BIOS 10130 4 - Principles of Biology - Instructor(s): Beatrice Fineschi

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Autumn 2023**

Number Enrolled: **46**
Number of Responses: **16**

Report Comments

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

Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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

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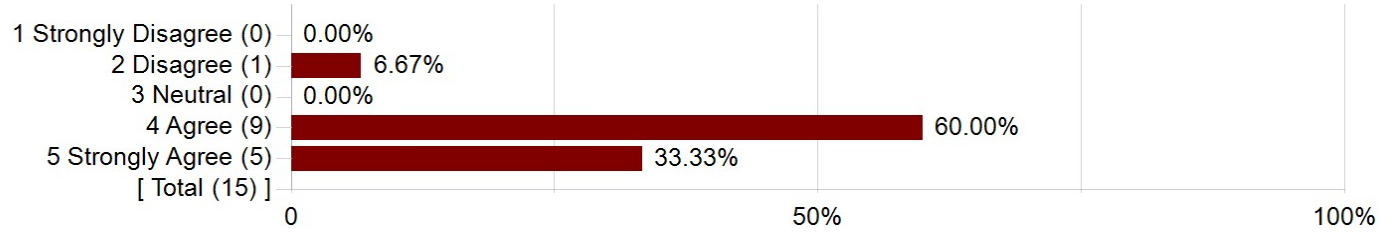

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.20
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.77

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

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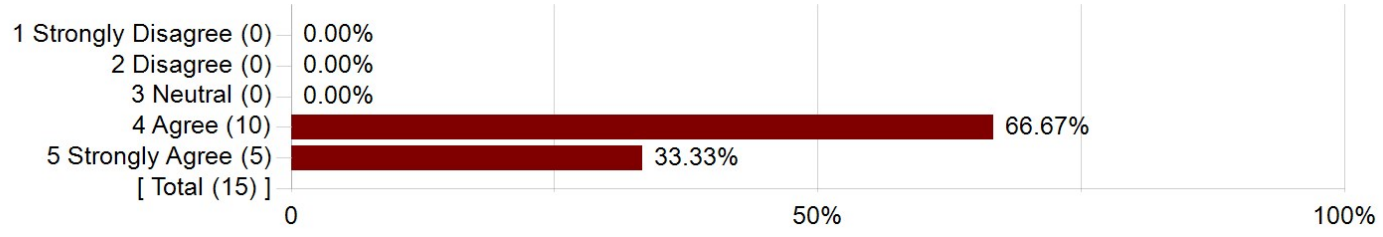

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.33
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.49

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

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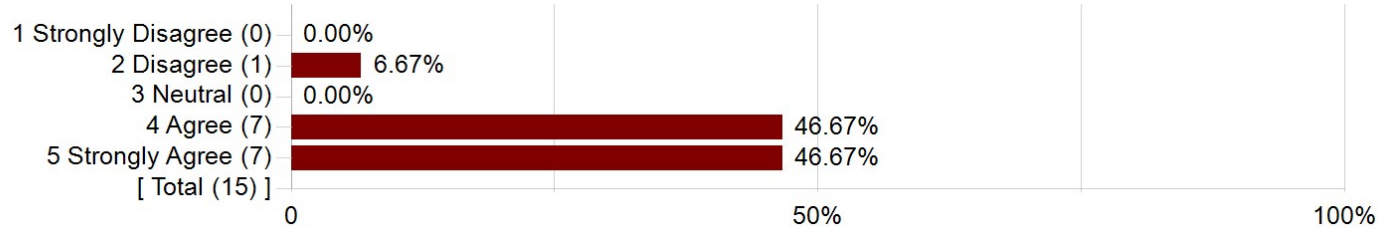

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.33
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.82

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

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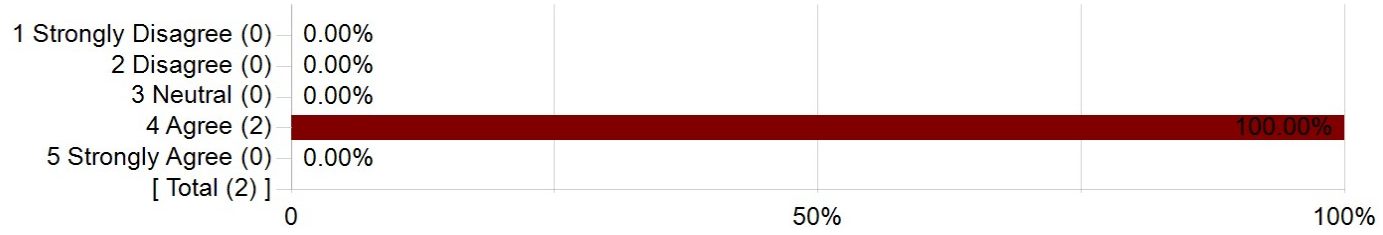
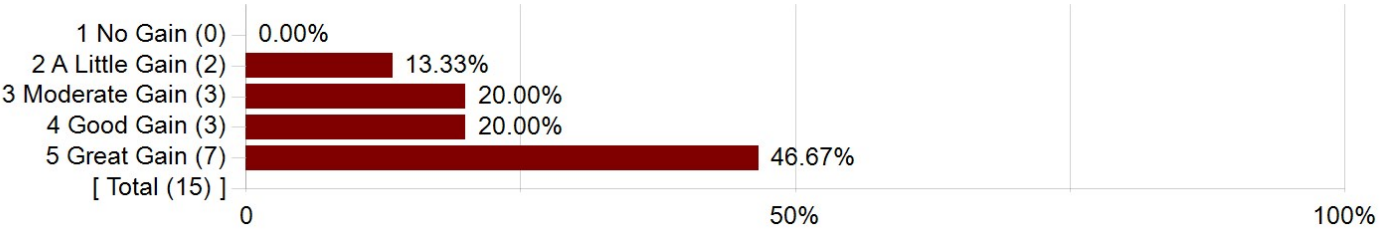


Statistics	Value
Response Count	2
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.00

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

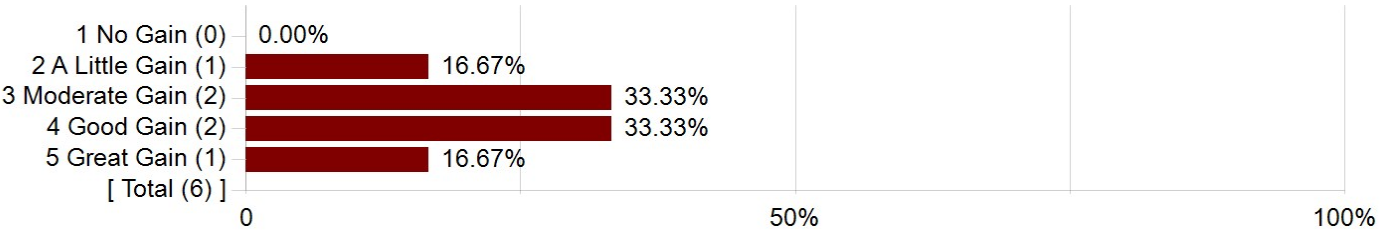
1. Classroom Lectures



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	2	13.33%
Moderate Gain	3	3	20.00%
Good Gain	4	3	20.00%
Great Gain	5	7	46.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.13

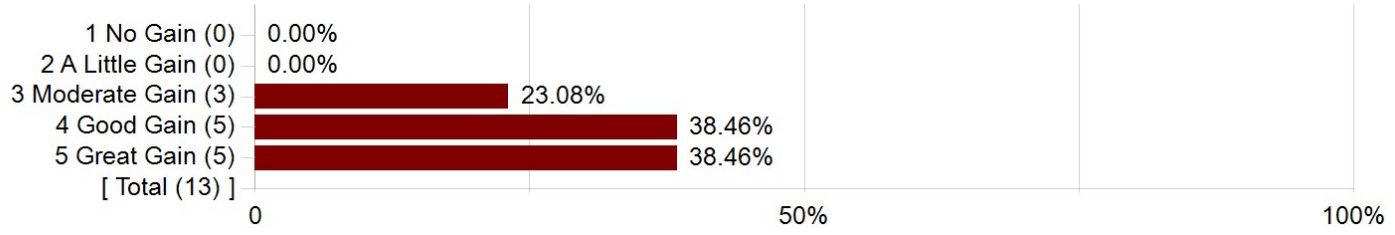
2. Classroom Discussions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	16.67%
Moderate Gain	3	2	33.33%
Good Gain	4	2	33.33%
Great Gain	5	1	16.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	3.50
Median	3.50
Standard Deviation	1.05

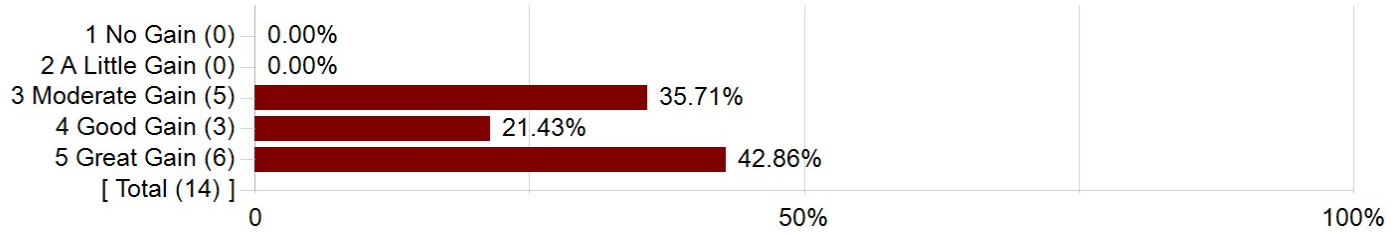
3. Assigned Readings



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	3	23.08%
Good Gain	4	5	38.46%
Great Gain	5	5	38.46%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.15
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.80

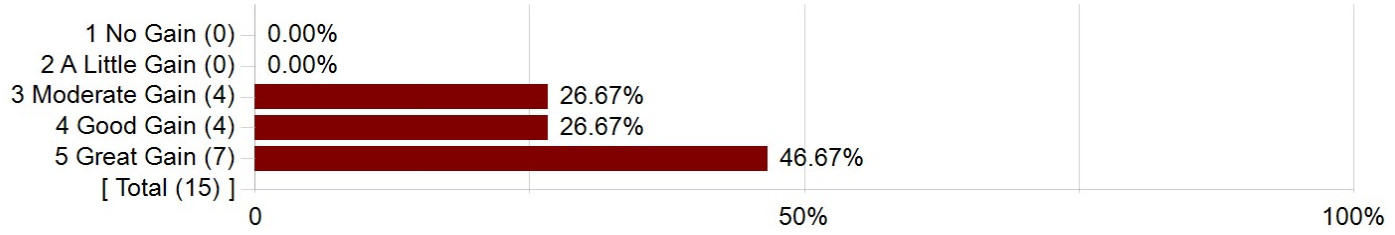
4. Homework Exercises



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	5	35.71%
Good Gain	4	3	21.43%
Great Gain	5	6	42.86%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	4.07
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.92

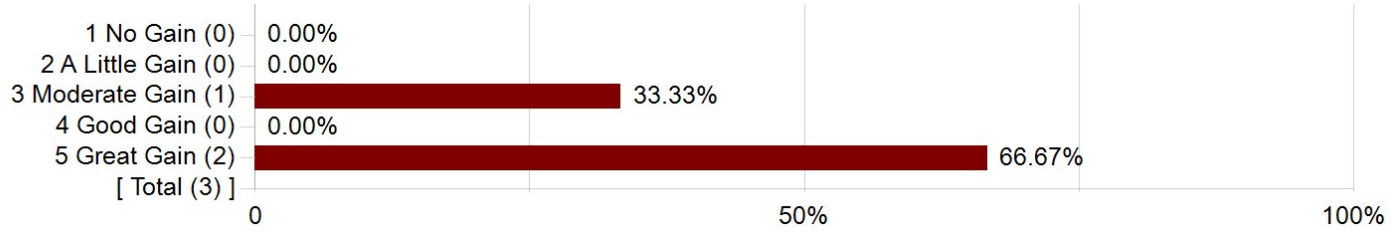
5. Lab Experiences



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	4	26.67%
Good Gain	4	4	26.67%
Great Gain	5	7	46.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.20
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.86

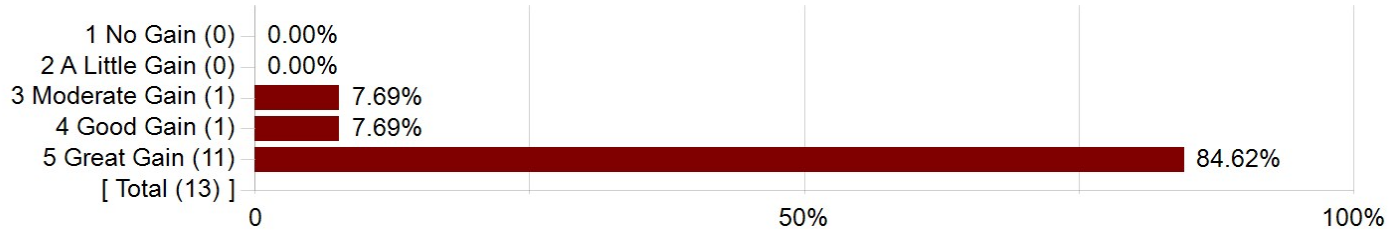
6. Discussion Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	33.33%
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%
Great Gain	5	2	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	3
Mean	4.33
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.15

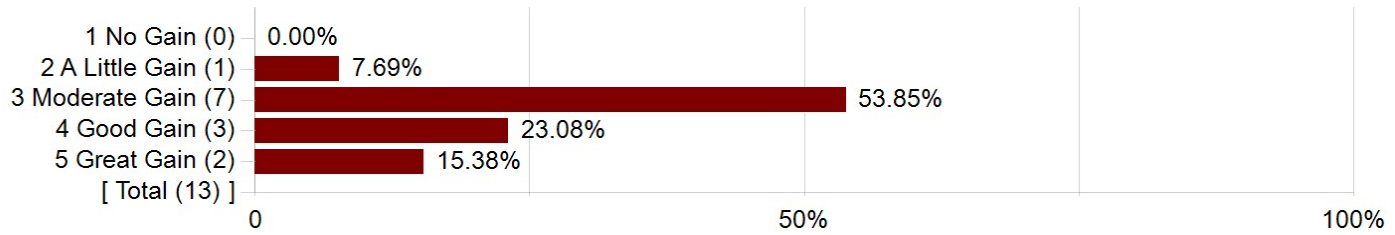
7. Review Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	7.69%
Good Gain	4	1	7.69%
Great Gain	5	11	84.62%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.77
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.60

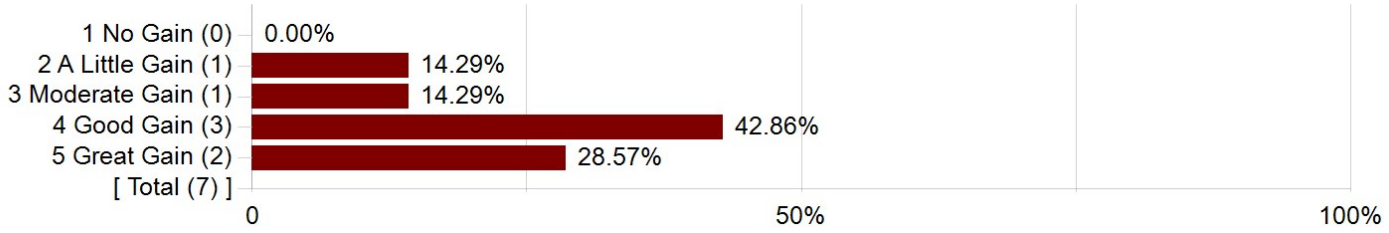
8. Interactions with Other Students



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	7.69%
Moderate Gain	3	7	53.85%
Good Gain	4	3	23.08%
Great Gain	5	2	15.38%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	3.46
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.88

9. Faculty Office Hours

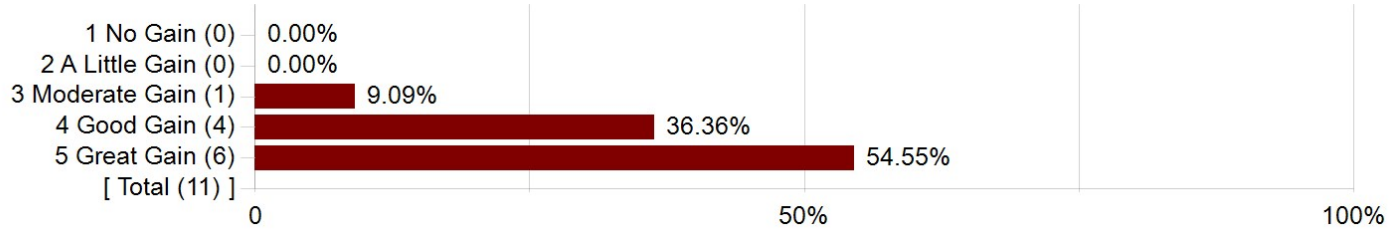


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	14.29%
Moderate Gain	3	1	14.29%
Good Gain	4	3	42.86%
Great Gain	5	2	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	3.86
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.07

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	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	9.09%
Good Gain	4	4	36.36%
Great Gain	5	6	54.55%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	11
Mean	4.45
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.69

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
I was nervous going into this course because I've never been good at biology, but I've really fallen in love with it this quarter
DNA and RNA process. Proteins.
The basics of cells and immunology
I understood the process of transcription and translation very well. Was confused about sickle cell anemia.
I think the most important thing for me was about vaccines and the flu because we encounter them in every day life and knowing how they work can provide more than just having the knowledge of a new subject
How viruses worked, still a little unclear about the immune system as a whole and wish we spent more time on it
How cells interact, how genetic traits are passed down, and how diseases spread.
I enjoyed learning about the mechanisms of evolution, but some of the more technical / vocabulary–based aspects of the class didn't feel useful to me.
Mechanisms of evolution.
I think learning more about the chemical function of biological compounds (especially in regards to transcription and translation) would have been helpful. The way the different pieces fit together is very clear but I think I still don't have a great understanding of what's actually happening at an intracellular level.
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How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?

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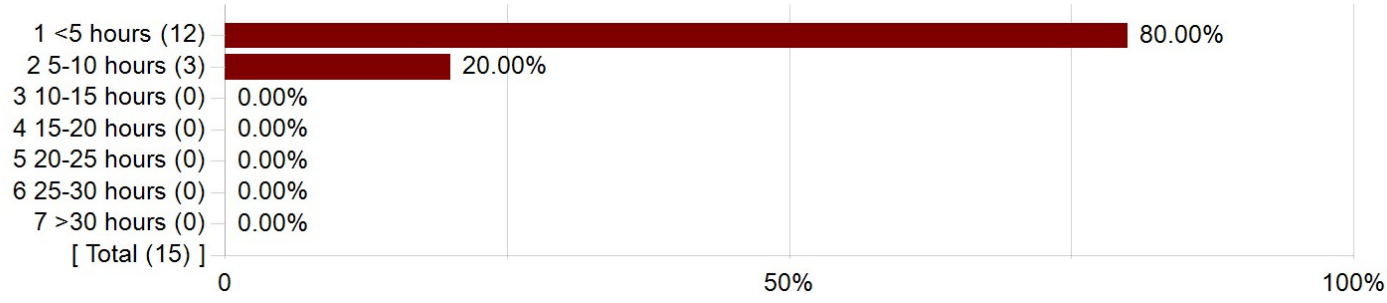
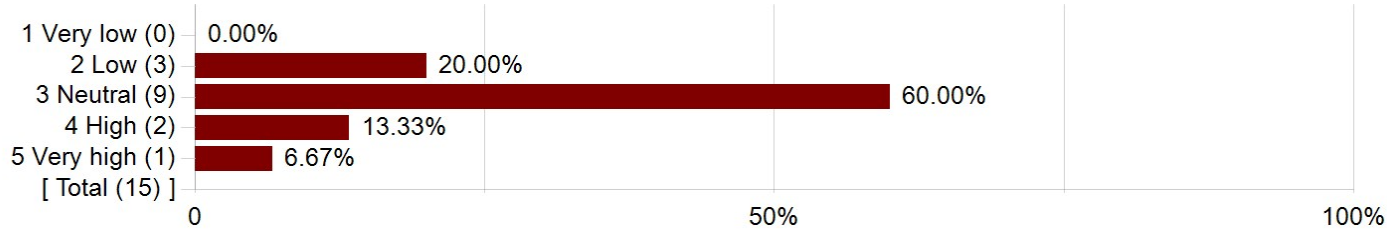


Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	1.20
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.41

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

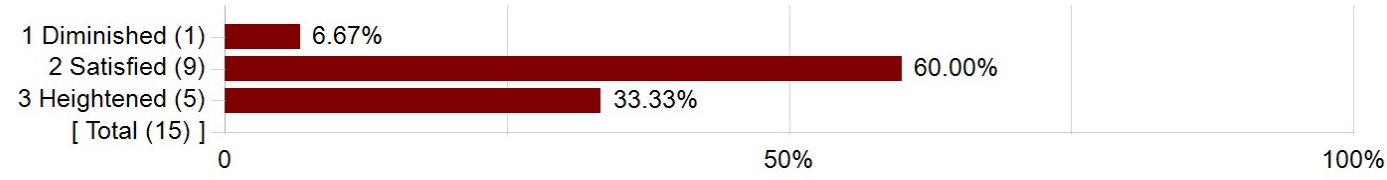
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	3.07
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.80

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	2.27
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.59

Overall, this was an excellent course.

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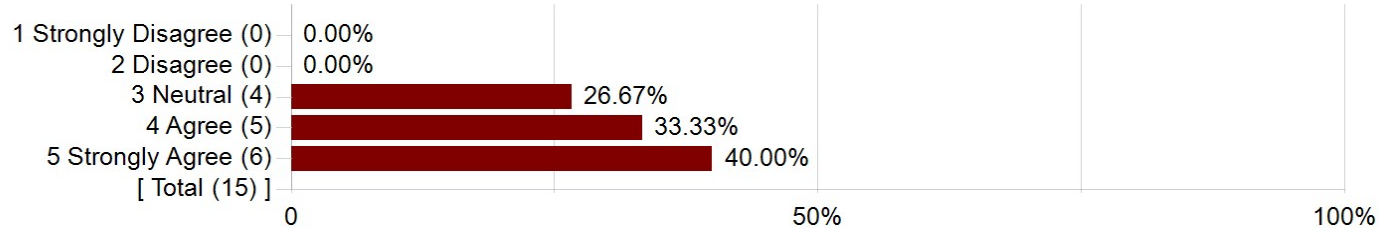


Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.13
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.83

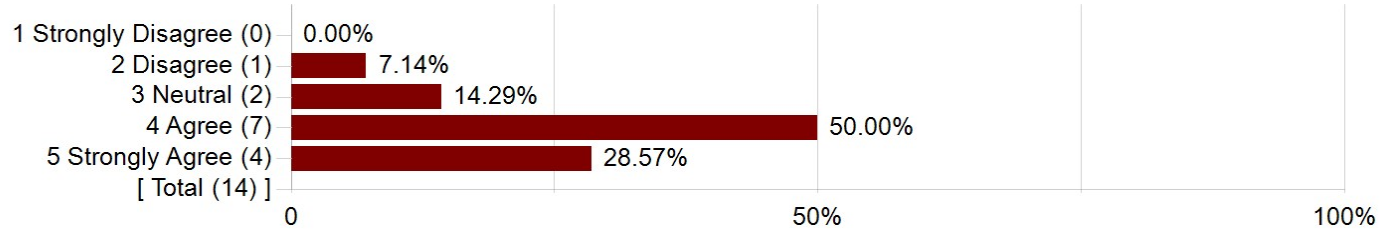
Please share any advice you have for students who are considering taking the course.

Comments
Read the textbook.
Great option for core bio! Going to review sessions will really help you succeed on the tests
Pretty easy if you do the labs correctly and understand the textbook.
Even if you aren't interested in biology you should still take it, Dr. Fineschi is a great teacher and makes it very interesting
Going to the T/A office hours to review for the midterms is the most important thing. Write more than is necessary on the midterms as well.
N/A
Anyone without a biology background can manage the course
Professor Fineschi is awesome.

Laboratory Meetings

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

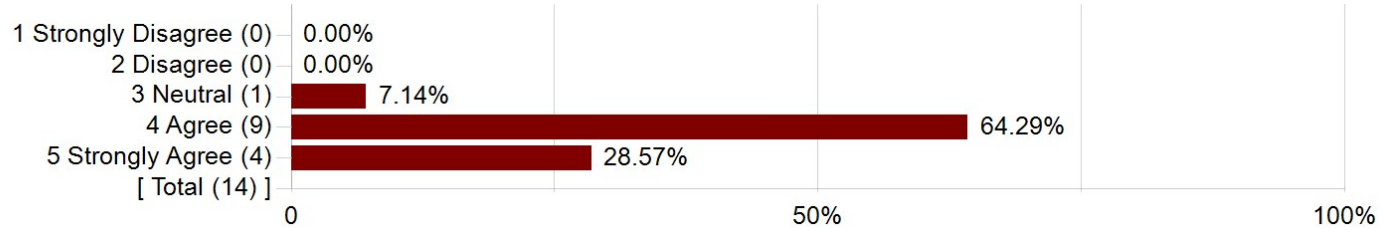
1. The laboratory protocols and instructions were clear and well organized.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	7.14%
Neutral	3	2	14.29%
Agree	4	7	50.00%
Strongly Agree	5	4	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.88

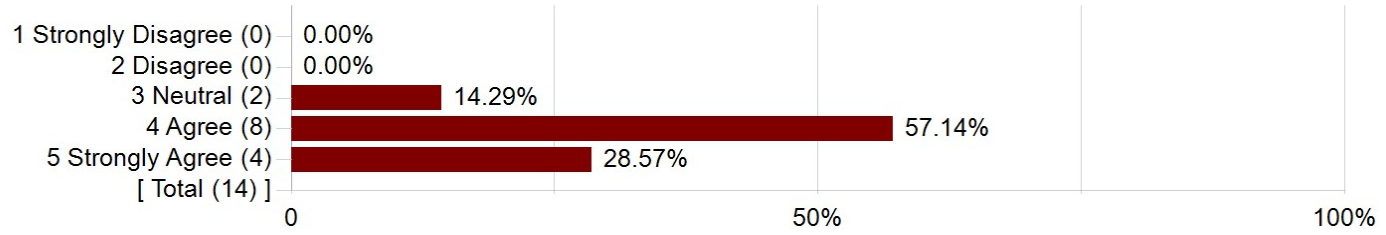
2. Materials and equipment needed for performing the exercises were readily available.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	7.14%
Agree	4	9	64.29%
Strongly Agree	5	4	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	4.21
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.58

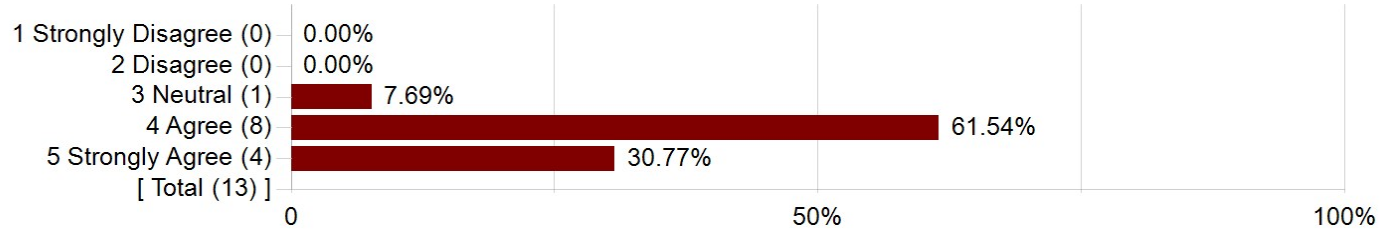
3. The lab exercises had clear educational goals.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	2	14.29%
Agree	4	8	57.14%
Strongly Agree	5	4	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	4.14
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.66

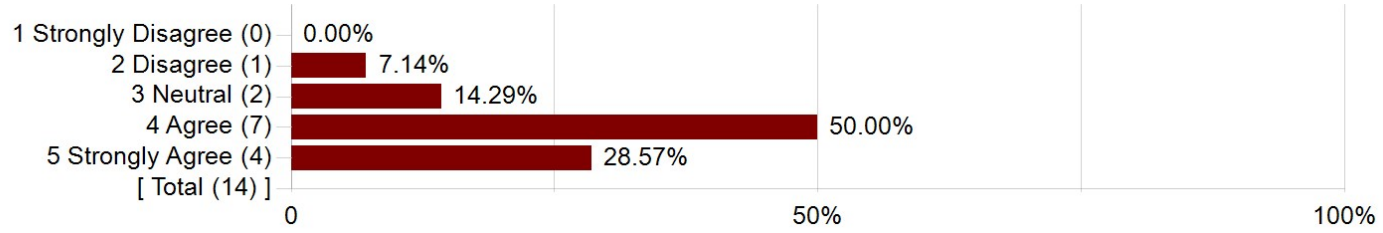
4. The goals of the lab exercises were well integrated with the overall objectives of the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	7.69%
Agree	4	8	61.54%
Strongly Agree	5	4	30.77%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.23
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.60

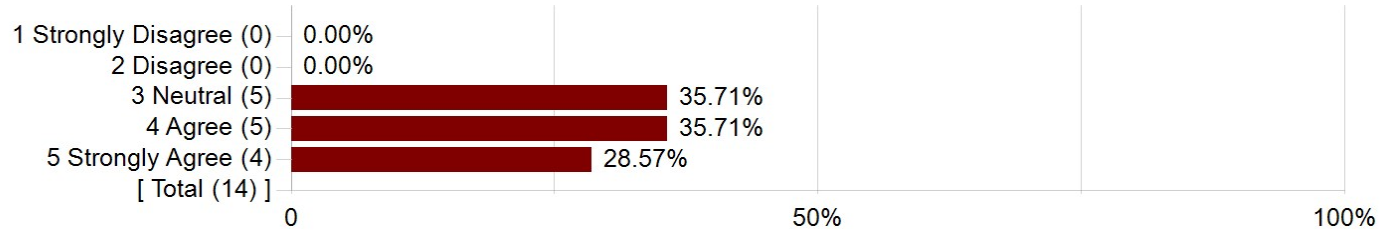
5. The lab exercises explored course topics in ways that could not have been accomplished in lecture or discussion.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	7.14%
Neutral	3	2	14.29%
Agree	4	7	50.00%
Strongly Agree	5	4	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.88

6. Overall, this was an excellent laboratory experience.

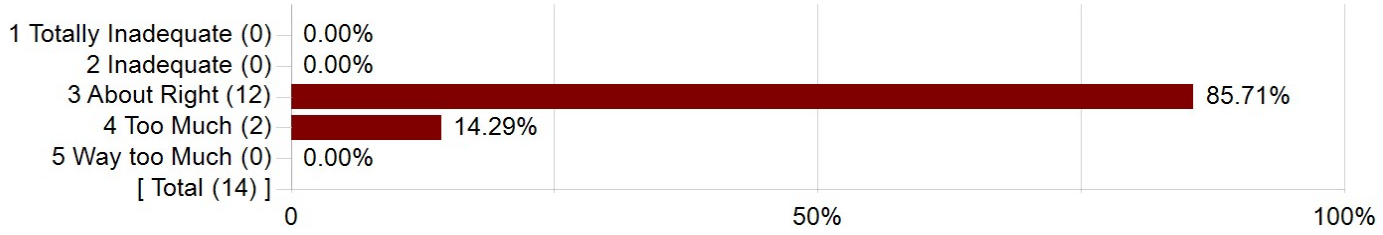


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	5	35.71%
Agree	4	5	35.71%
Strongly Agree	5	4	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	3.93
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.83

The time allocated for completing the lab was:

The time allocated for completing the lab was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	14
Mean	3.14
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.36

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
the hands on experiences in lab were really fascinating, and gave me a new understanding of the material we covered in lecture
PCR, dna sequencing, how to use a microscope.
Seeing the microorganisms through the microscope helped make the material we were learning in class seem more practical.
We worked with simulations and computer applications as well as bacterial cultures. I learned how to use a pipette which I've never used before.
Manipulations of lab material
I learned how bacteria colonies grow over time and adapt to their environment.
The lab experiences were helpful in gaining an understanding of the general process of laboratory work. However, they were very prescriptive and we were really just following instructions. While I understand the heavily guided nature of the labs to ensure meaningful results are produced, I think that this limited our ability to really understand how biologists formulate and apply laboratory assessments to understand biological phenomena.

Please share any recommendations to improve the laboratory learning experience.

Comments
clearer lab handouts
N/A
I think if there is room to make the labs more self–directed that would be helpful. Otherwise make students consider why they are examining an object or choosing one approach over another I think would achieve the goals of the laboratory portion of this course more effectively.