



# BIOS 13132 1, ENST 13132 1 - Ecology in the Anthropocene - Instructor(s): Trevor Price

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

Number Enrolled: **108**

Number of Responses: **50**

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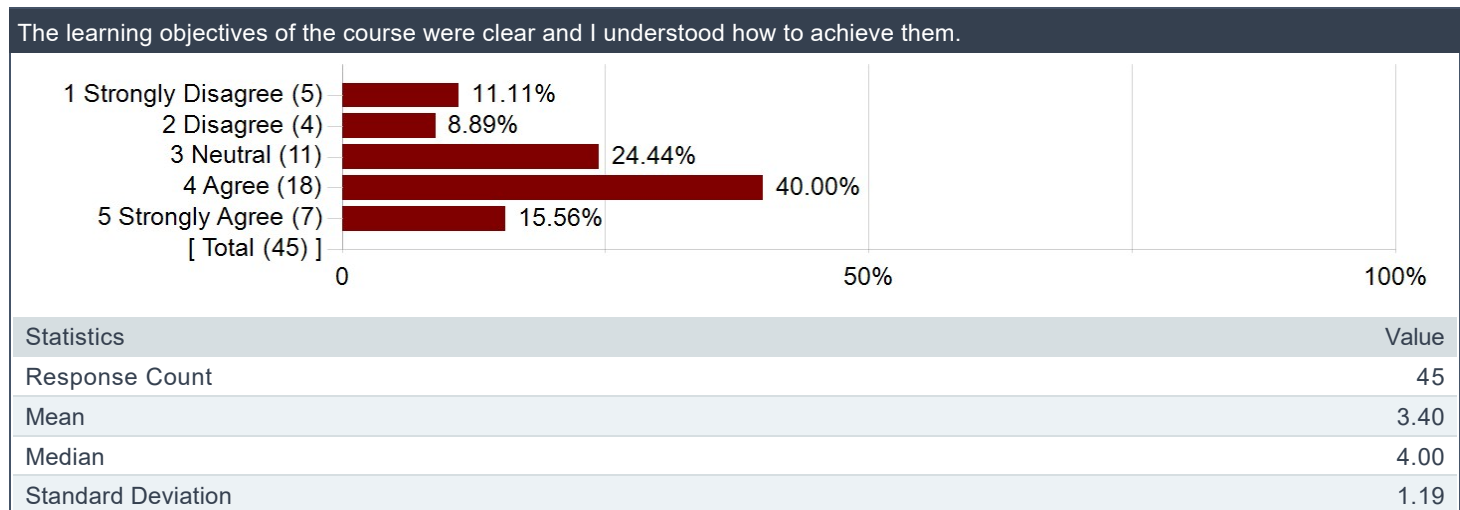
## Report Comments

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

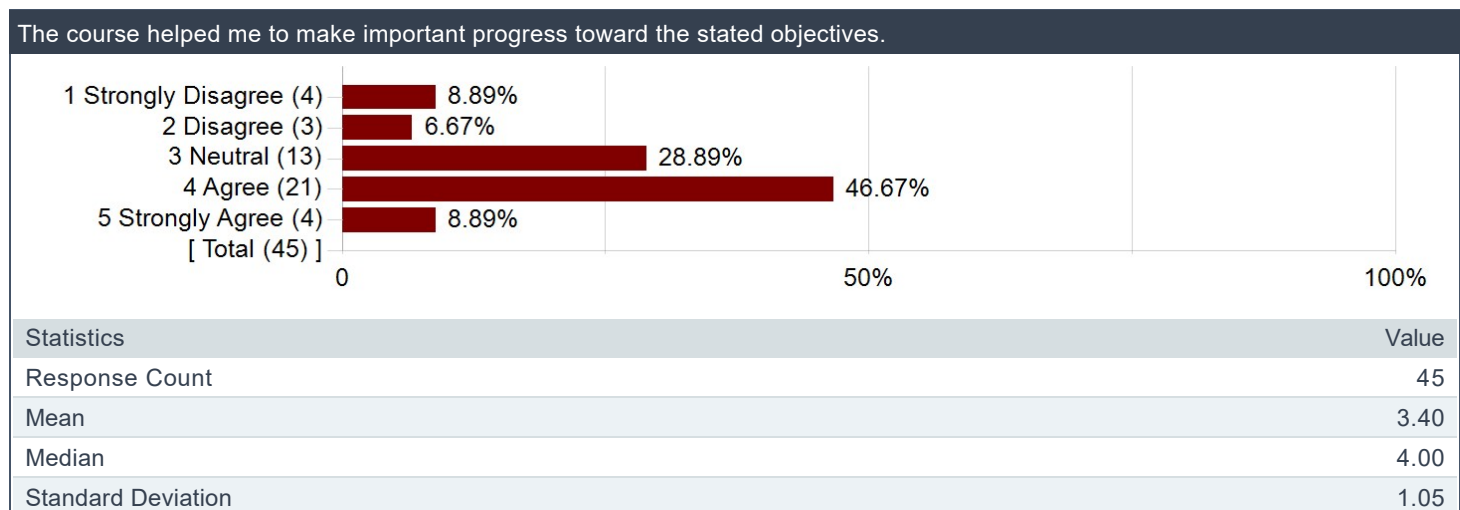
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Creation Date: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

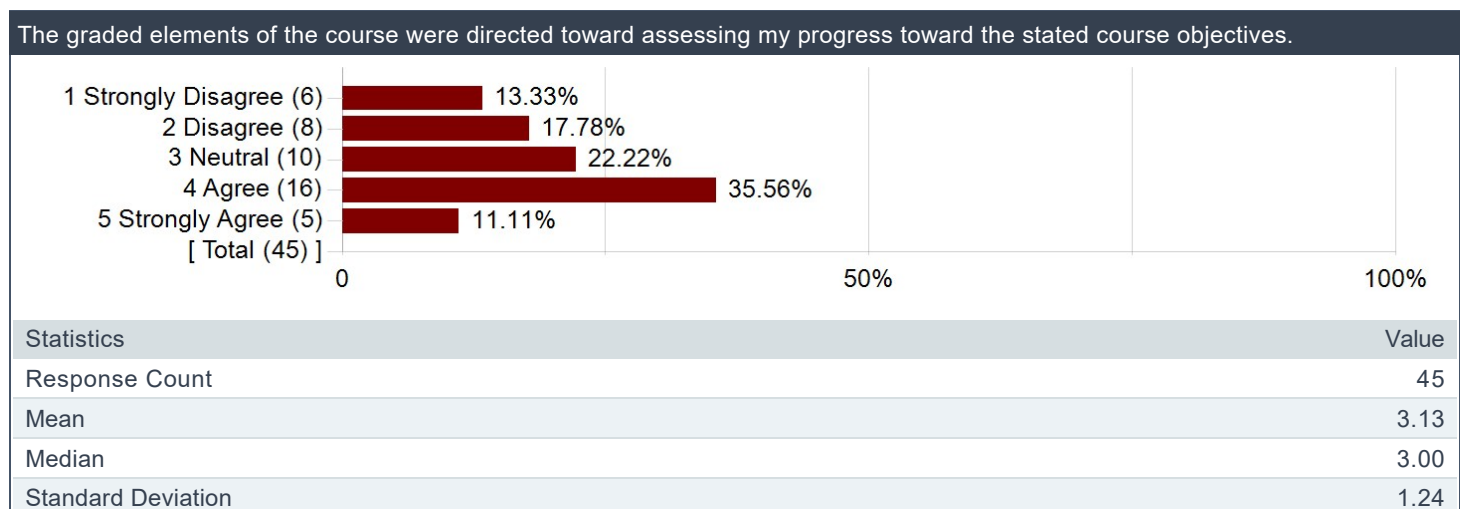
## The learning objectives of the course were clear and I understood how to achieve them.



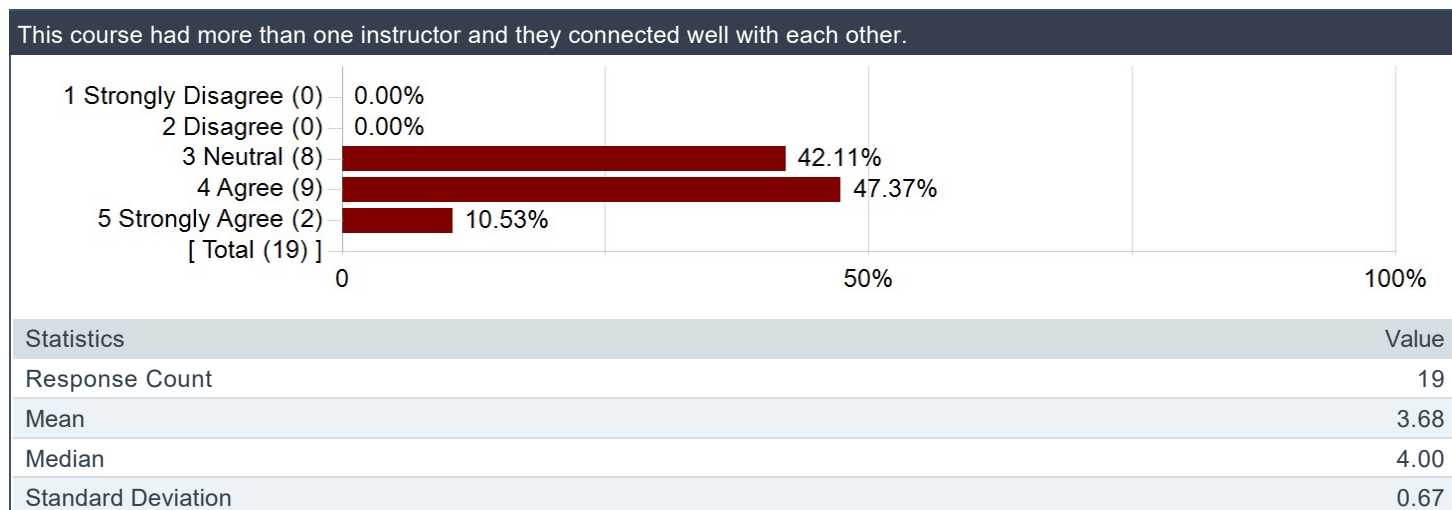
## The course helped me to make important progress toward the stated objectives.



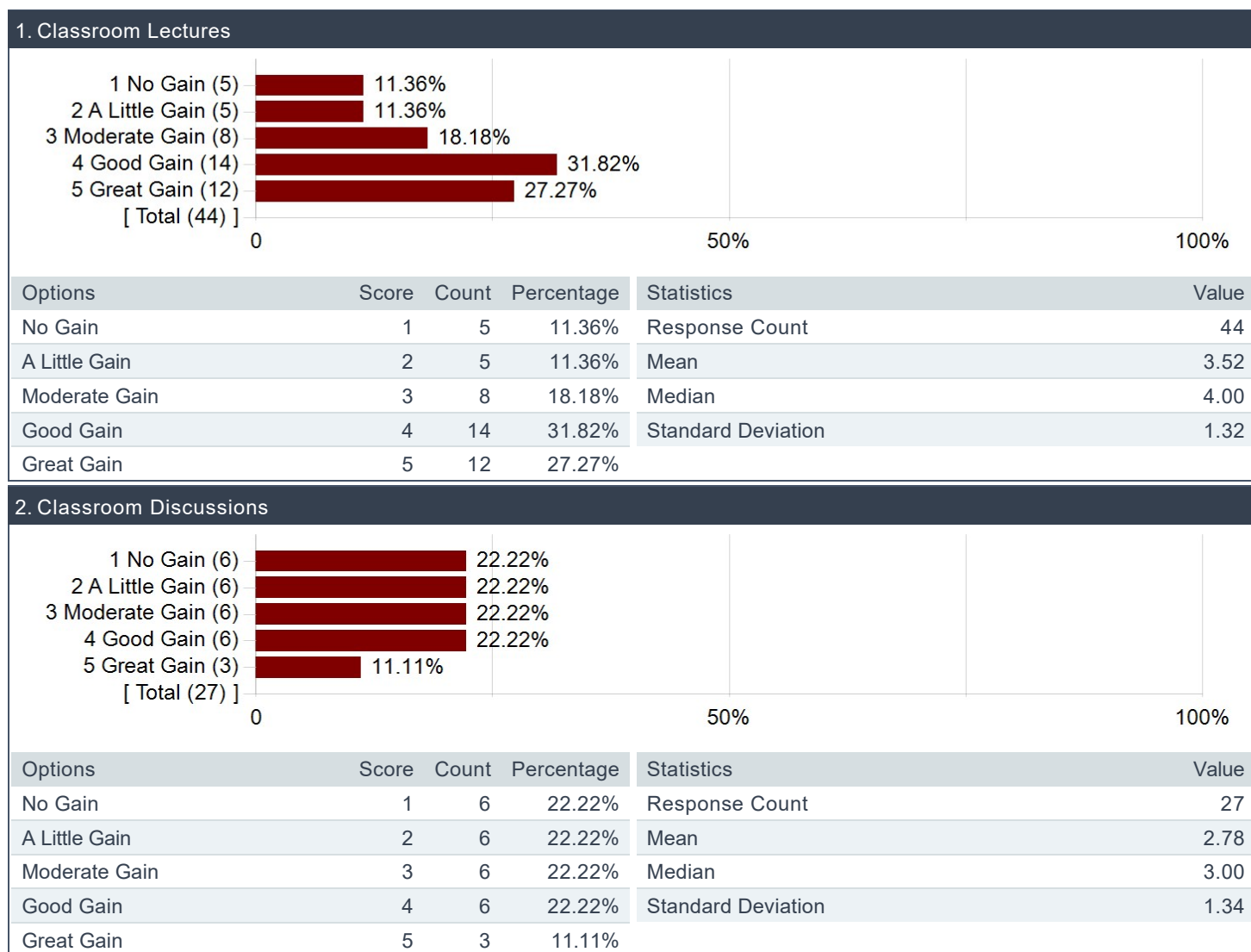
## The graded elements of the course were directed toward assessing my progress toward the stated course objectives.



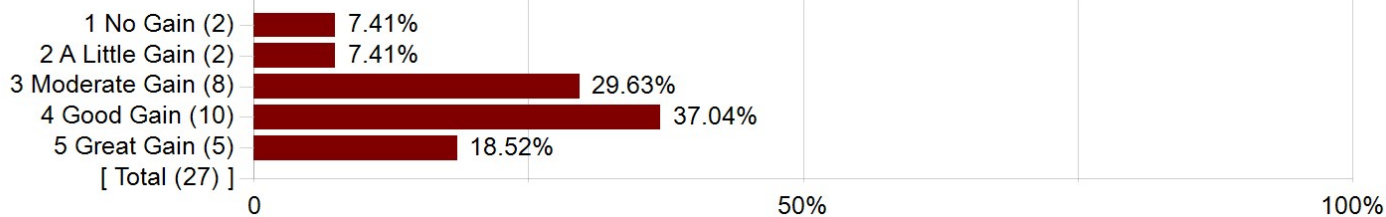
## This course had more than one instructor and they connected well with each other.



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

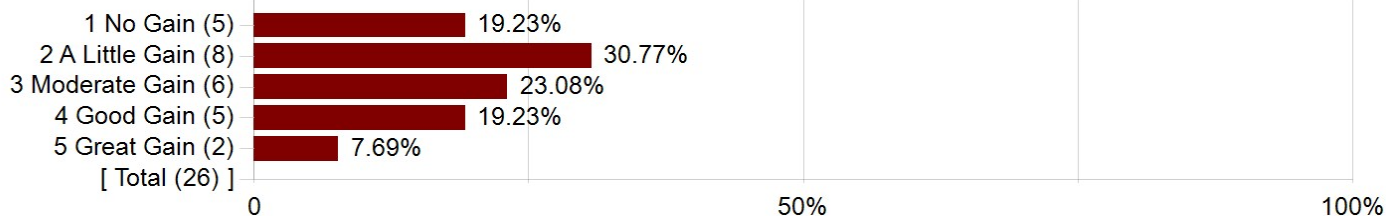


### 3. Assigned Readings



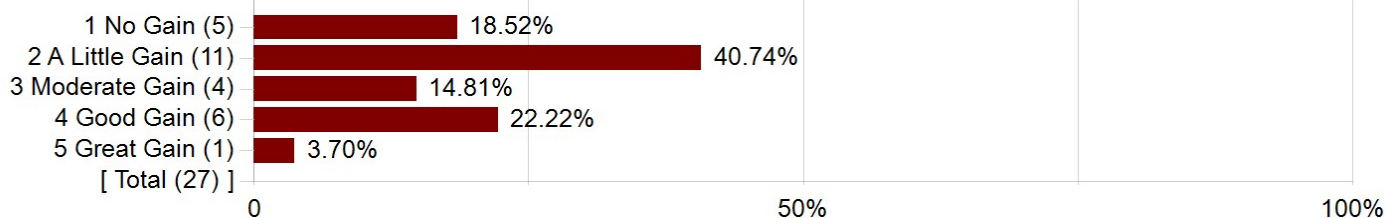
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	2	7.41%	Response Count	27
A Little Gain	2	2	7.41%	Mean	3.52
Moderate Gain	3	8	29.63%	Median	4.00
Good Gain	4	10	37.04%	Standard Deviation	1.12
Great Gain	5	5	18.52%		

### 4. Homework Exercises



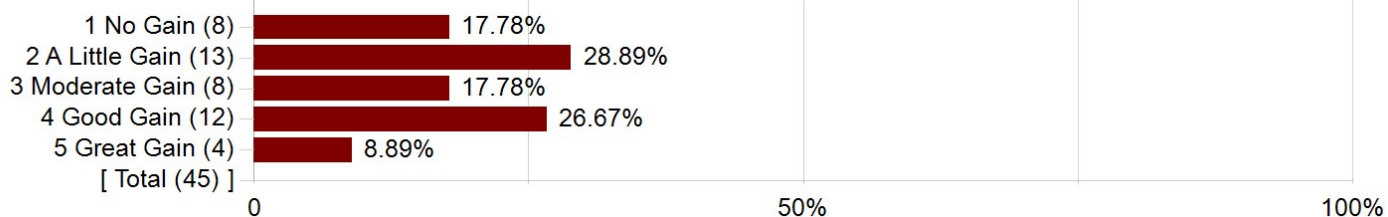
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	5	19.23%	Response Count	26
A Little Gain	2	8	30.77%	Mean	2.65
Moderate Gain	3	6	23.08%	Median	2.50
Good Gain	4	5	19.23%	Standard Deviation	1.23
Great Gain	5	2	7.69%		

### 5. Lab Experiences



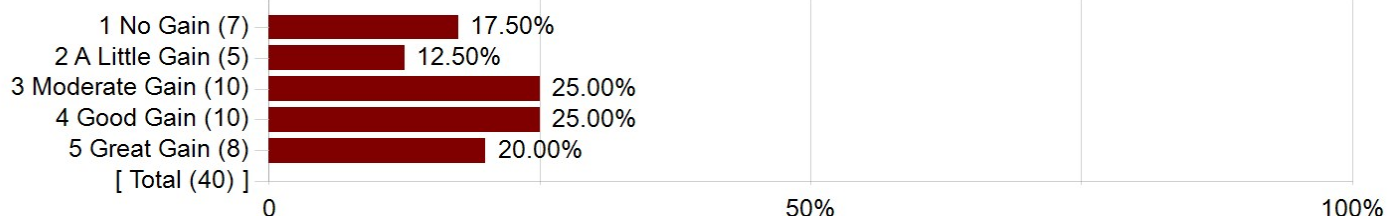
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	5	18.52%	Response Count	27
A Little Gain	2	11	40.74%	Mean	2.52
Moderate Gain	3	4	14.81%	Median	2.00
Good Gain	4	6	22.22%	Standard Deviation	1.16
Great Gain	5	1	3.70%		

## 6. Discussion Sessions



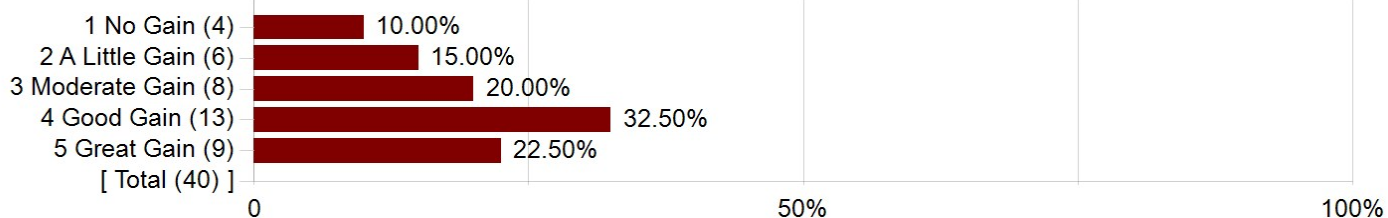
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No Gain	1	8	17.78%	Response Count	45
A Little Gain	2	13	28.89%	Mean	2.80
Moderate Gain	3	8	17.78%	Median	3.00
Good Gain	4	12	26.67%	Standard Deviation	1.27
Great Gain	5	4	8.89%		

## 7. Review Sessions



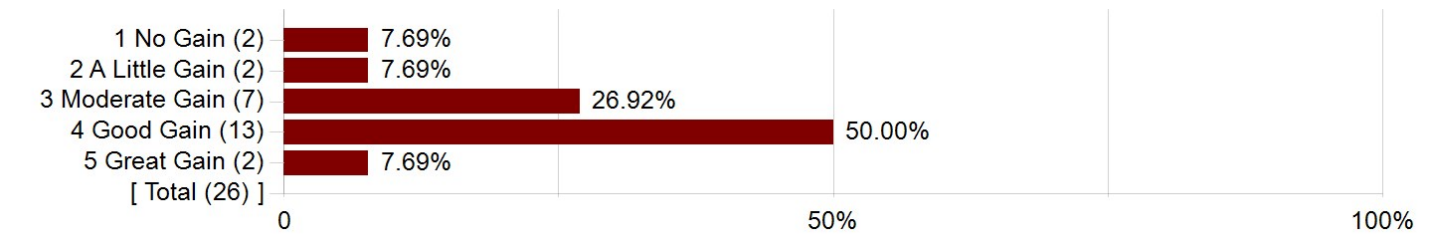
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	7	17.50%	Response Count	40
A Little Gain	2	5	12.50%	Mean	3.18
Moderate Gain	3	10	25.00%	Median	3.00
Good Gain	4	10	25.00%	Standard Deviation	1.38
Great Gain	5	8	20.00%		

## 8. Interactions with Other Students



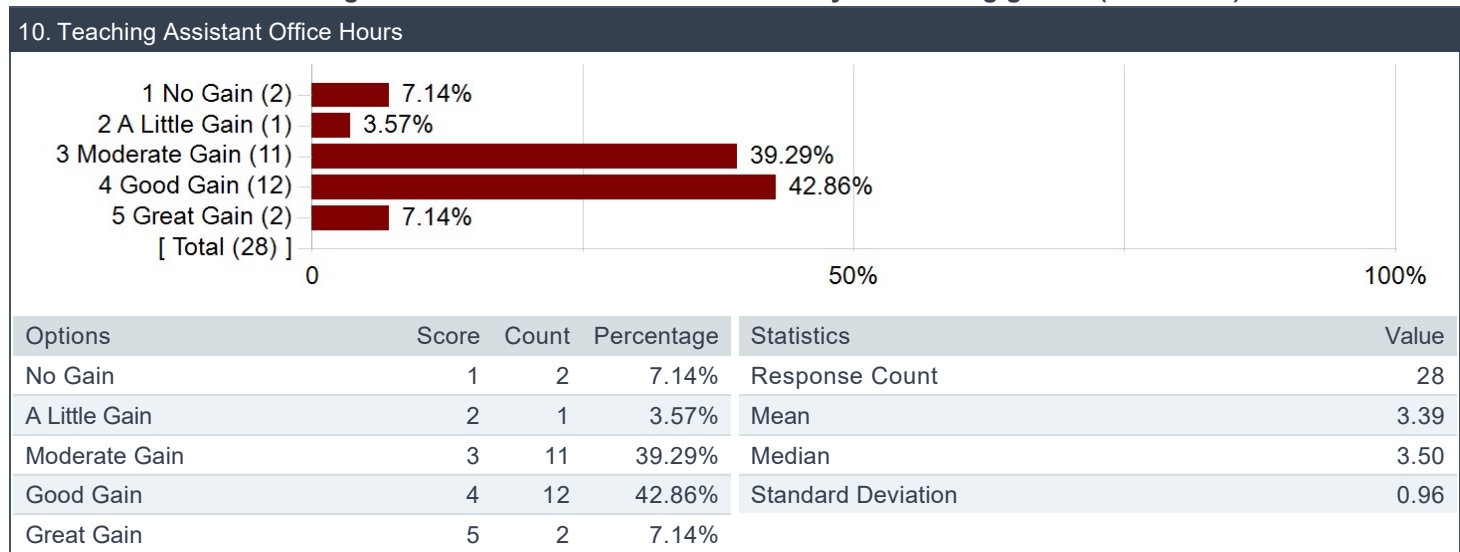
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	4	10.00%	Response Count	40
A Little Gain	2	6	15.00%	Mean	3.43
Moderate Gain	3	8	20.00%	Median	4.00
Good Gain	4	13	32.50%	Standard Deviation	1.28
Great Gain	5	9	22.50%		

9. Faculty Office Hours



Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	2	7.69%	Response Count	26
A Little Gain	2	2	7.69%	Mean	3.42
Moderate Gain	3	7	26.92%	Median	4.00
Good Gain	4	13	50.00%	Standard Deviation	1.03
Great Gain	5	2	7.69%		

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

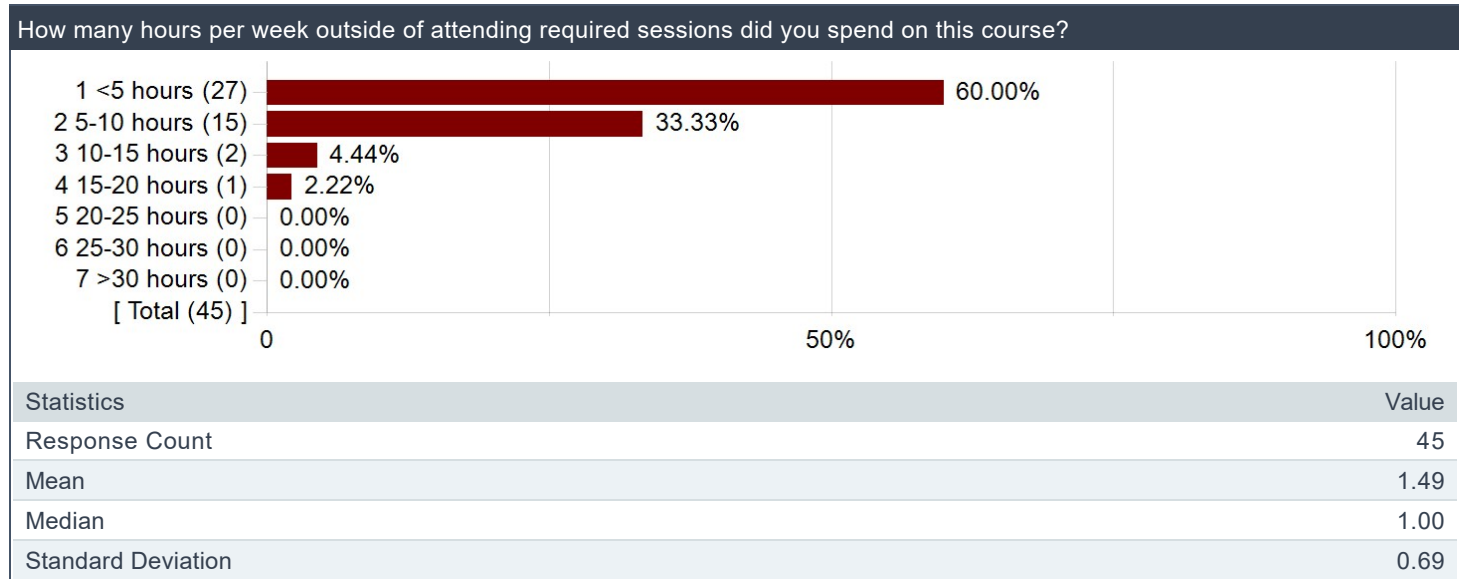


**What was the most important thing (to you) that you learned in this course? What aspect of the material is still unclear for you, that you wish you could have learned better?**

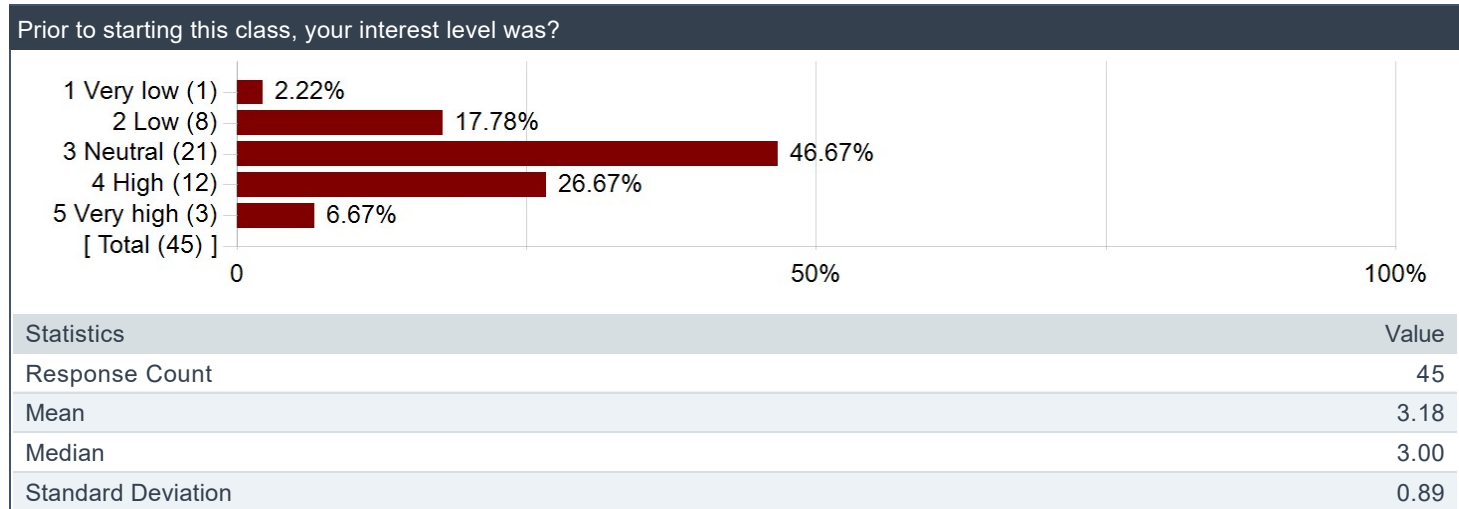
Comments
I literally learned nothing. I was not motivated to pay attention in class because the material was not presented in an interesting way. Then, following the midterm, when the material on it reflected nothing of the lectures, less even less motivated to pay attention.
invasive species was very interesting
I learned how we are changing the world around us and how we negatively impacting the environment. It is through an awareness of these ideas that we can make effective change in the world today.
I learnt a lot about birds, how birds are a crucial part to our lives and how it can be affecting us in a huge way!
Nothing. Everything is so unclear because it was never taught. Students were expected to stay afloat never having learned how to swim.
I wish the class was organized better because the material in the textbook was interesting. I also wish there were clearer learning objectives to help prepare for the midterm and final.
Lecture notes It's so hard to find what is important in the lecture. Basically you have to remember everything.
I feel like I have a comprehensive understanding of ecology now, and the book did a great job at opening my eyes to many things. Some test questions were hard to understand though.
Honestly the material is super fascinating, cool to learn about how interconnected species and the environment are. Still a little shaky on discount rates and logistic growth.
COPHID, very interesting
Most of it is still unclear
I thought the units on climate change were interesting and important.
Everything. I was just memorizing as much as possible for the final.
The most important thing that I learned in this course is the difficulty of incorporating green alternatives of energy as well as the various consequences of the IPCC's rise of Celsius. However, I'm still a bit unclear on the population equation and when to exactly implement it.
Threats to our environment
how humans have interacted with the environment and that perhaps all is not lost
The most important thing I learned was all the things that are destroying our environment.
I learned that there are many compounding impacts for the environment exacerbating climate change. aka COPHID.
intro ecology
The causes of extinction
The impacts humans make on the world in which we live – COPHID (Climate Change, Overharvesting, Pollution, Habitat Loss, Invasive Species, Disease). Also so many fun facts about cute animals.
I learned a lot about birds, and I do think it made me more conscious about ecology in the modern world, and the effect that humans have on it. It's a good class if you're good at taking exams, memorizing, and if you like to review ecology basics.
The most important thing we talked about was the interconnectedness between species and how if one piece of the structure is removed, the whole web starts to collapse. The only concept that is still unclear to me is depreciating value of land.
I enjoyed the varied looks at different ways to assess the climate crisis and how humans impact the climate.
Nothing
The multifaceted nature of environmental issues in the anthropocene – it was rly cool and i think everyone should take an environmental literacy course like this one!
The urgency of conservation
I learned the most about island biogeography and the 6 elements that are ruining the planet. I wish I could have learned more about viruses.
Birds are cool



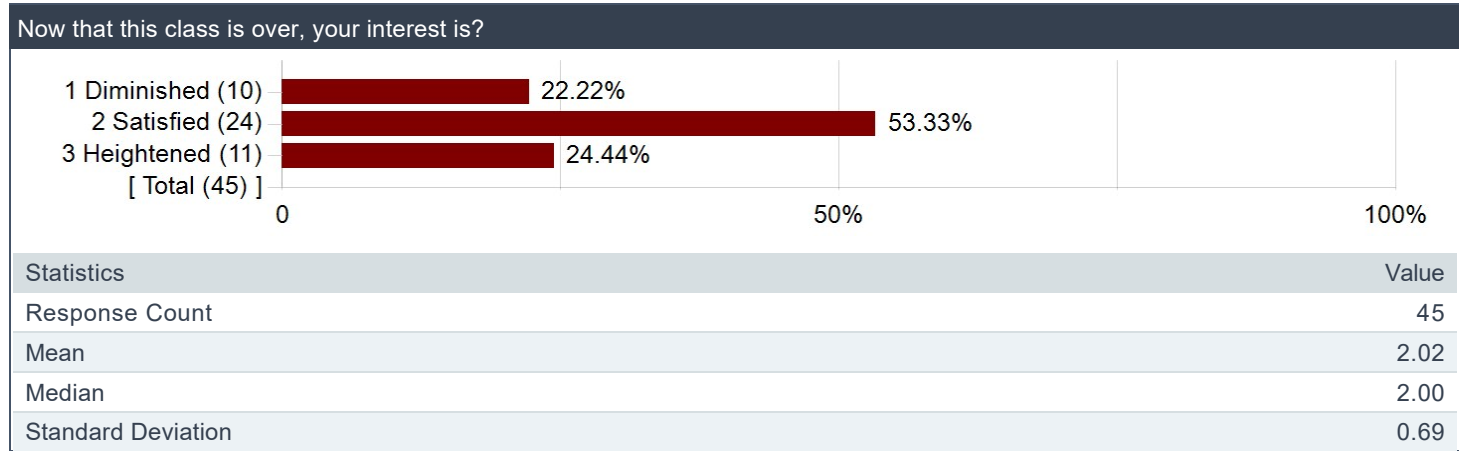
## How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



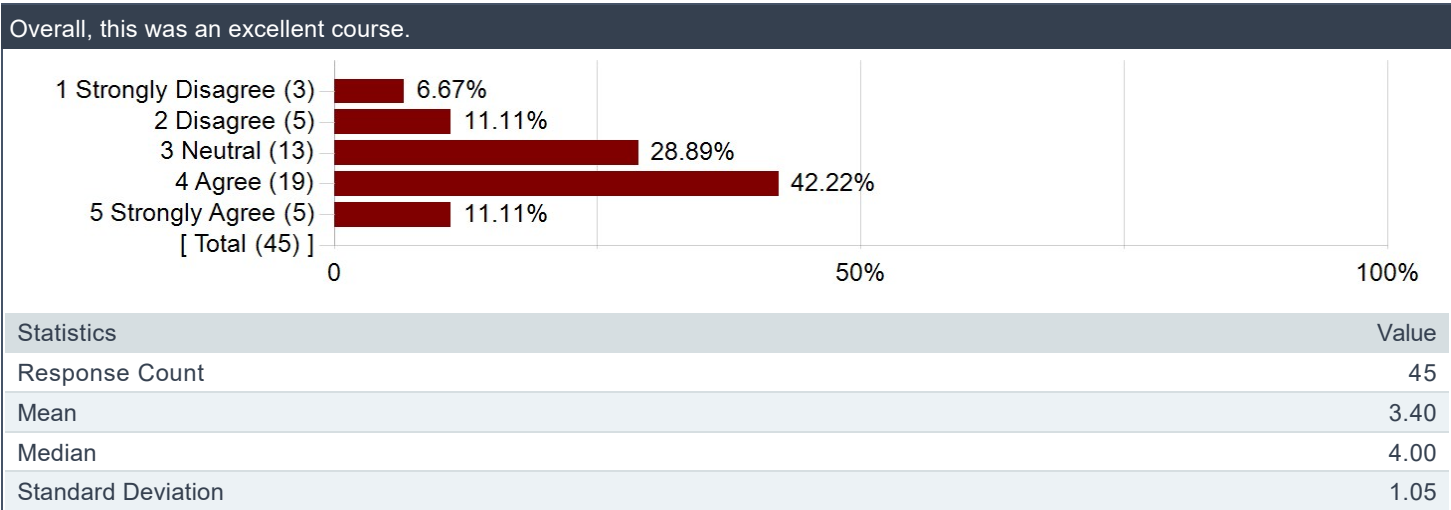
## Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



## Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Overall, this was an excellent course.



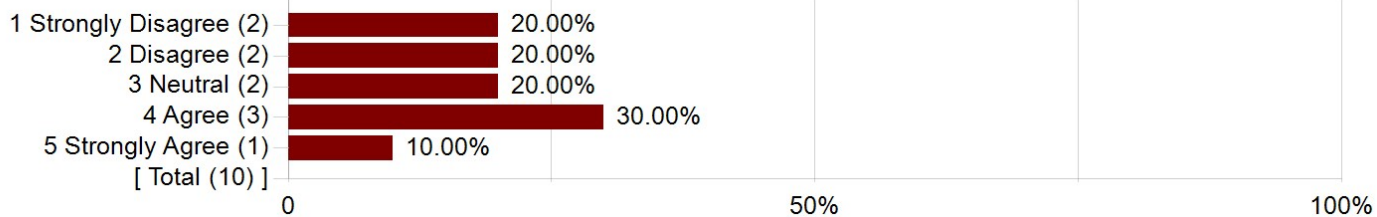
## Please share any advice you have for students who are considering taking the course.

Comments
pretty chill course
don't take it. Trevor is funny and that's it.
this course is not very demanding, however, the midterm was very hard.
Read the book! It's *very* similar to lecture, which is blessed.
It is an amazing course that everyone should attend. It will likely change your perspective of the world. It did this for me.
Just take it, wouldn't regret!
DON'T
Do not take this class, there are easier bio topics.
If you are not passionate about ecology, it's better to take another course. The exams occupy a big proportion of your grade and they are really hard.
This is an enjoyable class that requires a lot of studying for the midterm and final but very little work otherwise. Make sure to start studying early and hard for these tests and you'll do pretty decent (imagining the final isn't graded to harshly cuz we haven't gotten it back). Oh also there is a 6 page paper but it isn't hard to write.
Careful
READ THE TEXTBOOK IT'S YOUR BEST FRIEND
Attending lecture and/or reading the textbook is probably the only way well to learn the content, be prepared for difficult exams that are worth a lot of your grade.
Read the posted lecture notes/textbook and keep up with them. Going to lecture and taking is not enough to do well on the exams.
Try to take very detailed notes during class. Almost everything will be tested in the exams, and when questions are presented, they tend to be very specific.
No homework assignments throughout the quarter. Just have to read the textbook the night before the exams and you will be fine.
memorization is really important; look for the small examples in the lectures as those will be on exams
I'd recommend at least keeping up with taking notes in the class and study guides because there's only two exams (midterm and final) and both cover a lot of information that may or may not end up on the exams themselves. You also really have to decipher when and when not to think outside the box of the exam questions because they are worded strangely and want strange or the most obvious answer.
The final and the midterm was unnecessarily hard for a core bio class
only take it if you really like birds
FOLLOW THE TEXTBOOK!!!!!!
The Midterm and Exam were very difficult. It was also not clear what topics we needed to study. I attended the TA study session and they didn't know what was on the exam and based on other students experience with the professor neither did he. Additionally, besides the midterm we received no feedback on any of our other assignments throughout the quarter so you really don't know where you stand in the class
If you're interested in taking a biology class that's centered around ecology, then you should only take this class if you're a good test taker who likes ecology. Your grade is basically dependent on whether or not you get a good grade on the midterm and final. Keep that in mind.
you can take it if you love birds and ecology

## Laboratory Meetings

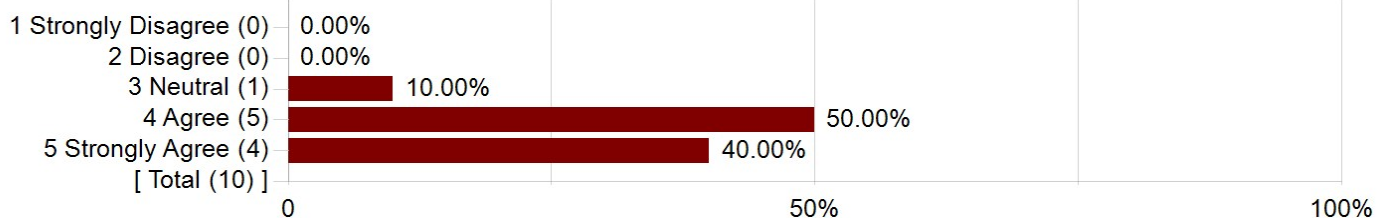
For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement.

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



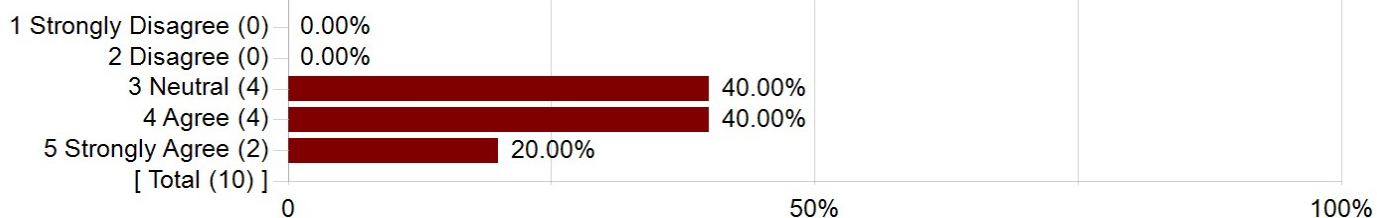
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Disagree	1	2	20.00%	Response Count	10
Disagree	2	2	20.00%	Mean	2.90
Neutral	3	2	20.00%	Median	3.00
Agree	4	3	30.00%	Standard Deviation	1.37
Strongly Agree	5	1	10.00%		

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



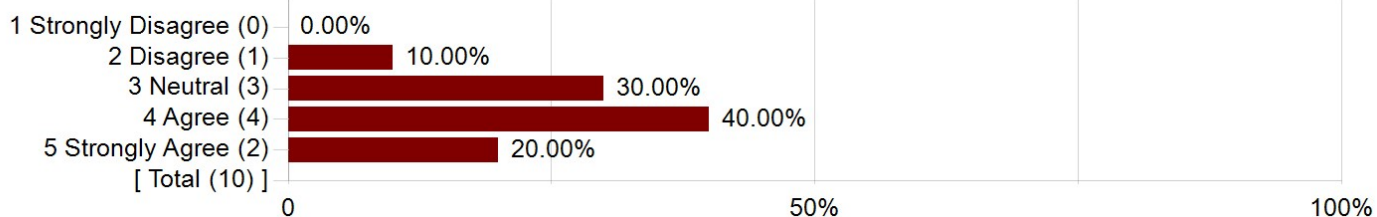
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	10
Disagree	2	0	0.00%	Mean	4.30
Neutral	3	1	10.00%	Median	4.00
Agree	4	5	50.00%	Standard Deviation	0.67
Strongly Agree	5	4	40.00%		

### 3. The lab exercises had clear educational goals.



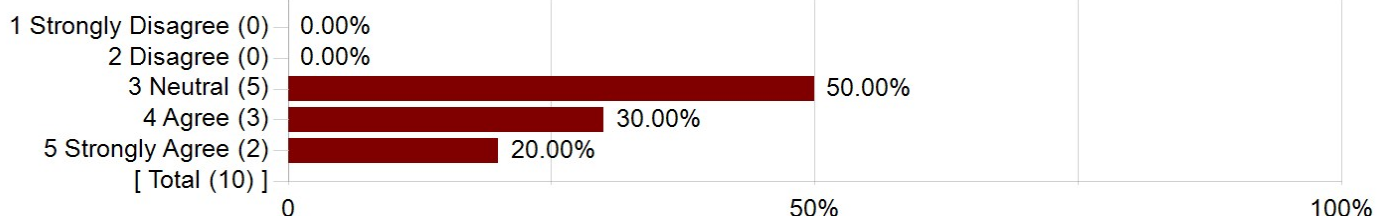
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	10
Disagree	2	0	0.00%	Mean	3.80
Neutral	3	4	40.00%	Median	4.00
Agree	4	4	40.00%	Standard Deviation	0.79
Strongly Agree	5	2	20.00%		

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



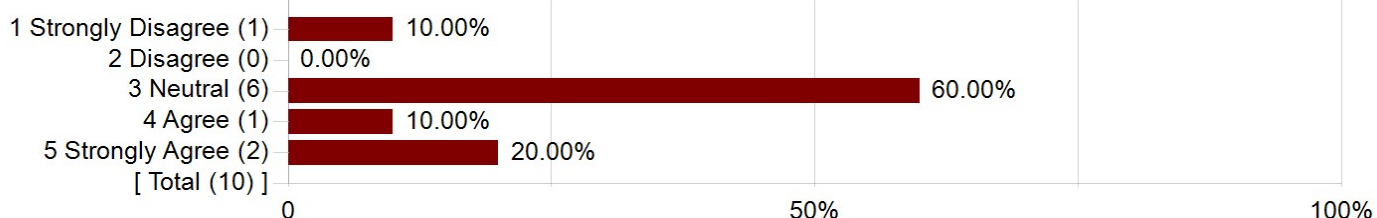
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	10
Disagree	2	1	10.00%	Mean	3.70
Neutral	3	3	30.00%	Median	4.00
Agree	4	4	40.00%	Standard Deviation	0.95
Strongly Agree	5	2	20.00%		

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



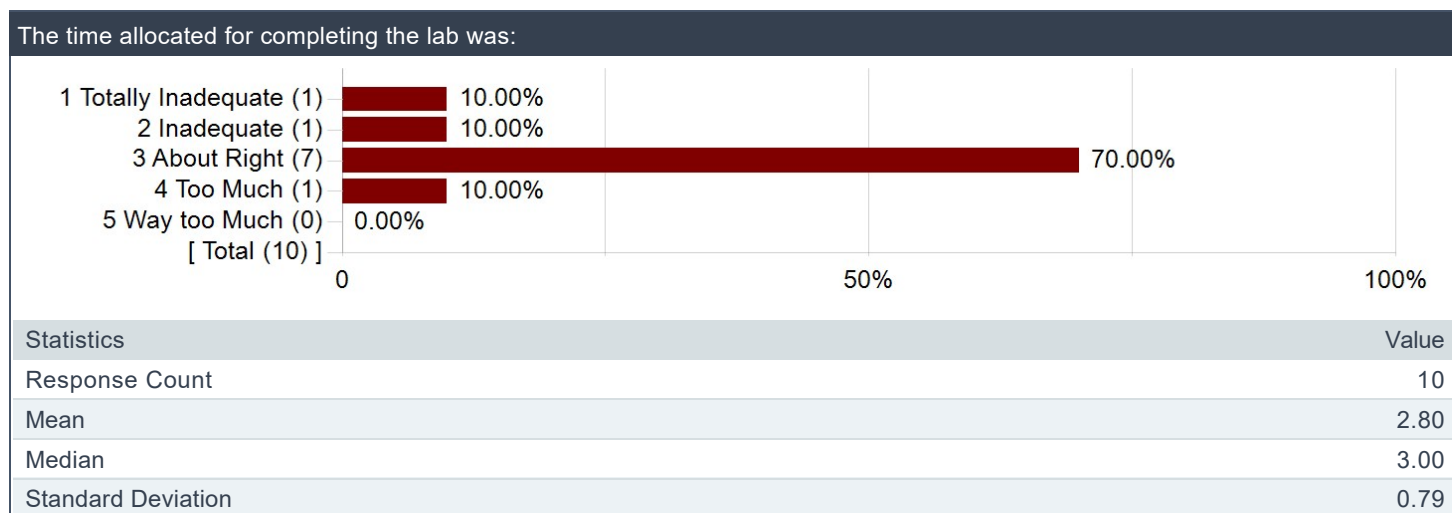
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	10
Disagree	2	0	0.00%	Mean	3.70
Neutral	3	5	50.00%	Median	3.50
Agree	4	3	30.00%	Standard Deviation	0.82
Strongly Agree	5	2	20.00%		

#### 6. Overall, this was an excellent laboratory experience.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
Strongly Disagree	1	1	10.00%	Response Count	10
Disagree	2	0	0.00%	Mean	3.30
Neutral	3	6	60.00%	Median	3.00
Agree	4	1	10.00%	Standard Deviation	1.16
Strongly Agree	5	2	20.00%		

### The time allocated for completing the lab was:



### 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
We counted birds!
Count and recognise birds in the wild, very interesting!
Learned to observe birds! so pretty!
Bird watching
Bird watching
How to analyze data related to birds. The project report was good.

### Please share any recommendations to improve the laboratory learning experience.

Comments
Some labs (e.g. the simplified MUN) were incredibly overambitious, while other labs (e.g. conservation design) had unclear instructions. This left many of the labs feeling unsatisfying. Generally, the labs could benefit greatly from more structure.
It was kind of chaotic since the bird labs were assigned at random times and with little student input. When Shalise (my TA) figured out that most of us couldn't watch birds for two hours on a randomly chosen day, we collectively chose a better time slot.
It wasn't immediately clear what relevance this had to the content of the course, to what we were tested, or to anything at all, really. It just seemed like something to do for the sake of doing something, and I don't think that students really had the requisite knowledge of what bird species were what to be able to identify anything meaningful. The bird-identification laboratory mostly consisted of students seeing something moving, begging the TAs for assistance (which they provided), and the students then going back to crooning at the family of ducks passing by on the lake and arguing about whether there were 33, 34, or 34 and a half ducks in the pond. For next time, I think skipping the glorified field trip and having a more specific session devoted to data analysis and sourcing would be more prudent.