BIOS 13128 1 - Plant-Animal Interactions - Instructor(s): Alison Hunter

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

Number Enrolled: **55**
Number of Responses: **31**

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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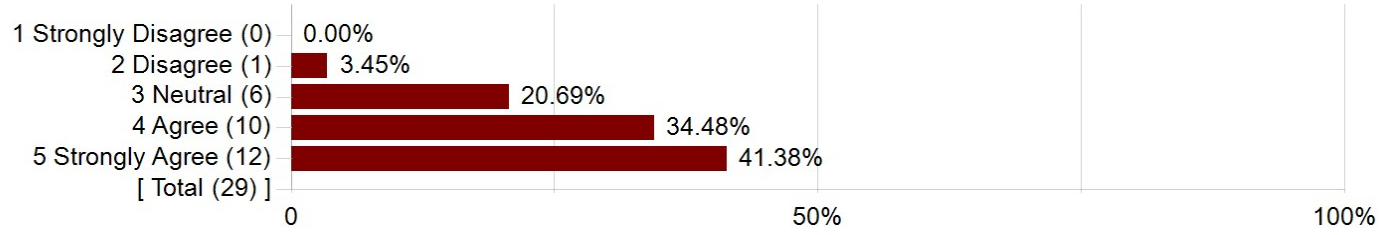

Statistics	Value
Response Count	29
Mean	4.14
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.88

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

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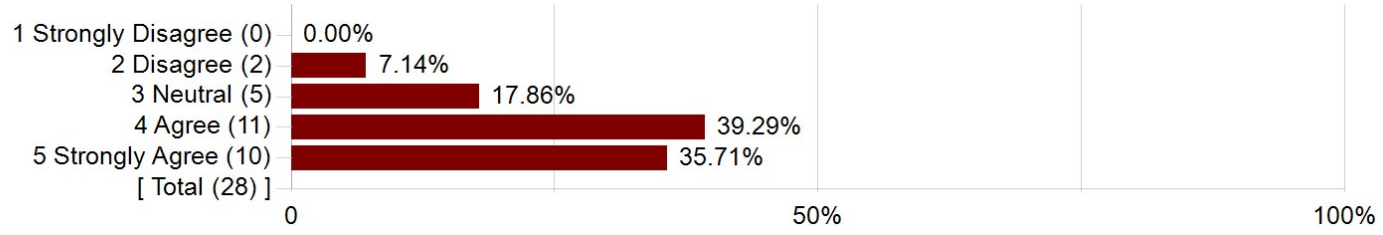

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	4.04
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.92

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

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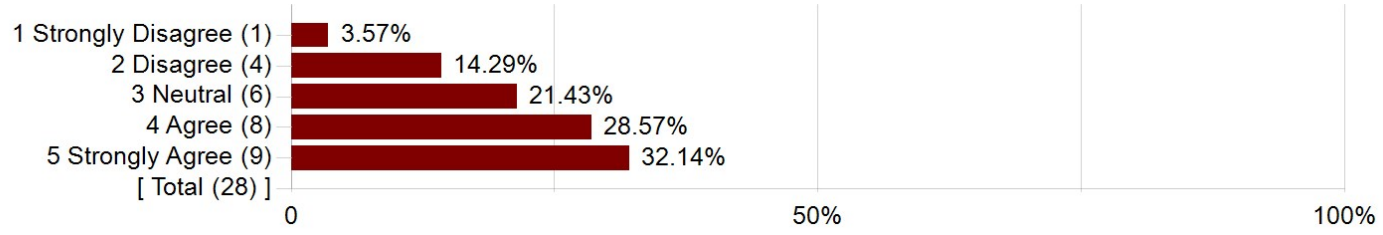

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	3.71
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.18

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

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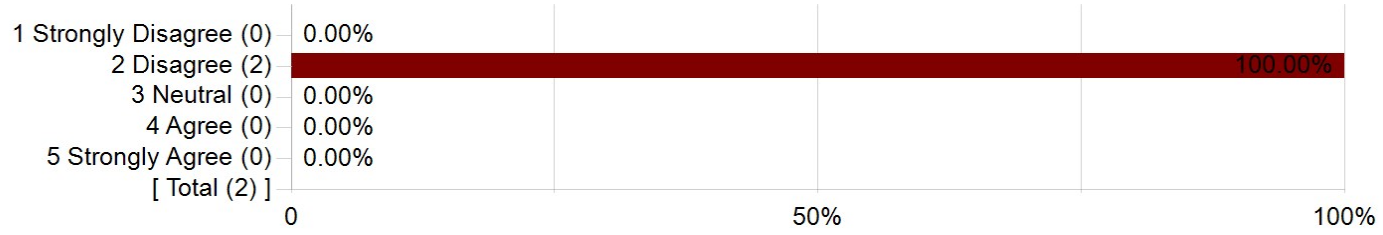
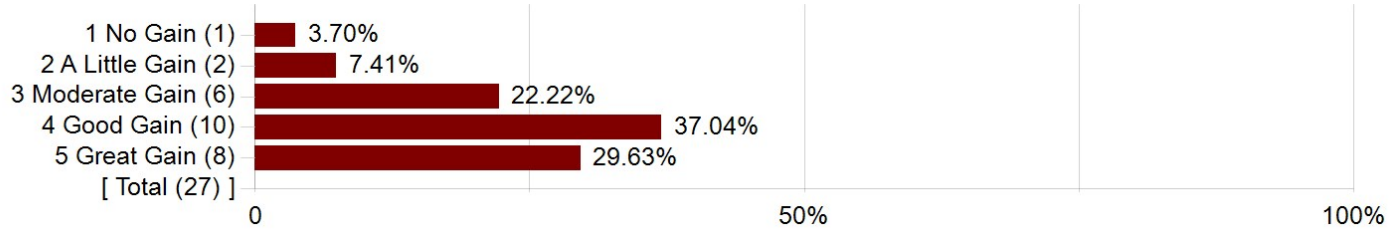


Statistics	Value
Response Count	2
Mean	2.00
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.00

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

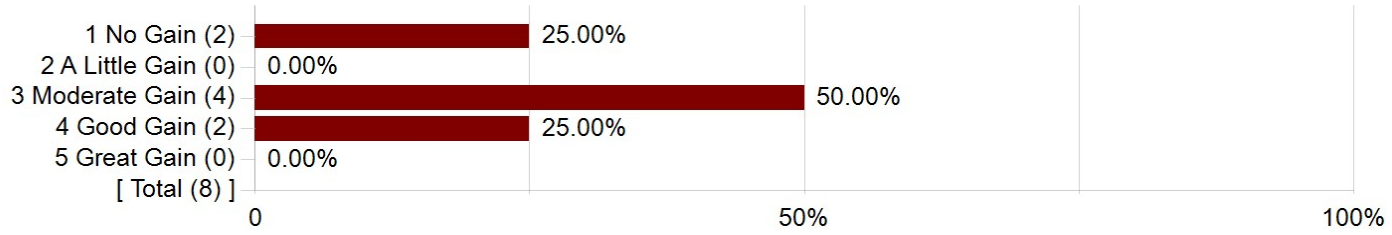
1. Classroom Lectures



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	3.70%
A Little Gain	2	2	7.41%
Moderate Gain	3	6	22.22%
Good Gain	4	10	37.04%
Great Gain	5	8	29.63%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	27
Mean	3.81
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.08

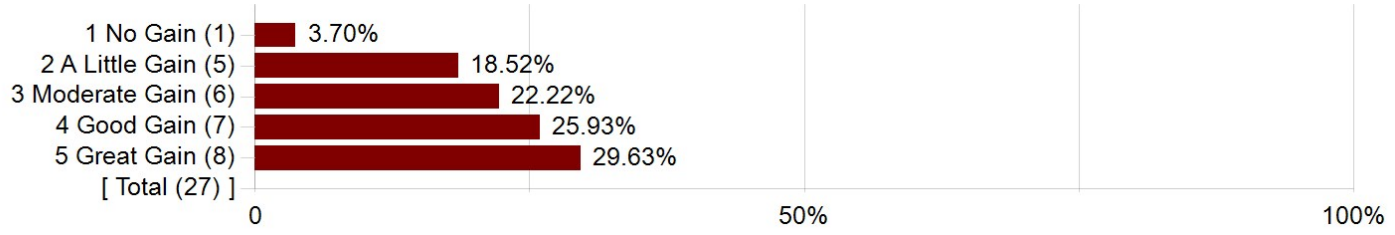
2. Classroom Discussions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	2	25.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	4	50.00%
Good Gain	4	2	25.00%
Great Gain	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	8
Mean	2.75
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	1.16

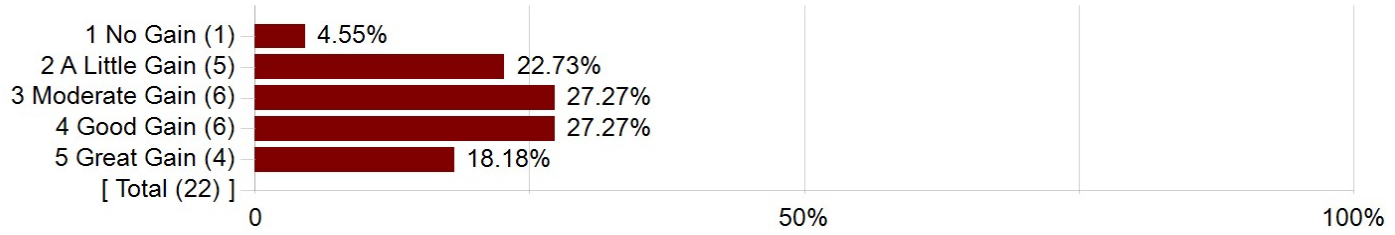
3. Assigned Readings



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	3.70%
A Little Gain	2	5	18.52%
Moderate Gain	3	6	22.22%
Good Gain	4	7	25.93%
Great Gain	5	8	29.63%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	27
Mean	3.59
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.22

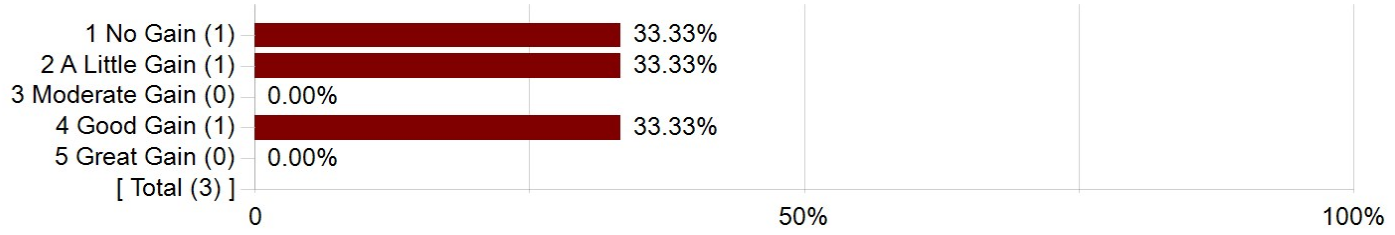
4. Homework Exercises



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	4.55%
A Little Gain	2	5	22.73%
Moderate Gain	3	6	27.27%
Good Gain	4	6	27.27%
Great Gain	5	4	18.18%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	22
Mean	3.32
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	1.17

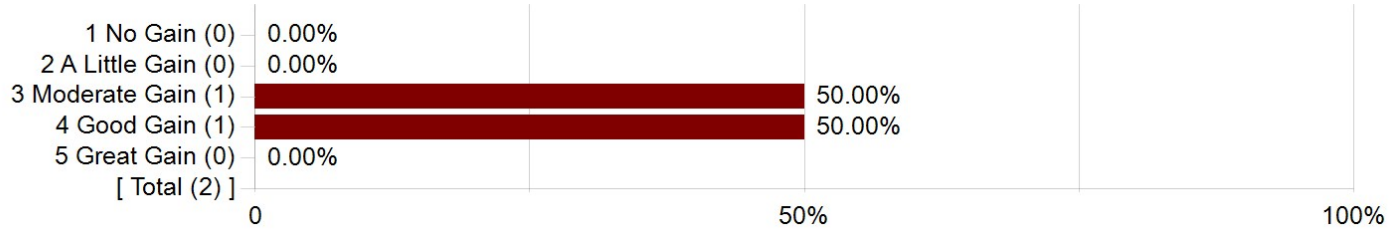
5. Lab Experiences



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

Statistics	Value
Response Count	3
Mean	2.33
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	1.53

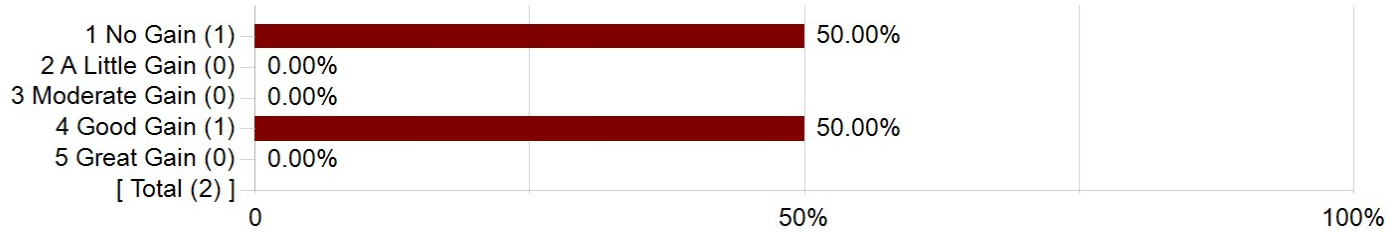
6. Discussion Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	50.00%
Good Gain	4	1	50.00%
Great Gain	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	2
Mean	3.50
Median	3.50
Standard Deviation	0.71

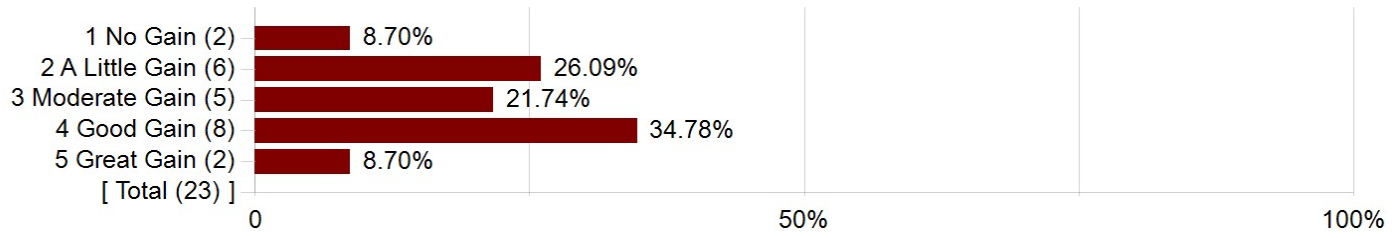
7. Review Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	50.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%
Good Gain	4	1	50.00%
Great Gain	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	2
Mean	2.50
Median	2.50
Standard Deviation	2.12

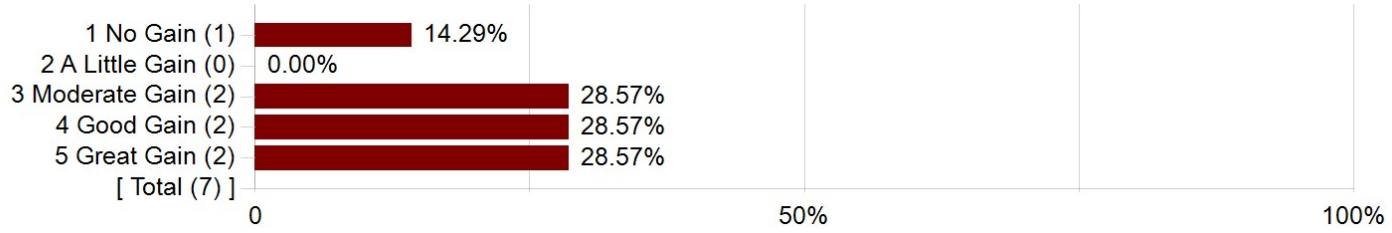
8. Interactions with Other Students



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	2	8.70%
A Little Gain	2	6	26.09%
Moderate Gain	3	5	21.74%
Good Gain	4	8	34.78%
Great Gain	5	2	8.70%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	23
Mean	3.09
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	1.16

9. Faculty Office Hours

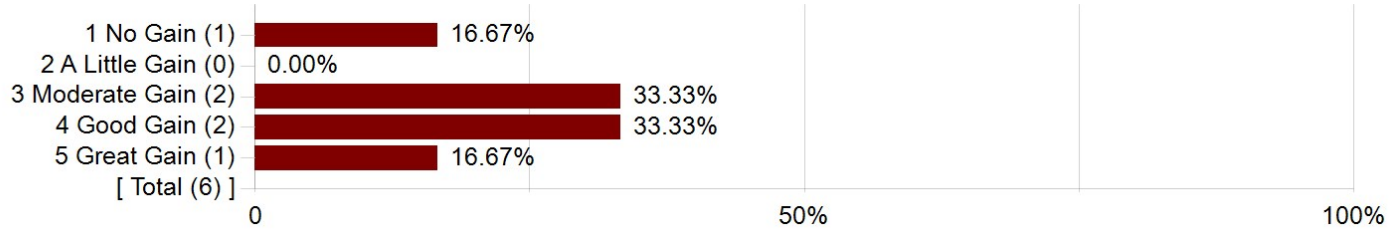


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	14.29%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	2	28.57%
Good Gain	4	2	28.57%
Great Gain	5	2	28.57%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	7
Mean	3.57
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.40

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	1	16.67%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	2	33.33%
Good Gain	4	2	33.33%
Great Gain	5	1	16.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	3.33
Median	3.50
Standard Deviation	1.37

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 feel like I learned nothing of import in this class, nor was it an insightful experience.
I would liek to write an essay on ants and grain now
The slides were also a bit confusing but the uploaded recorded lectures are helpful
I found this class to be very interesting. Specifically, I found the granivory unit to be really fascinating.
How to read and analyze graphs was perhaps the core of both midterms and in–class assignments in this course. I wish that the statistical analysis part of the graph–reading was gone into more detail at the start of the course
The most important thing to me was learning about seed dispersal.
Plant and animal interactions – course title
I wish we could have spent a bit more time on specific important terms. Sometimes during class they were brushed through very quickly and we didn't spend time talking about what they meant and specific examples
I learned about animals and plants and how they interact between themselves.
The course covers three main topics: plant defenses against being eaten by animals, seed dispersal, and pollination. I found the plant defenses section the most interesting.
I liked learning the different theories on why the world was green and what we would do to keep it that way.
Coevolution, seed dispersal and pollination
The most important thing I learned in this course was how plants could "manipulate" themselves in order to "control" the behavior of their animal counterparts; these include having defense chemicals like cyanide that are only activated when an herbivore chews a leaf, incorporating molecules like capsaicin into their seeds/seed pods in order to control their seed dispersers, and attaching pollen to insect backs using special lever–like structures.
The slideshows that were posted.
I learned about interesting interactions and the science/reasoning behind plants and animals.
I was really interested in the material related to protection against predation and mutualisms between animals and plants. I'd like to have learned more about plant neurobiology.

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

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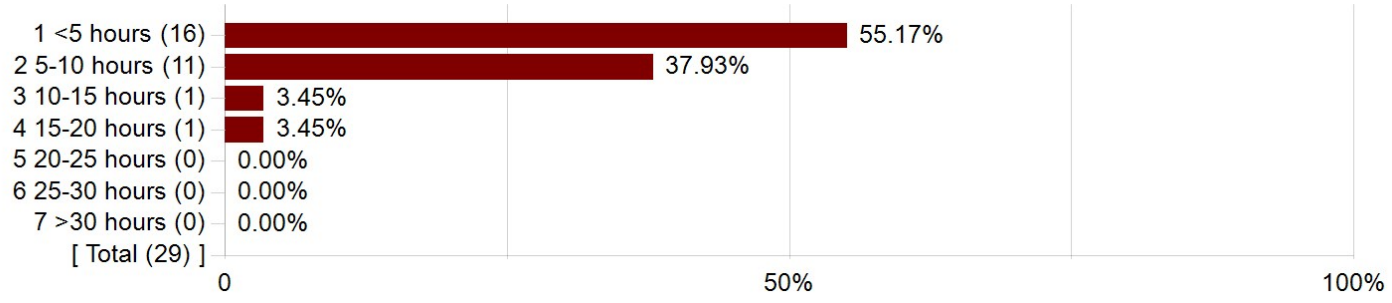
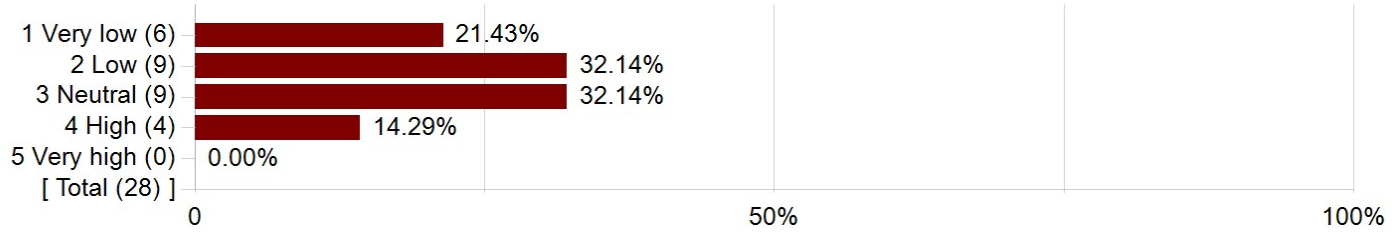


Statistics	Value
Response Count	29
Mean	1.55
Median	1.00
Standard Deviation	0.74

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

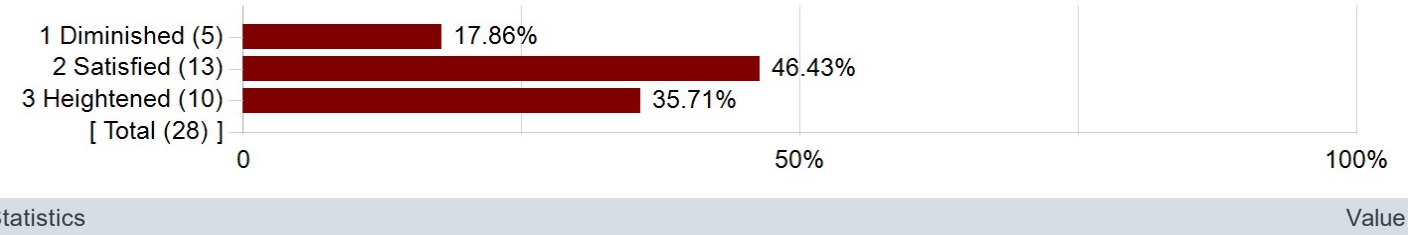
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	2.39
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.99

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	2.18
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.72

Overall, this was an excellent course.

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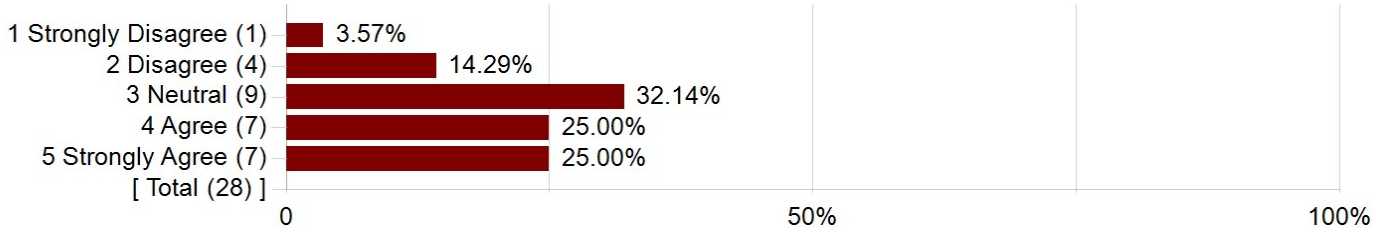

Statistics	Value
Response Count	28
Mean	3.54
Median	3.50
Standard Deviation	1.14

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

Comments
It is very statistics–oriented and involves reading scientific papers. She is very passionate about the field though, so I'd only recommend this class if you have a strong interest in this field. Tests can be dubious in quality. This class is very un–core like; it isn't very insightful into the scientific process or teaches something else the way the CORE humanities/SOSC do. Attendance is also a factor in grades because of in–class assignments, but she is very generous in how she drops a certain number of grades. Class has three midterms, no final, which is nice in that there is no one big test covering everything.
Interesting concepts, easy to get through as long as you're good at graph interpretation. Readings are rather short, generally less than 10–page PDFs, and the exams are all midterms, with no cumulative. Won't be an automatic A, but is not difficult to understand and mostly remains at high–level analysis.
it's wonderful
There's a lot of stats but it's pretty easy if you've done any low level stats prior to the course. The content can just be confusing and a lot.
This is not an easy class. It is totally manageable, but if you are looking for a biology topic for the Core, I'd recommend taking another class.
Go to every class and do every homework assignment
Pay close attention to the readings, because they are usually pretty interesting and relevant to the lectures even if they don't get discussed directly, and take good notes during class because the lectures move quickly through a lot of information.
Study a lot for exams
Even though it may seem like you can skip a reading quiz or lecture (and in–class assignment) here and there because of the drop policy, really try your best to do all of them because at the end of the course those grades become extra padding for the more challenging tests.
Don't study that much for the tests, know the basic concepts and get ready to see trick questions.
You do not need to have a rigorous understanding of Core Biology to do well in this course. I took this course as an English/Econ major who hasn't seen biology since freshman year of high school, and I did extremely well. This, however, did not come without effort. If you want to do well, I recommend putting in as much focus as you can in the readings, the lectures, and the in class practices. Reviewing all these things, going to office hours, and taking the practice midterms on Canvas will help you succeed on the actual midterms and the course in general. Also make sure to look at the extra information on Canvas; some of it may be on the midterm, but more importantly, it is all very interesting. Knowing some statistics/statistical measures is pretty helpful, but Dr. Hunter does have info on her Canvas page if you are not familiar with it already. She is also readily available in office hours if you have any questions. Sign up and go to office hours. Dr. Hunter is very helpful and will answer any and all questions you have.
I would take it if you need to take a bio, you will also learn a lot, and some of it is quite interesting
Just keep up with material and it should be a pretty standard bio course.
I was surprised how easy it was for me as a humanities major!
It takes a lot of studying to get good grades (B+ and over), the readings and quizzes are not often easy to interpret, and everything is about memorizing stuff.