BIOS 10140 2 - Inquiry-based Exploration of Biology - Instructor(s): Megan McNulty

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

Number Enrolled: **24**
Number of Responses: **15**

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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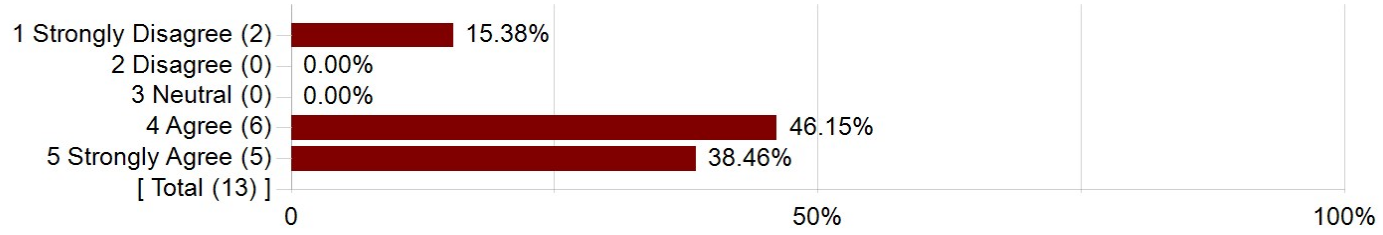

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	3.92
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.38

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

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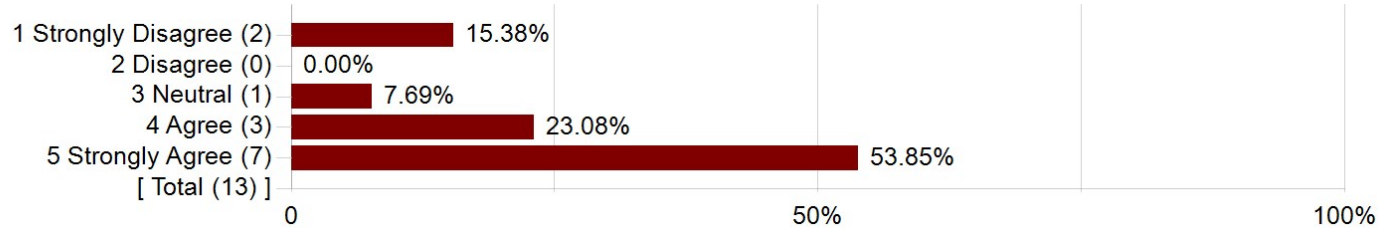

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.00
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.47

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

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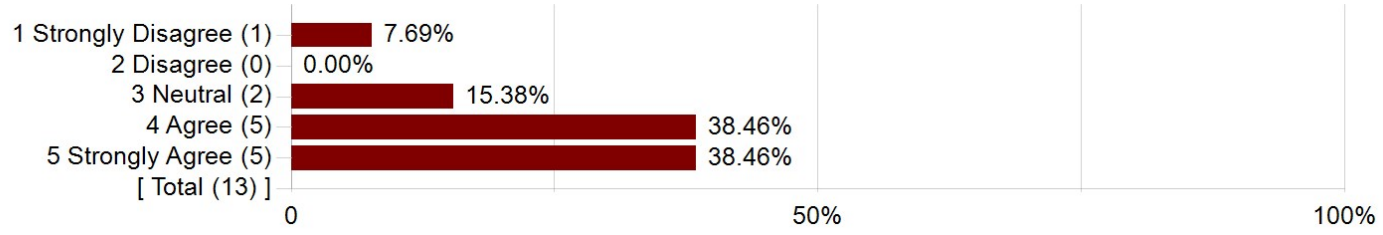

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.15

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

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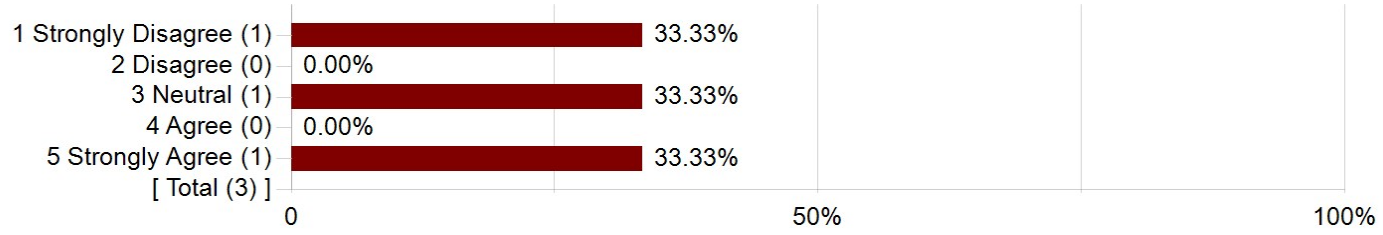
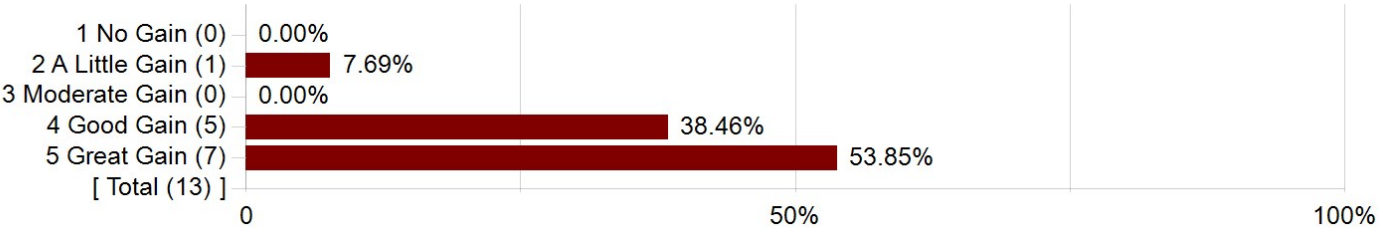


Statistics	Value
Response Count	3
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	2.00

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

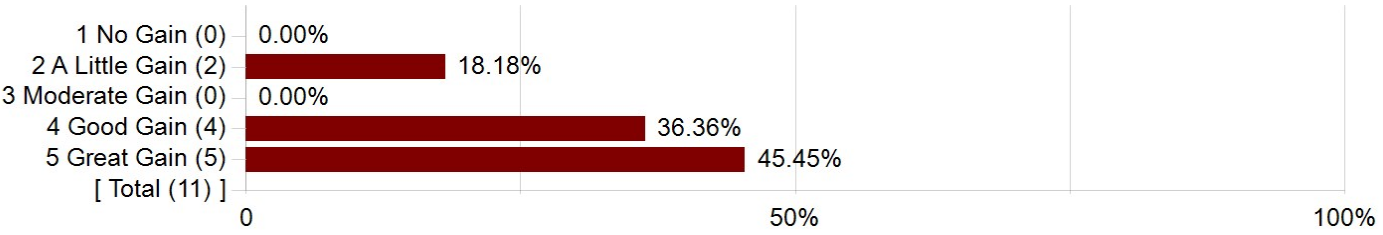
1. Classroom Lectures



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	7.69%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	5	38.46%
Great Gain	5	7	53.85%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.38
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.87

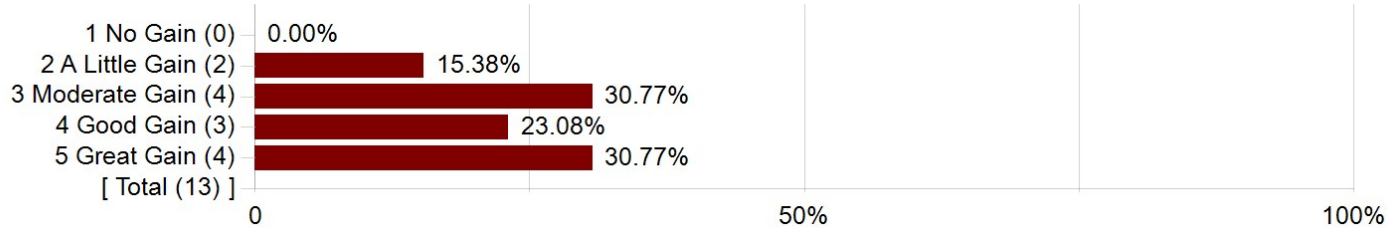
2. Classroom Discussions



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

Statistics	Value
Response Count	11
Mean	4.09
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.14

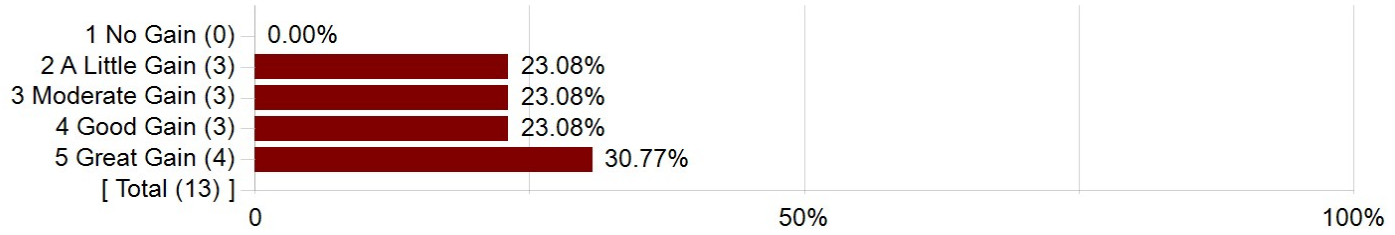
3. Assigned Readings



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	2	15.38%
Moderate Gain	3	4	30.77%
Good Gain	4	3	23.08%
Great Gain	5	4	30.77%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	3.69
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.11

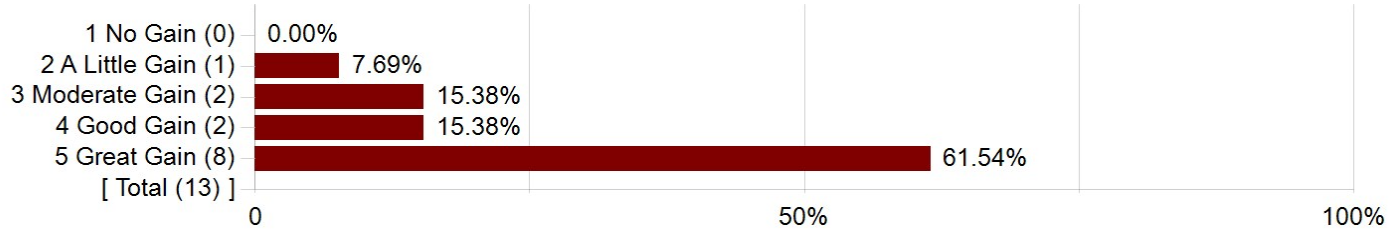
4. Homework Exercises



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	3	23.08%
Moderate Gain	3	3	23.08%
Good Gain	4	3	23.08%
Great Gain	5	4	30.77%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	3.62
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.19

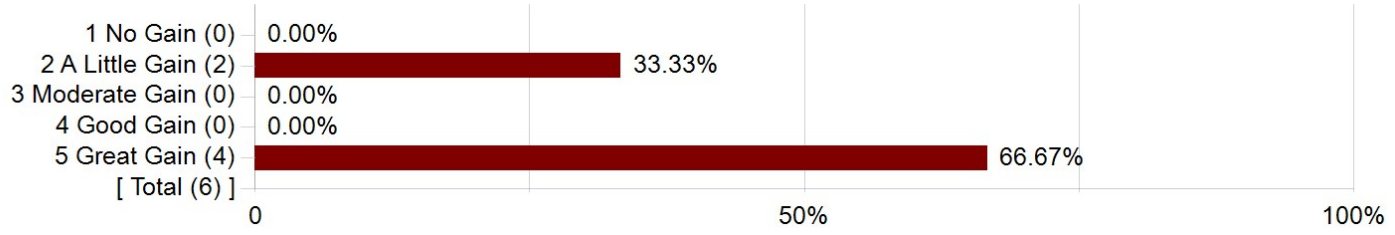
5. Lab Experiences



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	7.69%
Moderate Gain	3	2	15.38%
Good Gain	4	2	15.38%
Great Gain	5	8	61.54%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.31
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.03

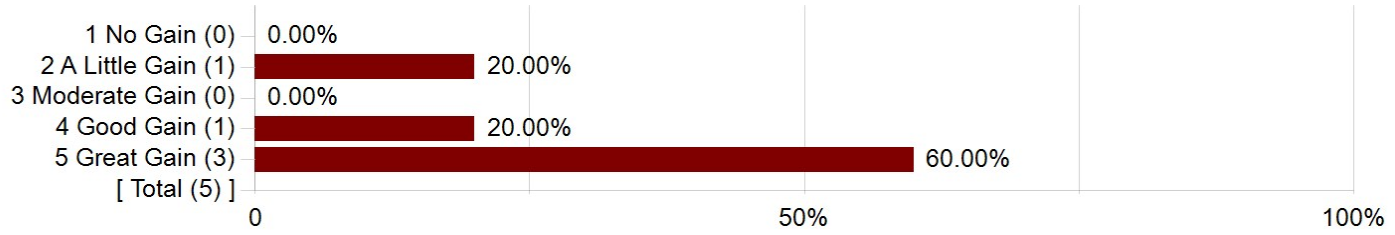
6. Discussion Sessions



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

Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.00
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.55

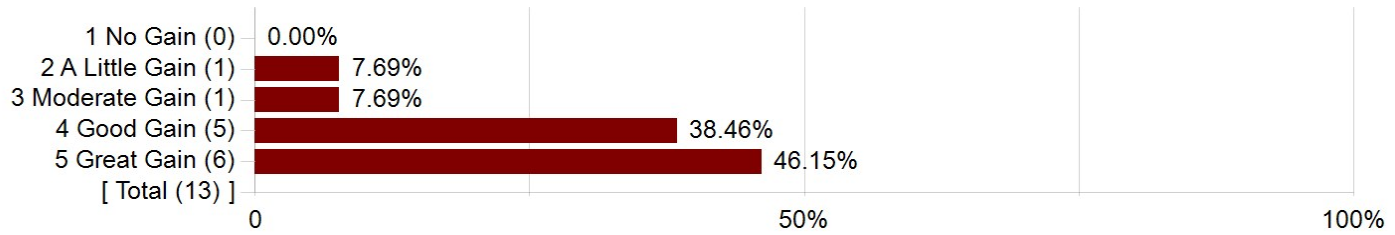
7. Review Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	20.00%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	1	20.00%
Great Gain	5	3	60.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	4.20
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.30

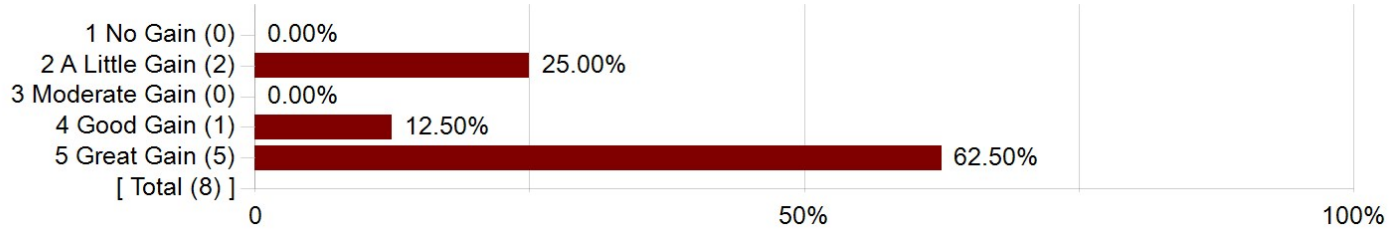
8. Interactions with Other Students



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	7.69%
Moderate Gain	3	1	7.69%
Good Gain	4	5	38.46%
Great Gain	5	6	46.15%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.23
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.93

9. Faculty Office Hours

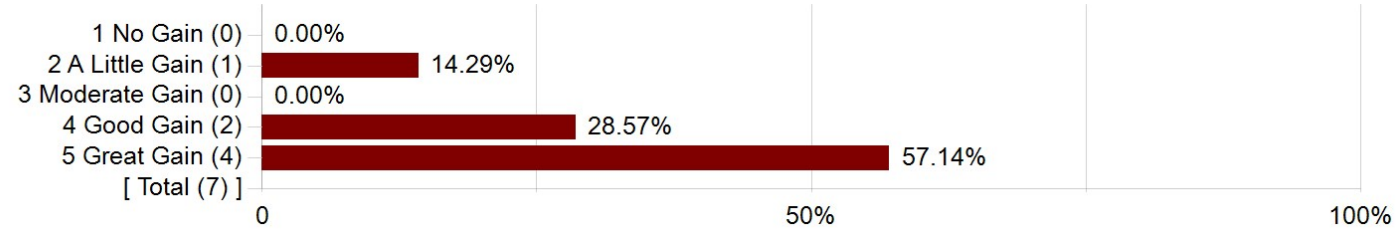


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	2	25.00%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	1	12.50%
Great Gain	5	5	62.50%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	4.13
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.36

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	1	14.29%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	2	28.57%
Great Gain	5	4	57.14%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	4.29
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.11

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
Learning about the relationship between genes, gene expression, and phenotype (expressed characteristics) was a theme throughout the course that was very important and valuable to understand. I don't think any topics are particularly unclear to me after the course
I learned how and why behavior occurs in organisms. We studied everything from how nuerons fire to how behaviors spread across populations.
The most important thing I learned was material based on epigenetic mechanisms. Learning about how identical genotypes does not always translate to identical phenotypes expressed helped address situations where this applies in the environment around me.
I learned how to formulate hypothesis and search scientific literature
How the brain works – epigenetic and behavioural plasticity
The most important thing I learned was how to research and read scientific literature, as well as how to carry out and present scientific research. In terms of material, I really enjoyed learning about the interactions between DNA, protein creation, and environmental factors (how external stimuli can affect cell processes).
I wish I would have learned cell signaling better.
genetic basis of behavior; the relationship between genotype, phenotype, and their underlying biological bases.
I improved my lab skills.
All about C. elegans!

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

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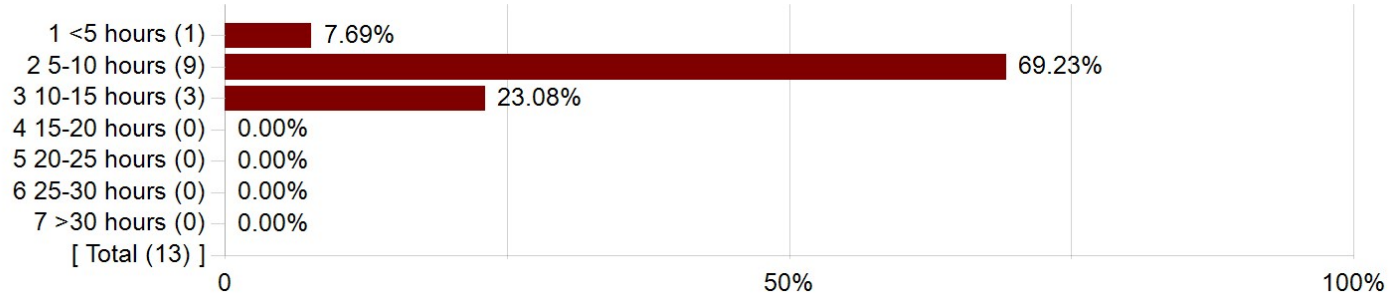

Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	2.15
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.55

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

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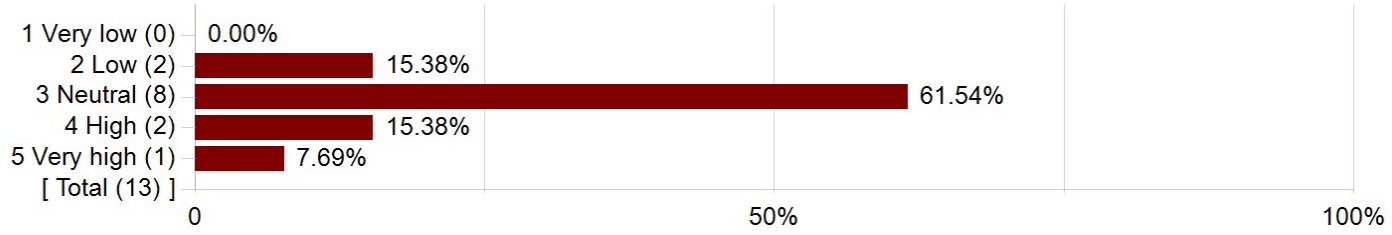
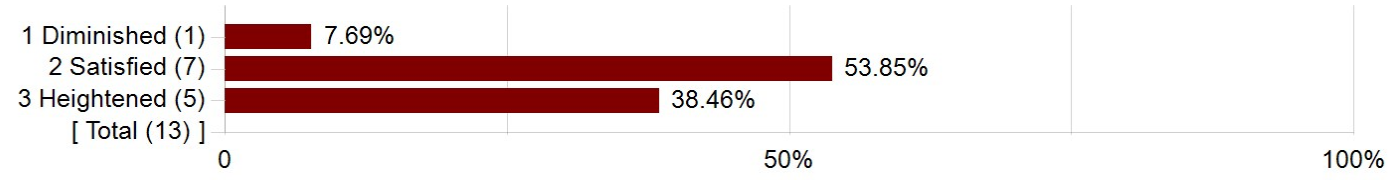


Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	3.15
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.80

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	2.31
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.63

Overall, this was an excellent course.

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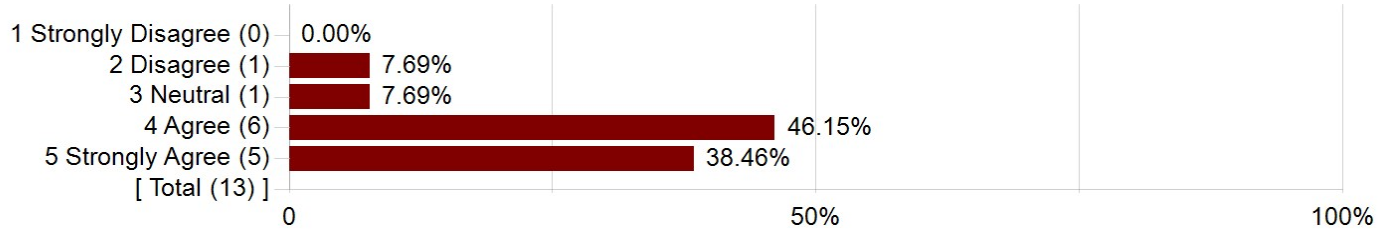


Statistics	Value
Response Count	13
Mean	4.15
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.90

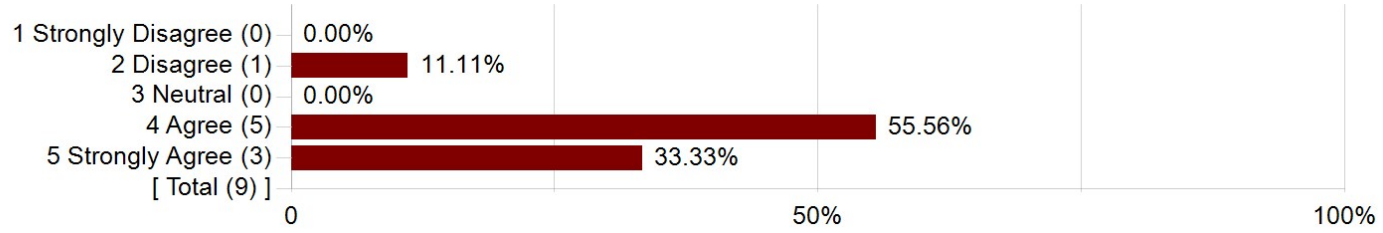
Please share any advice you have for students who are considering taking the course.

Comments
There are probably easier Bio Core options out there, but this definitely wasn't a bad experience at all and I do feel like it was more interesting than I expected it to be
The class can be a lot of work but the prof is super chill and understanding!
I did not have much of bio background before this class, and while all the material presented was new, it was still manageable. The labs and collaboration with peers made the class more enjoyable! However, if you prefer independent work and/or purely lecture this may not be for you.
Must work well in groups
Be aware of the hugely intense worked load W5–10 – It gets very very intense
Choose a group of people you enjoy for the group project if you want to enjoy this course. Do all the steps for the research project and you will find it very easy to present and write your final lab report (which is your only final assignment). Take morning instead of afternoon class, as it's a long class and the afternoon may make you sleepy. Attend office hours if you have an issue or question about anything and I promise it will be extremely helpful.
The lab activities are very fun and rewarding, however this class is considerably more work than the lecture based classes for core bio. I would only do this class if you are very into hands on learning and willing to put in time and effort for a core class.
manage time wisely during labs
THIS CLASS IS HARD!!! You need to do the work
It's core bio, and this one is as pleasant as core bio can be.
It's definitely more involved than other core requirements, even for someone who likes bio.
When you do your group research project, ensure that you are dividing work among group mates in a way that does not leave you overwhelmed with too much work to do.

Laboratory Meetings

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

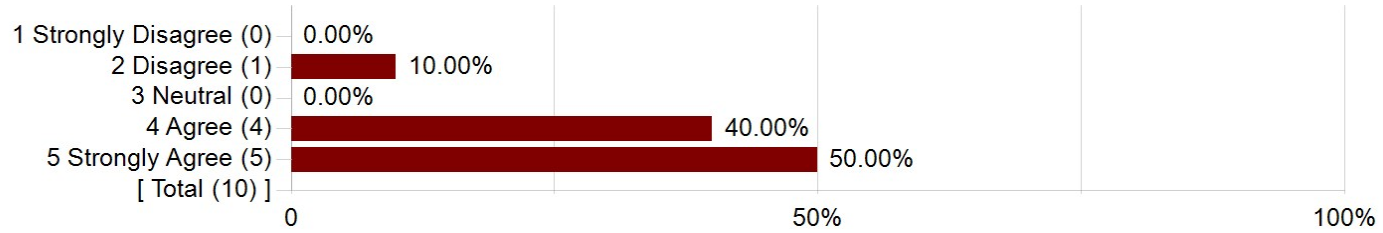
1. The laboratory protocols and instructions were clear and well organized.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	11.11%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	5	55.56%
Strongly Agree	5	3	33.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.11
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.93

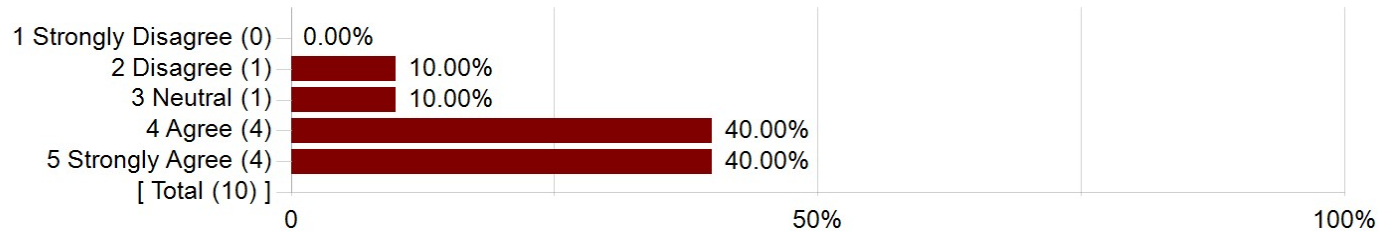
2. Materials and equipment needed for performing the exercises were readily available.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	10.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	4	40.00%
Strongly Agree	5	5	50.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.30
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.95

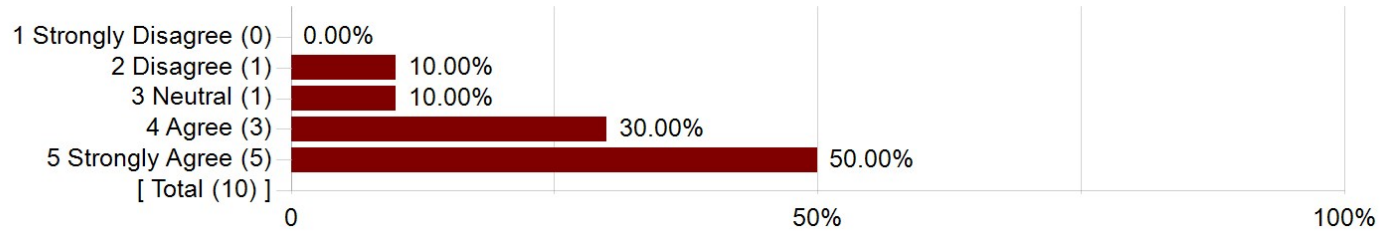
3. The lab exercises had clear educational goals.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	10.00%
Neutral	3	1	10.00%
Agree	4	4	40.00%
Strongly Agree	5	4	40.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.10
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.99

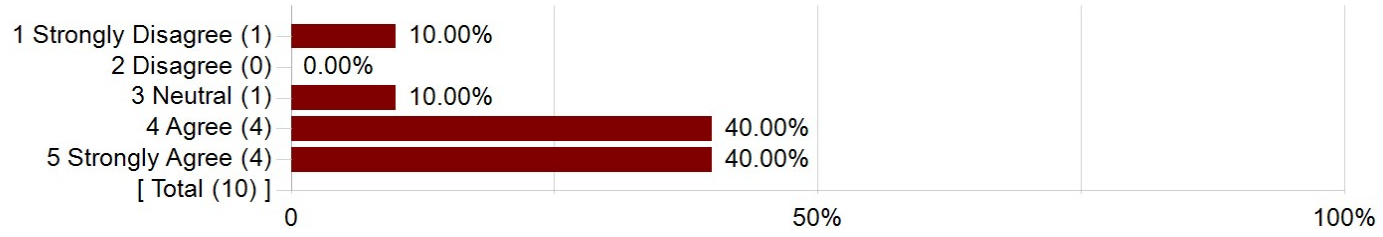
4. The goals of the lab exercises were well integrated with the overall objectives of the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	10.00%
Neutral	3	1	10.00%
Agree	4	3	30.00%
Strongly Agree	5	5	50.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.20
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	1.03

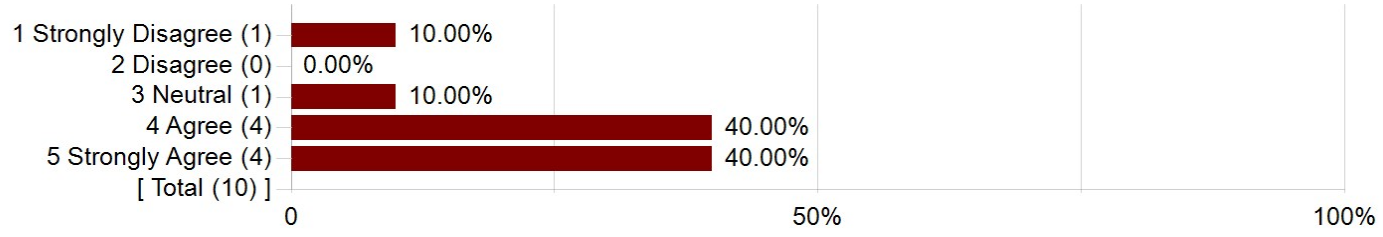
5. The lab exercises explored course topics in ways that could not have been accomplished in lecture or discussion.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	1	10.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	10.00%
Agree	4	4	40.00%
Strongly Agree	5	4	40.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.25

6. Overall, this was an excellent laboratory experience.

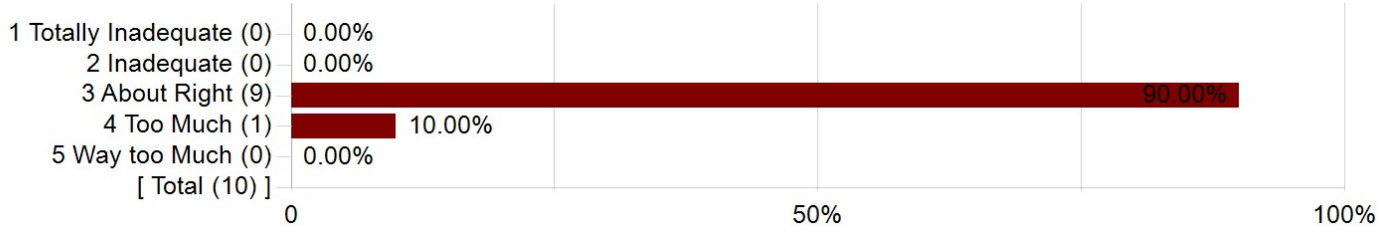


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	1	10.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	10.00%
Agree	4	4	40.00%
Strongly Agree	5	4	40.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.25

The time allocated for completing the lab was:

The time allocated for completing the lab was:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.10
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.32

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 learning experience of trial and error enhanced my understanding on how biologists answer questions. Since there are many gaps in some fields, experiments will take multiple trials instead of conducting a successful experiment the first time
Experimental setup and creating concentrations of solutions
How to use a microscope, inoculating tube, and other laboratory equipment How to observe with fluorescence How to record observational data
I understood how to analyze what I am observing under the microscope, how to set up the materials, and how to record data
I understood the long and careful procedure through which they try to get small animals into view under a microscope.

Please share any recommendations to improve the laboratory learning experience.

Comments
More explanation