BIOS 10140 3 - Inquiry-based Exploration of Biology - Instructor(s): Oscar Pineda-Catalan

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

Number Enrolled: **27**
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: **Friday, February 2, 2024**

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

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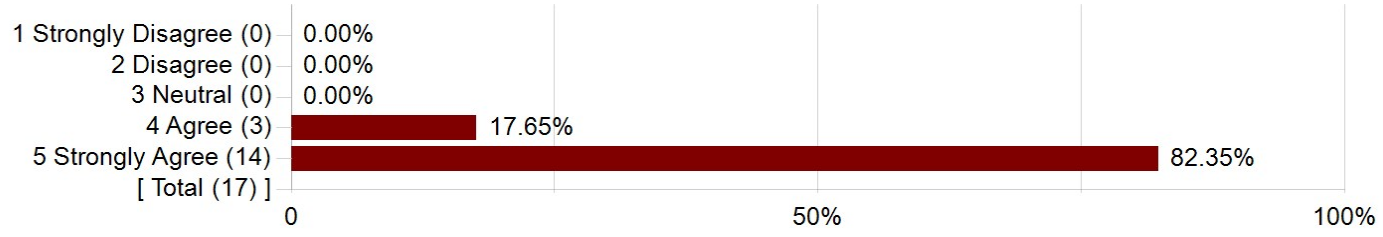

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.82
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.39

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

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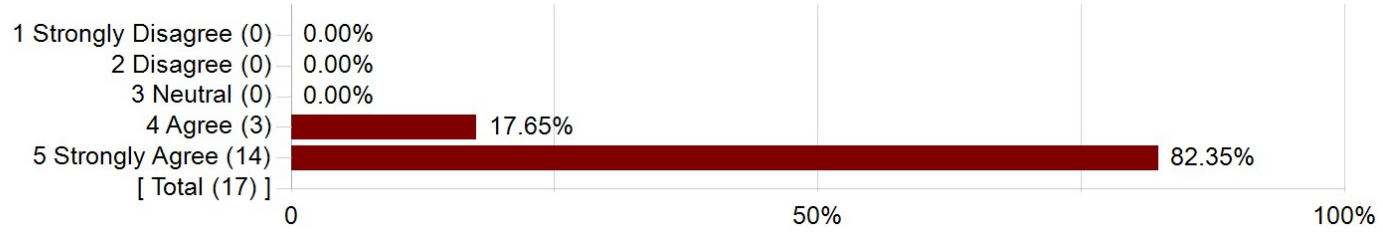

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.82
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.39

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

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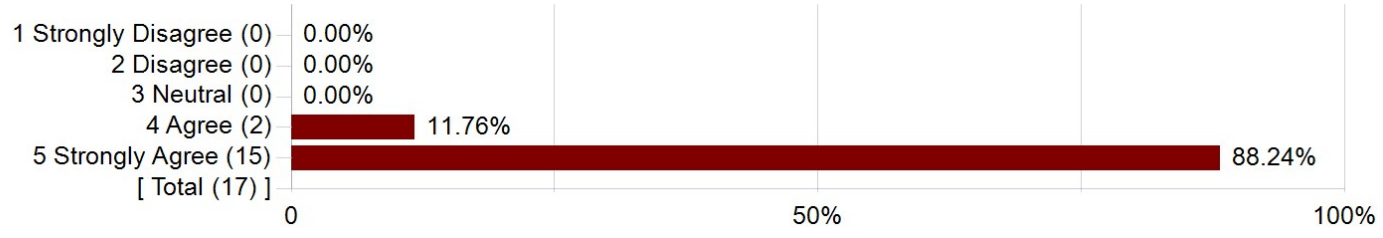

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.88
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.33

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

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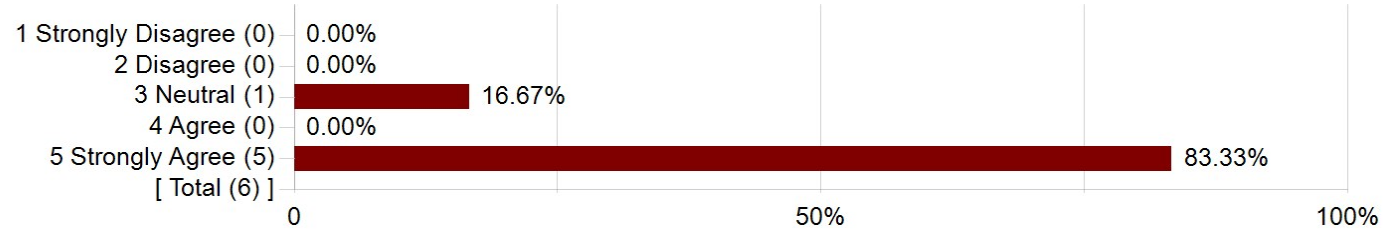
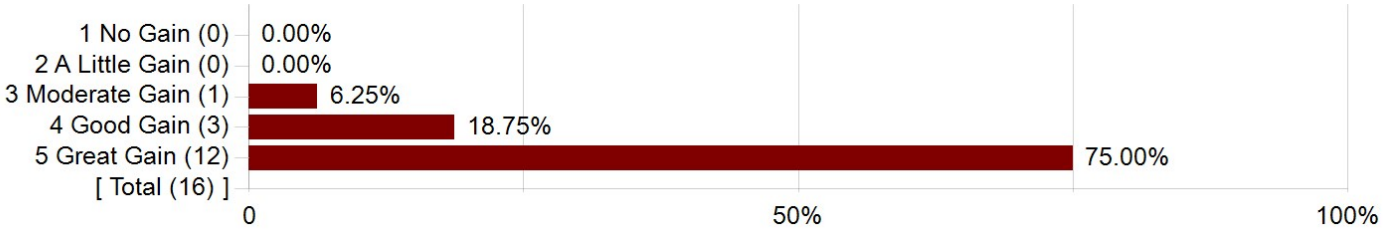


Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.82

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

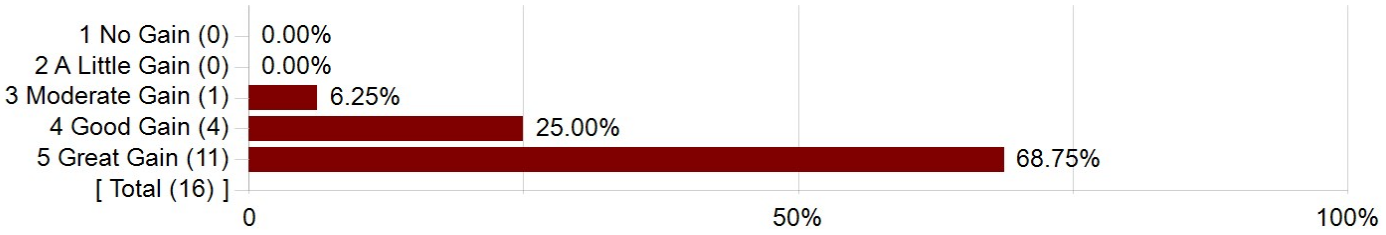
1. Classroom Lectures



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	6.25%
Good Gain	4	3	18.75%
Great Gain	5	12	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.69
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.60

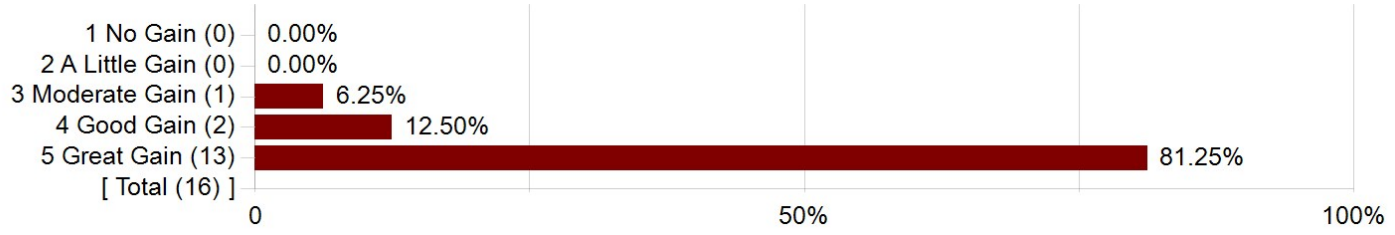
2. Classroom Discussions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	6.25%
Good Gain	4	4	25.00%
Great Gain	5	11	68.75%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.63
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.62

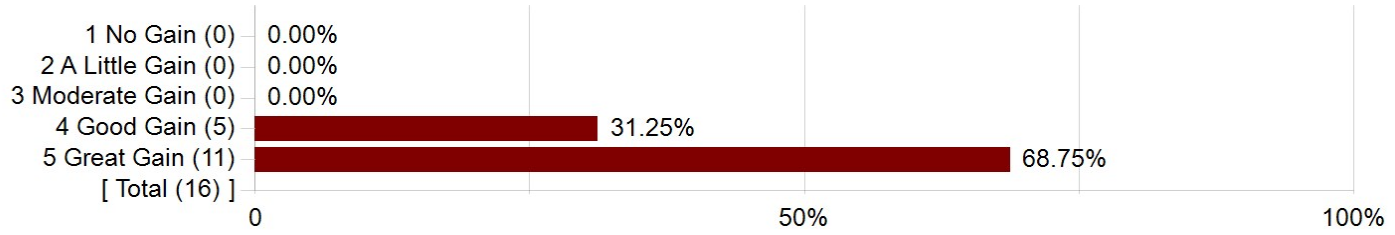
3. Assigned Readings



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	6.25%
Good Gain	4	2	12.50%
Great Gain	5	13	81.25%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.58

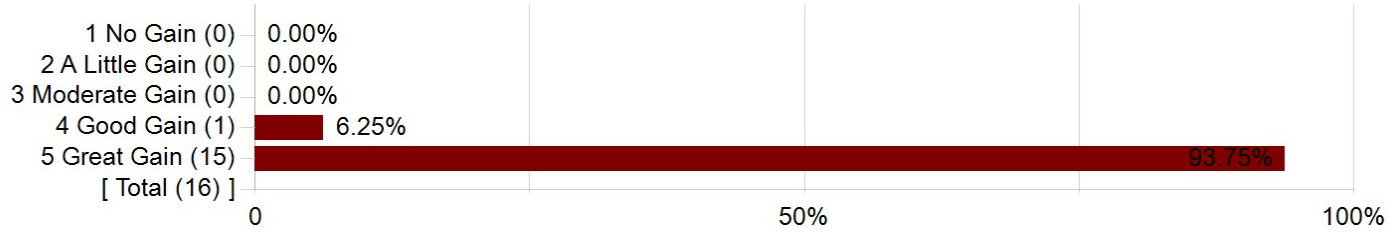
4. Homework Exercises



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	5	31.25%
Great Gain	5	11	68.75%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.69
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.48

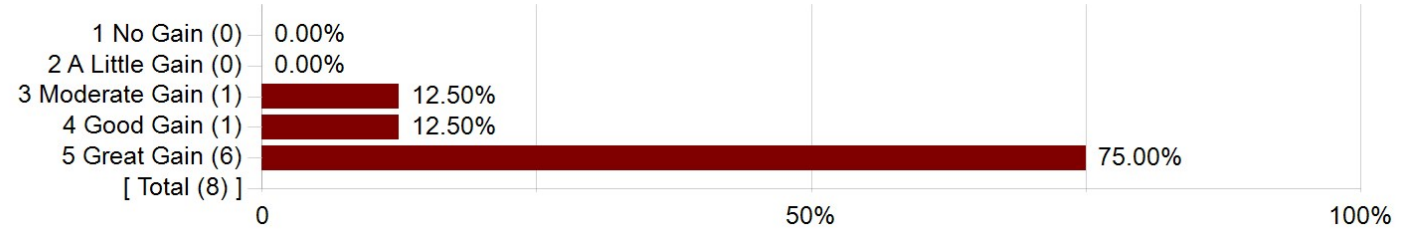
5. Lab Experiences



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	1	6.25%
Great Gain	5	15	93.75%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.94
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.25

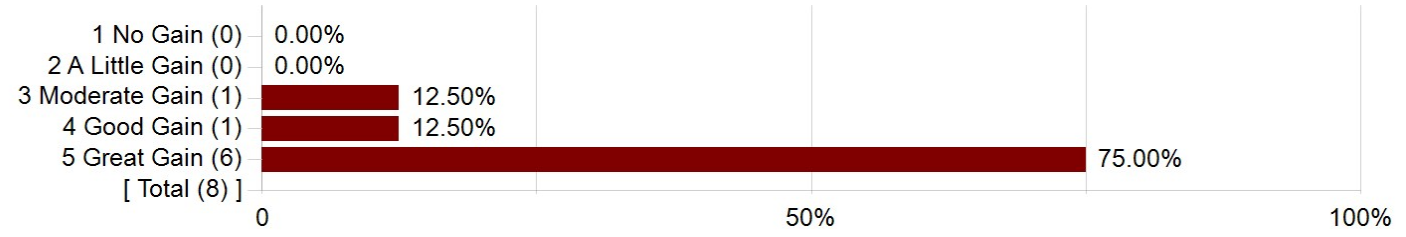
6. Discussion Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	12.50%
Good Gain	4	1	12.50%
Great Gain	5	6	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	4.63
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.74

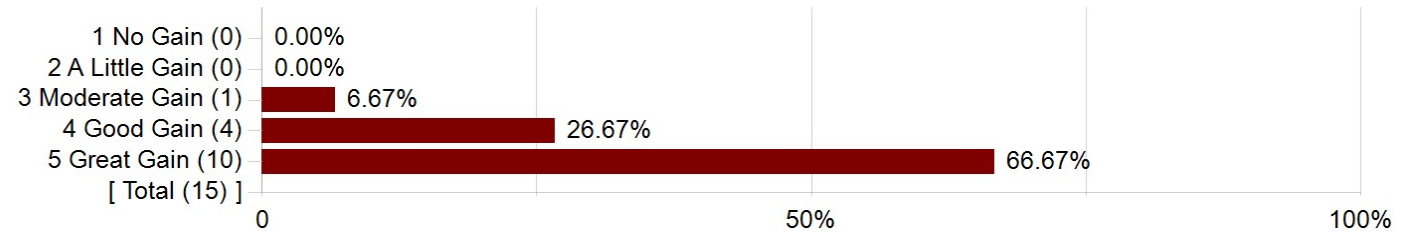
7. Review Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	12.50%
Good Gain	4	1	12.50%
Great Gain	5	6	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	4.63
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.74

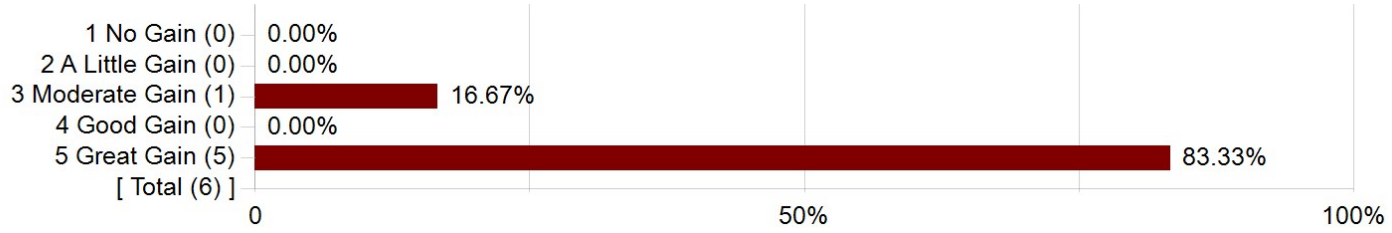
8. Interactions with Other Students



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	6.67%
Good Gain	4	4	26.67%
Great Gain	5	10	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.60
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.63

9. Faculty Office Hours

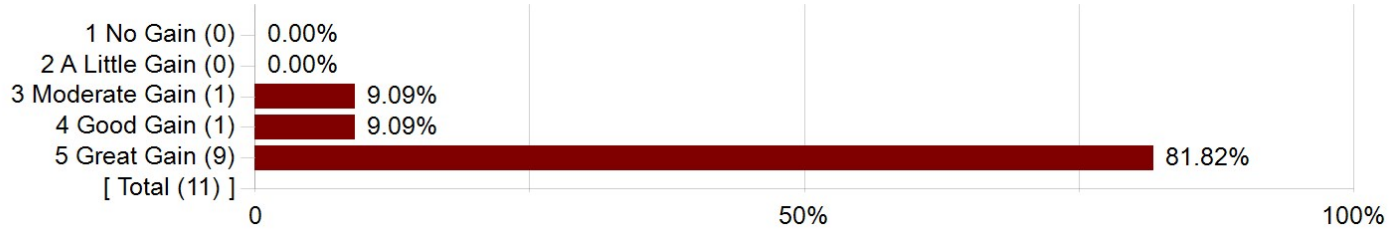


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	16.67%
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%
Great Gain	5	5	83.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.82

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	1	9.09%
Great Gain	5	9	81.82%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	11
Mean	4.73
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.65

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 think learning how to conduct lab work and science research was the most valuable takeaway. I wish I had learned more about the mechanisms behind certain biological processes––gene replication is still a bit unclear to me.
most important: how animals react to different habitats and how to extract DNA successfully
Biodiversity.
The wide diversity of organisms in Hyde Park
I learnt about the biological interactions within an ecosystem
I think the things I learned from this class are more about practical knowledge like going through the experimental process because I do think it can be applied in other aspects of my life. Specific to bio, the discussions on DNA and ecosystems was quite enlightening and though I'm not a bio major and don't really have much interest in it, I did think it was quite relevant and fun.
The lab was the best, it was very interesting.
The most important thing I learned in this course was the intricate relationships within ecosystems, especially the complex interactions between different species, like ants and plants. The genetic sequencing part was fascinating too, showing how we can identify and understand species at a molecular level. However, I wish we had delved deeper into the interpretation of genetic sequences and BLAST results. While the hands–on experience was great, I sometimes found myself unsure about analyzing the genetic data more critically. A bit more clarity on this could have enhanced my understanding of how to apply these techniques effectively in real–world biological research.

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

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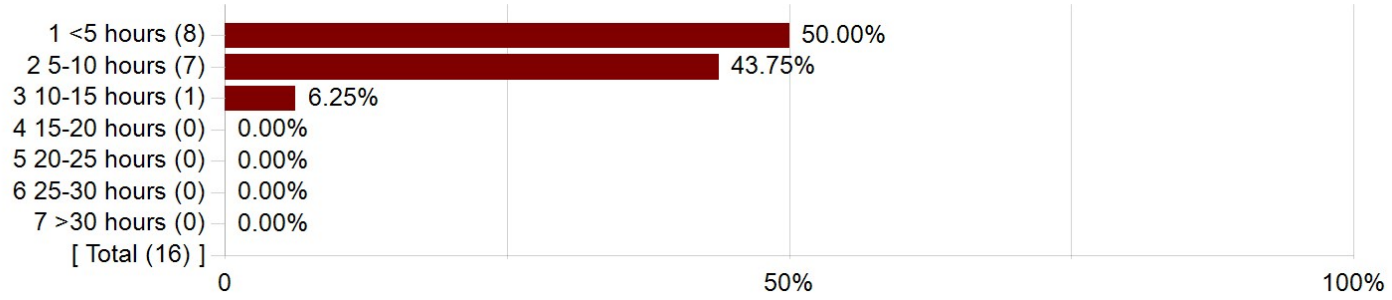
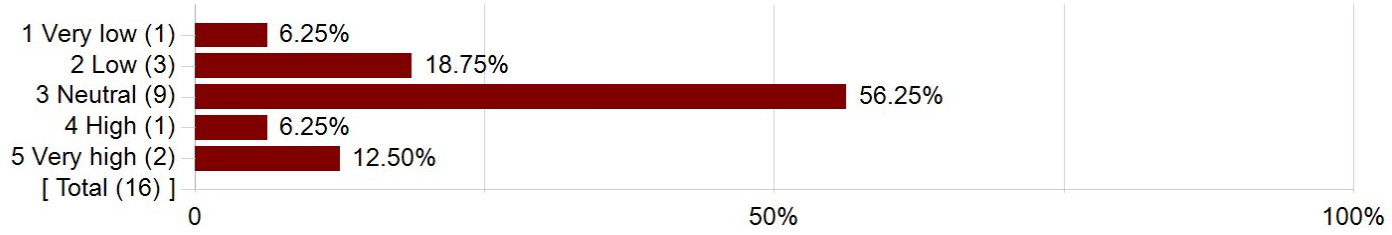


Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	1.56
Median	1.50
Standard Deviation	0.63

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

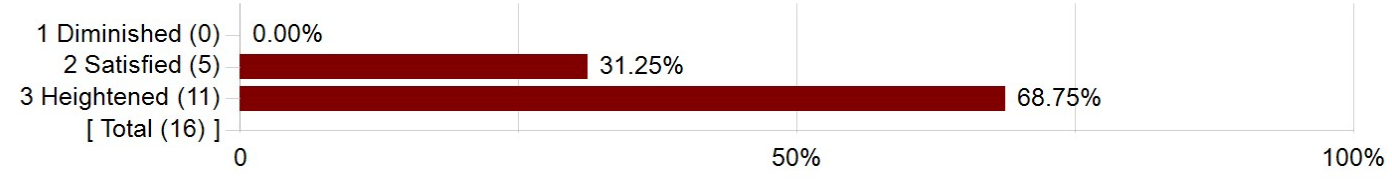
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	1.03

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	2.69
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.48

Overall, this was an excellent course.

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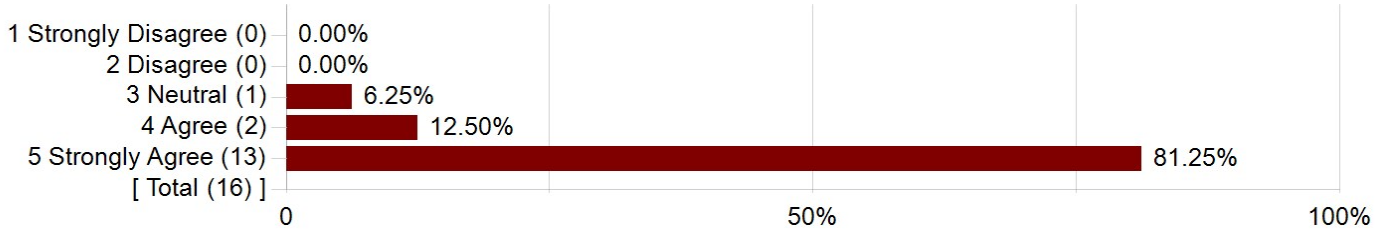


Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.58

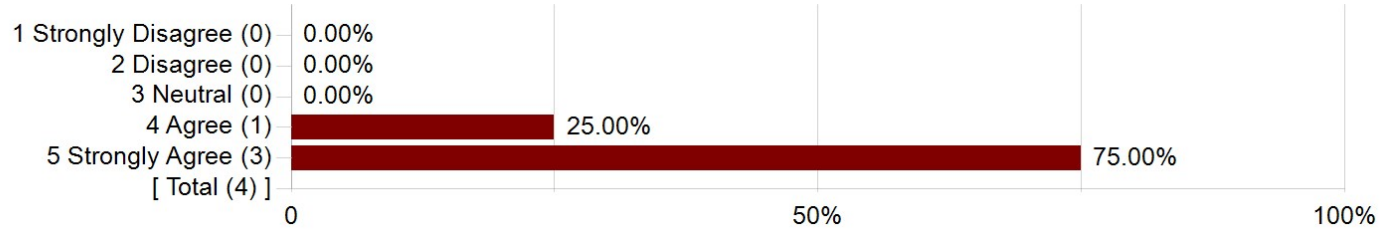
Please share any advice you have for students who are considering taking the course.

Comments
Talk with the TAs! I found them to be extremely helpful when confused about expectations and directions, whether in the lab or on assignments. I recommend collecting around 8 invertebrate specimens throughout the quarter. The final invertebrate catalog asks for labeled photos, taxonomic information, and researched paragraphs about the ecological role and behavior of every specimen collected, and doing any more than 8 would be overly demanding. Choose a reliable group of 3–4 members for your final project; more people allows for more division of workload. Also keep in mind that the final presentation touches on the total invertebrate biodiversity of your chosen habitat, but there must be a focus species to which you dedicate most of the presentation. Essentially, the total biodiversity of the habitat is just background context for a deep dive into spiders or ants or bees.
Do not take this course if you dislike insects/arachnids, as it may be deeply discomforting. Otherwise, you are likely to earn an A if you pay attention and put in effort on the assignments.
Take this class. The professor is so lovely and the class is engaging.
Had an amazing time. Oscar and TAs were passionate and nice about the topic
Take every assignment seriously because they build on to each other culminating in the final project
No midterms or finals, but there are 2 assignments due every week – the ones for the readings are mostly short and easy but the ones for the project are quite long and time–consuming. However, grading is not harsh at all and the assignments are completely worth not having midterms and finals. There is also a presentation at the end which is super chill so I definitely recommend taking his class. Other sections are a lot worse and this is the easiest. Professor is really kind and nice.
Do the hws well and follow instructions. Choose your lab partners well because they will stick with you till the end of the quarter.
100% recommend. Dr. Pineda–Catalan is really really really good at what he does. I hate science classes but this class will go down as one of the best classes I have ever taken, let alone here at UChicago.
Go for it! It's a hands–on course with a lot of practical learning. Just be ready to dive into genetic sequencing and engage actively in discussions.

Laboratory Meetings

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

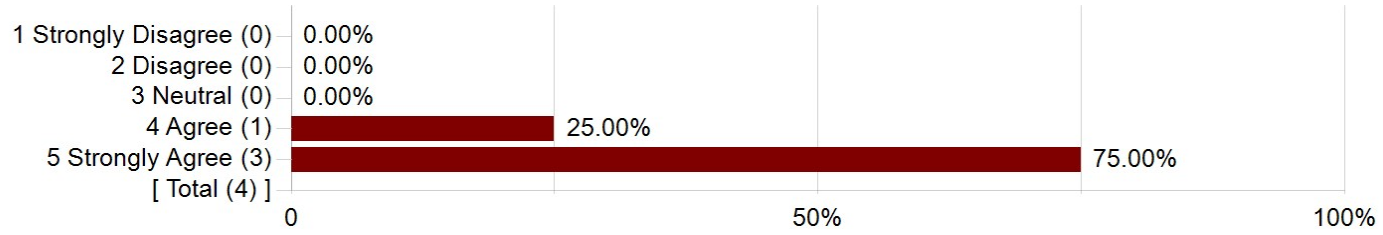
1. The laboratory protocols and instructions were clear and well organized.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	1	25.00%
Strongly Agree	5	3	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

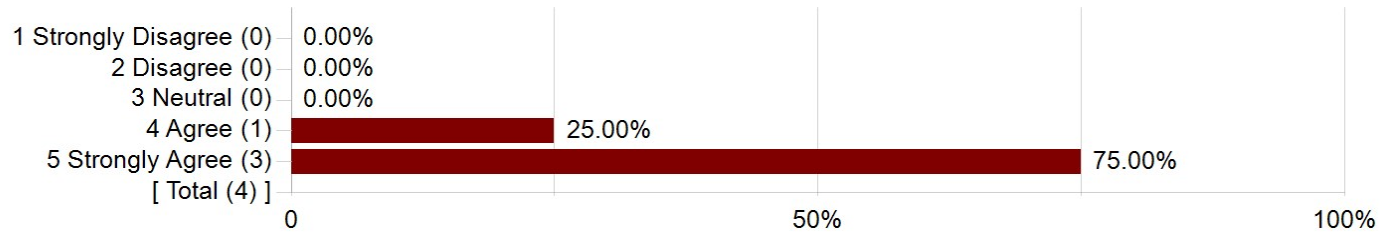
2. Materials and equipment needed for performing the exercises were readily available.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	1	25.00%
Strongly Agree	5	3	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

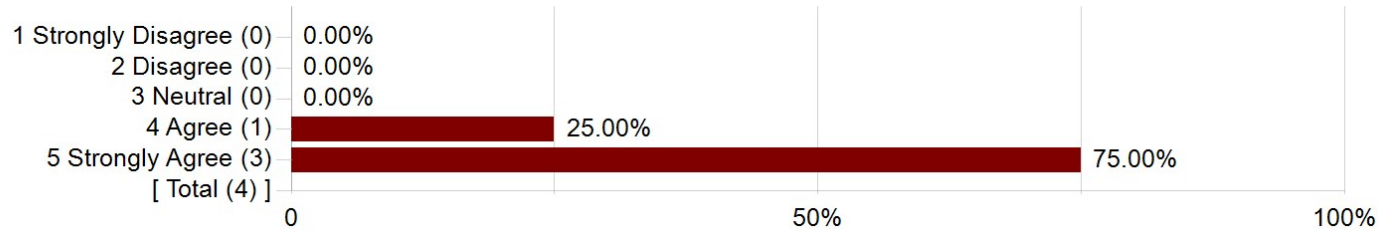
3. The lab exercises had clear educational goals.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	1	25.00%
Strongly Agree	5	3	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

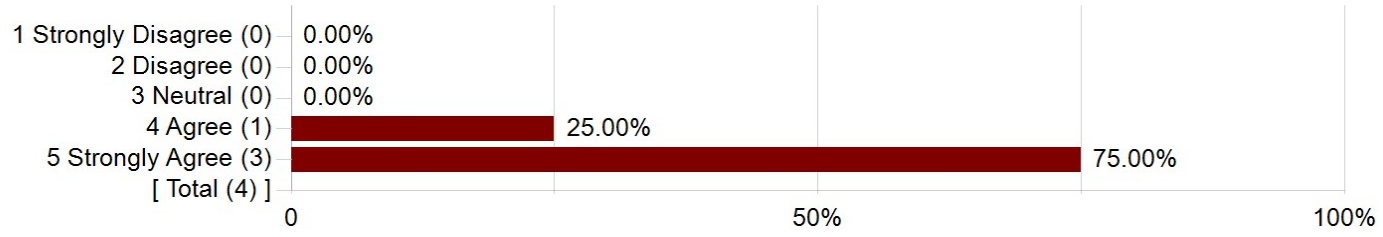
4. The goals of the lab exercises were well integrated with the overall objectives of the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	1	25.00%
Strongly Agree	5	3	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

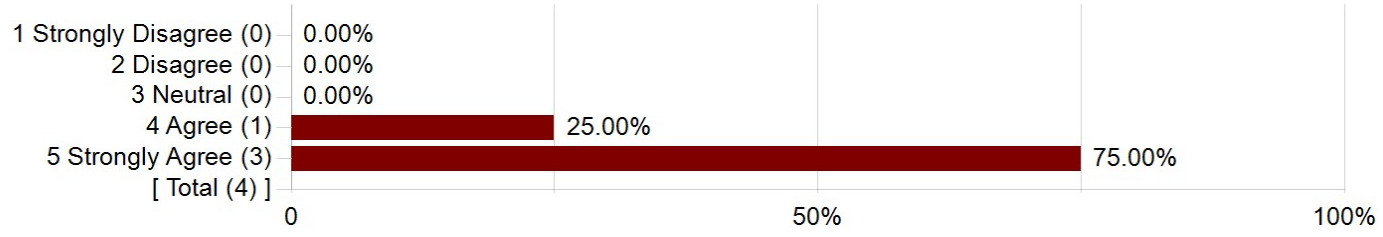
5. The lab exercises explored course topics in ways that could not have been accomplished in lecture or discussion.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	1	25.00%
Strongly Agree	5	3	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

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	0	0.00%
Agree	4	1	25.00%
Strongly Agree	5	3	75.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.75
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

The time allocated for completing the lab was:

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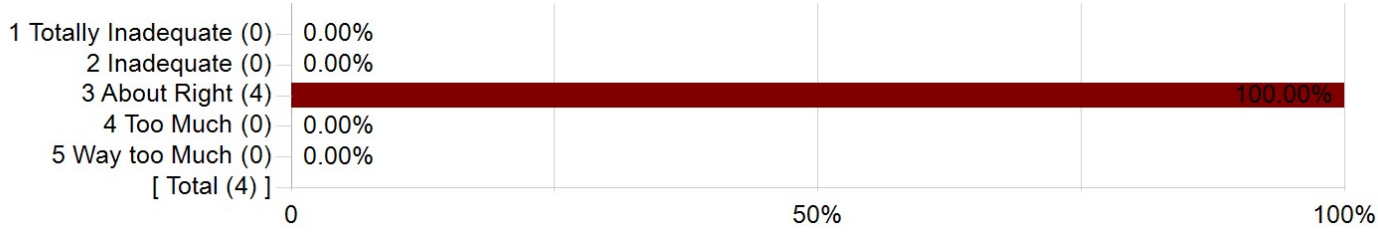

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.00

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
extracting DNA
Micropipette and DNA extraction and gel electrophoresis

Please share any recommendations to improve the laboratory learning experience.

Comments
n/a