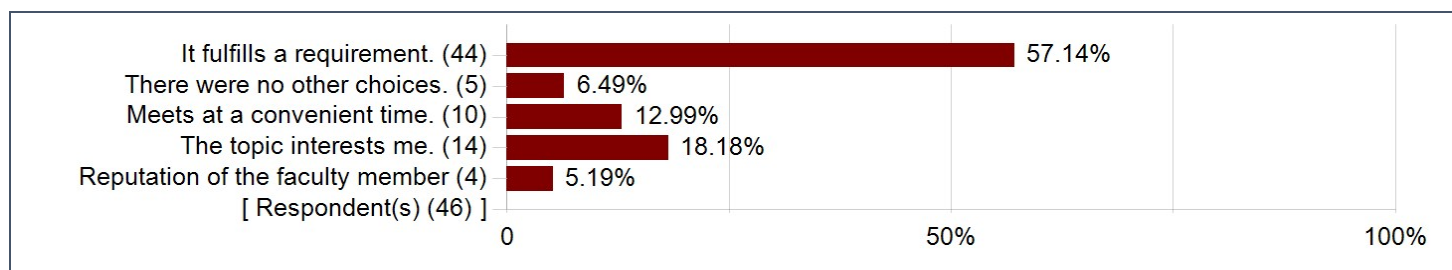
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



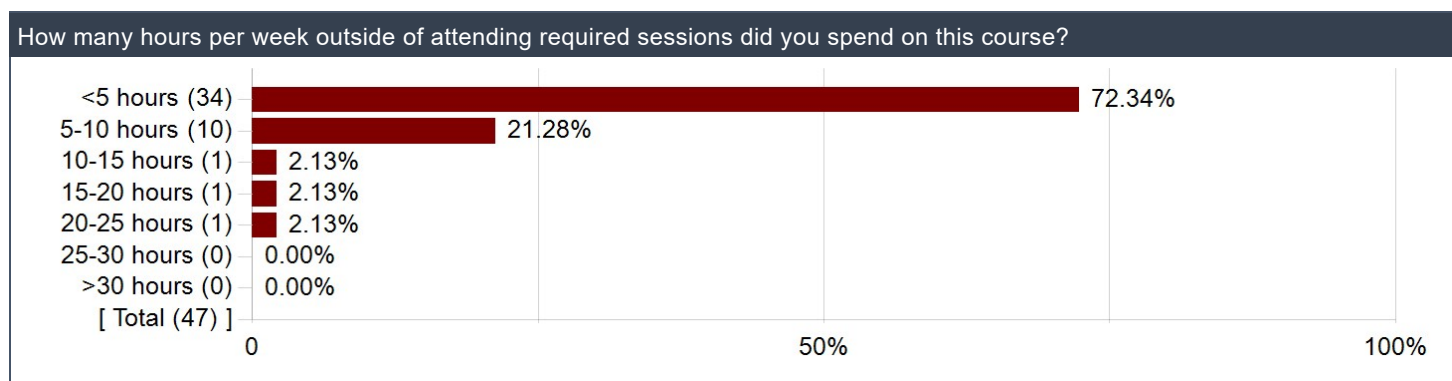
Now that this class is over, your interest is?



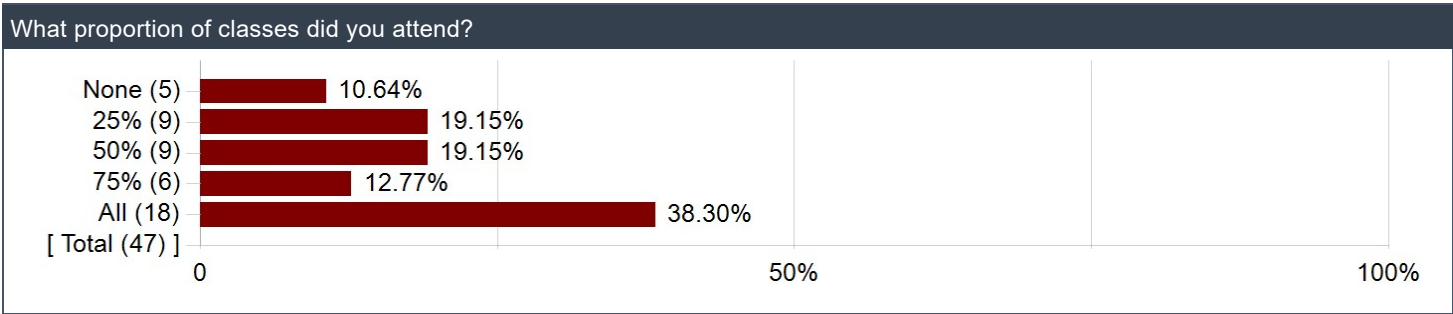
Why did you choose to take this course? (Select all that apply)



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



What proportion of classes did you attend?



Please comment on the level of difficulty of the course relative to your background and experience.

Comments
Requires lot of math and physics
its hard because you dont get any help. its easy because the professor is too old to care.
not hard; enjoyable info; smart, nice professor; interesting TAs
Very low.
he goes into a lot of detail, but you don't need to always understand everything
It's very difficult. I have no experience and it seems like the professor just expects you to know everything.
Easiest class I've taken so far.
I am not a STEM major so the math aspects of this class were a bit challenging but still doable.
it is a free class and light workload its just really painful
Super easy physics class. Attendance is certainly not required. The prof flies through his slides and always ends class at least 20 minutes early. Do not take if you want any sort of discussion because he lectures lots of unimportant info at you and does not tell you what you actually need to know
I've been interested in astronomy for years, and this class is a really good way to expand on that interest
Pretty easy, but the quizzes were sometimes difficult
it was a very manageable amount of busy work
not hard just a ton of tedious work
It was not at all difficult (I have little physics background and have not studied anything related to it since 2017.)
Not difficult just a lot of assignments
it wasnt the most difficult you work for it!
the course is fine as a phsc requirement– study group and the ta were very helpful to someone like me who does not have a math or science background and doesnt like math or science much
Fairly easy.
it was pretty easy most of the time
The weekly homework can be a bit confusing at times but they are usually quite simple. The lecture quizzes are pretty easy and so are the lab assignments. The lunar project is perhaps the most time–consuming and enriching assignment,
Not difficult in terms of material yet hard to stay motivated. The moon project was long, and lab assignments (despite not covering difficult material) were time consuming. Final was surprisingly hard.
Took ASTR180 and ASTR127 so I learned almost nothing in this class. Is a good intro to planet/solar system content but mashes in a lot of environmental science in too at the end which is slightly abrupt.
As someone without experience who came to all the lectures, the class was not difficult at all; don't be afraid to send an email and ask questions or go to office hours
The course was pretty easy, but some labs were time–consuming
This class was not difficult at all, but it did grow tedious—especially the labs. If you love Earth Science/Astronomy, I would recommend taking a class goes more in–depth into these topics. This class only provided a broad overview.
Extremely easy; however, I made mistakes with technology and got no points back.
Doesn't need a lot of prerequisite. If you know about Planets and Earth and have written lab reports, it would really be in your strong suit.
A lot of info for an intro course.
Even for someone with little to no STEM experience, this class was quite easy.
Not difficult
This is a very good class to take to fulfill the physical sciences core requirement.
The most difficult part was keeping up with all of the assignments which could add up and there was generally no pattern to when things were due
Easy for someone who knows close to nothing abt the solar system
easy but too much work