



BIOS 13140 1 - The Public and Private Lives of Insects - Instructor(s) - Eric C Larsen

Project Title: **College Course Feedback - Spring 2024**

Number Enrolled: **106**

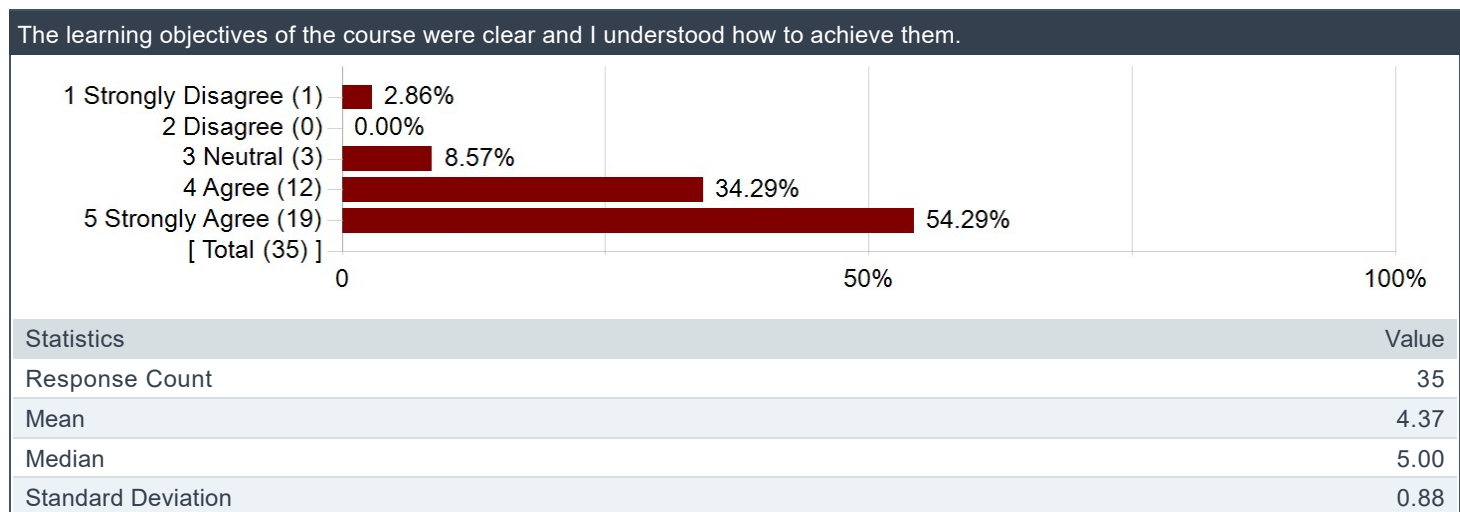
Number of Responses: **37**

Report Comments

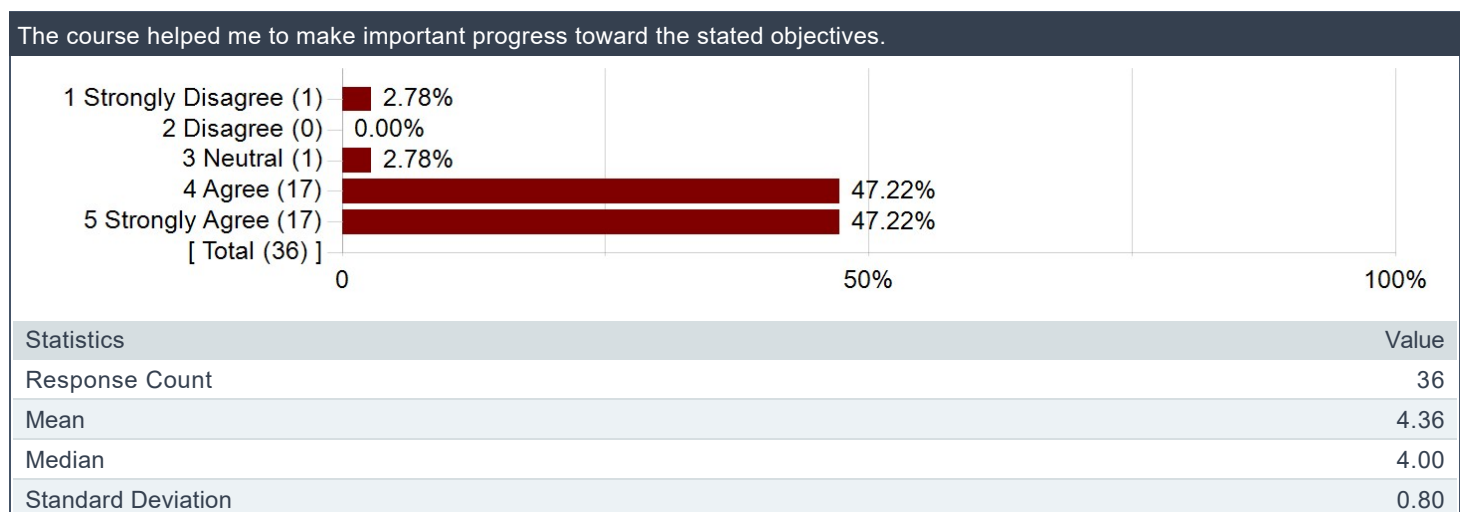
Opinions expressed in these evaluations are those of students enrolled in the specific course and do not represent the University.

Creation Date: **Thursday, July 11, 2024**

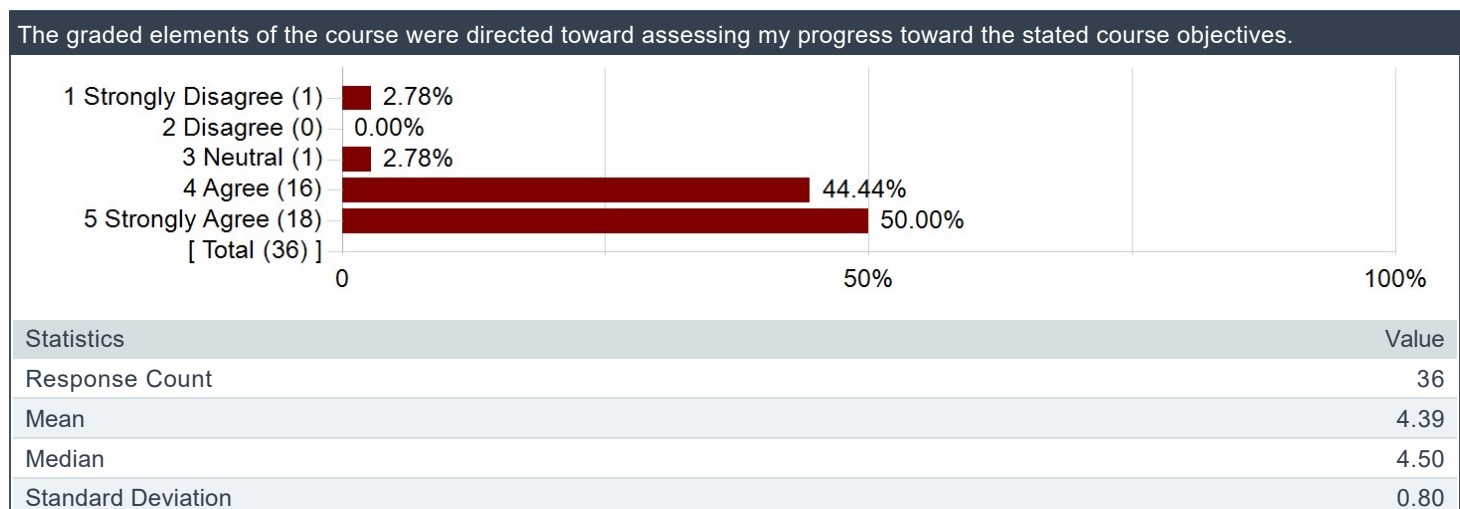
The learning objectives of the course were clear and I understood how to achieve them.



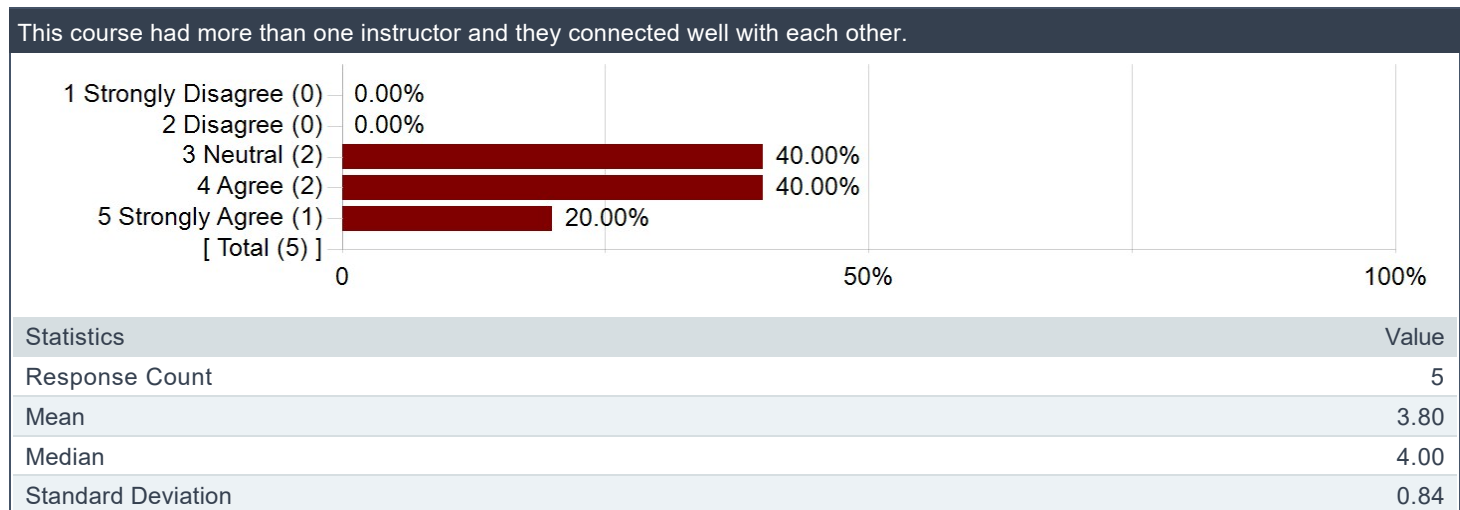
The course helped me to make important progress toward the stated objectives.



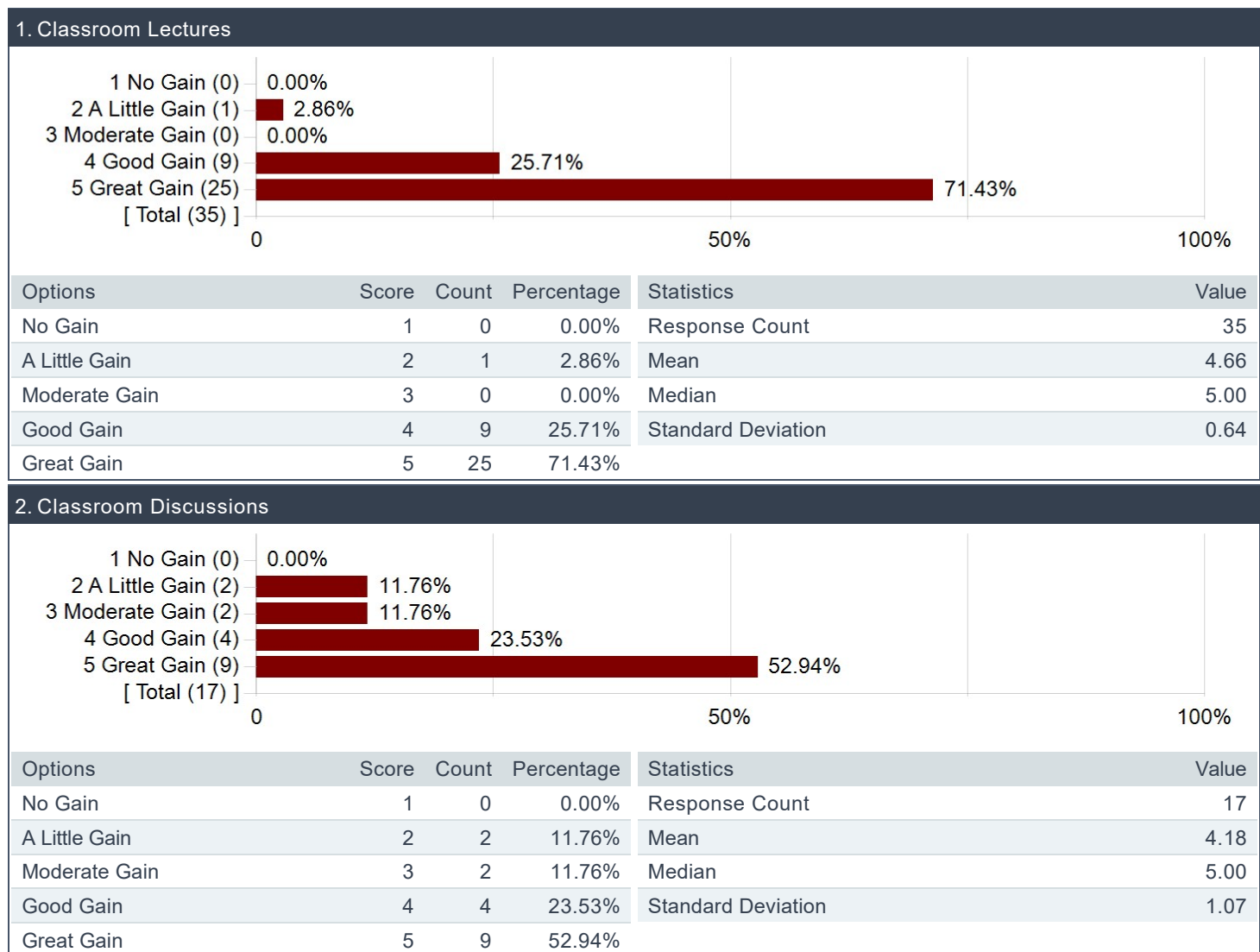
The graded elements of the course were directed toward assessing my progress toward the stated course objectives.



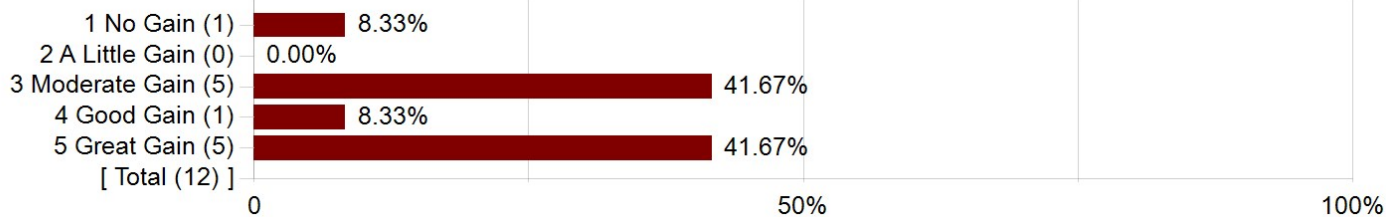
This course had more than one instructor and they connected well with each other.



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

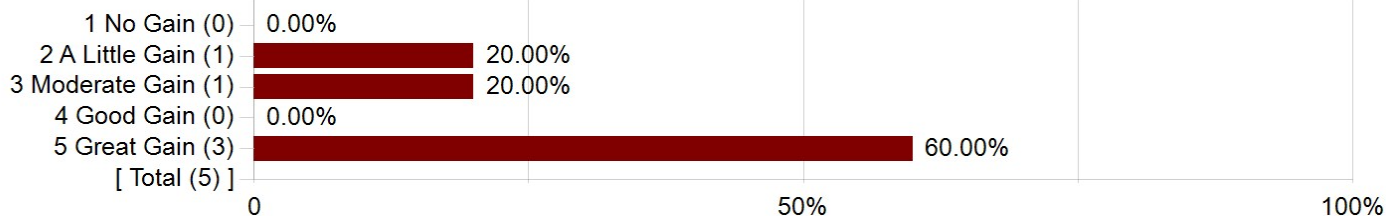


3. Assigned Readings



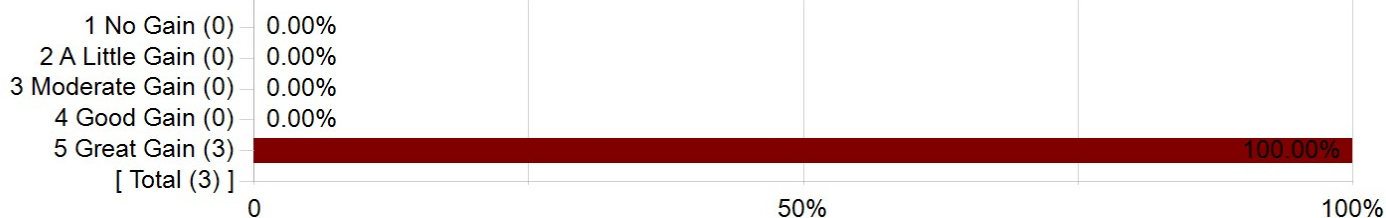
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	1	8.33%	Response Count	12
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%	Mean	3.75
Moderate Gain	3	5	41.67%	Median	3.50
Good Gain	4	1	8.33%	Standard Deviation	1.29
Great Gain	5	5	41.67%		

4. Homework Exercises



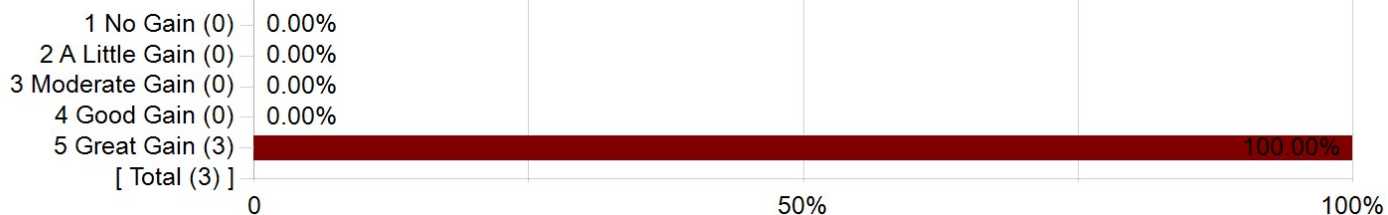
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	5
A Little Gain	2	1	20.00%	Mean	4.00
Moderate Gain	3	1	20.00%	Median	5.00
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	1.41
Great Gain	5	3	60.00%		

5. Lab Experiences



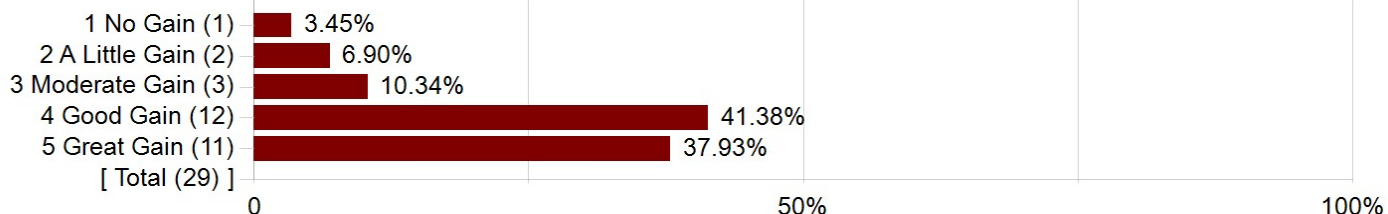
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	3
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%	Mean	5.00
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%	Median	5.00
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	0.00
Great Gain	5	3	100.00%		

6. Discussion Sessions



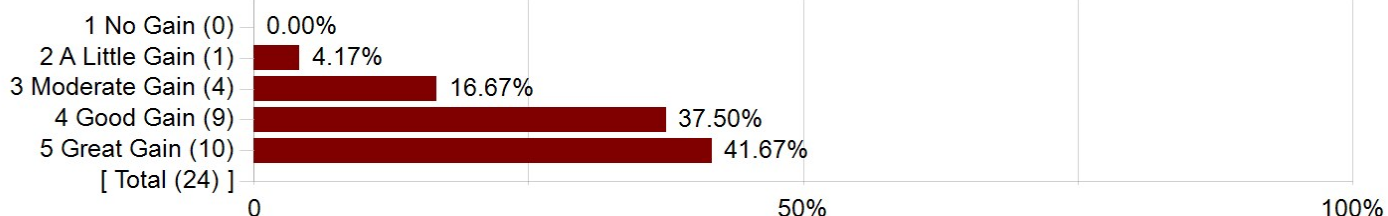
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	3
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%	Mean	5.00
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%	Median	5.00
Good Gain	4	0	0.00%	Standard Deviation	0.00
Great Gain	5	3	100.00%		

7. Review Sessions



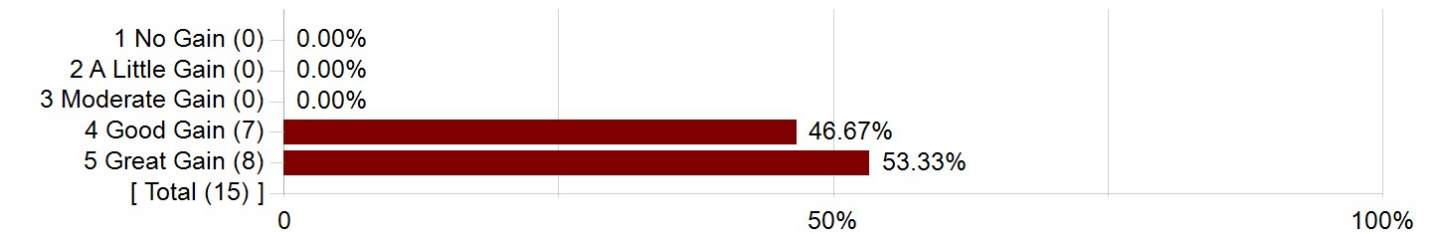
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	1	3.45%	Response Count	29
A Little Gain	2	2	6.90%	Mean	4.03
Moderate Gain	3	3	10.34%	Median	4.00
Good Gain	4	12	41.38%	Standard Deviation	1.05
Great Gain	5	11	37.93%		

8. Interactions with Other Students



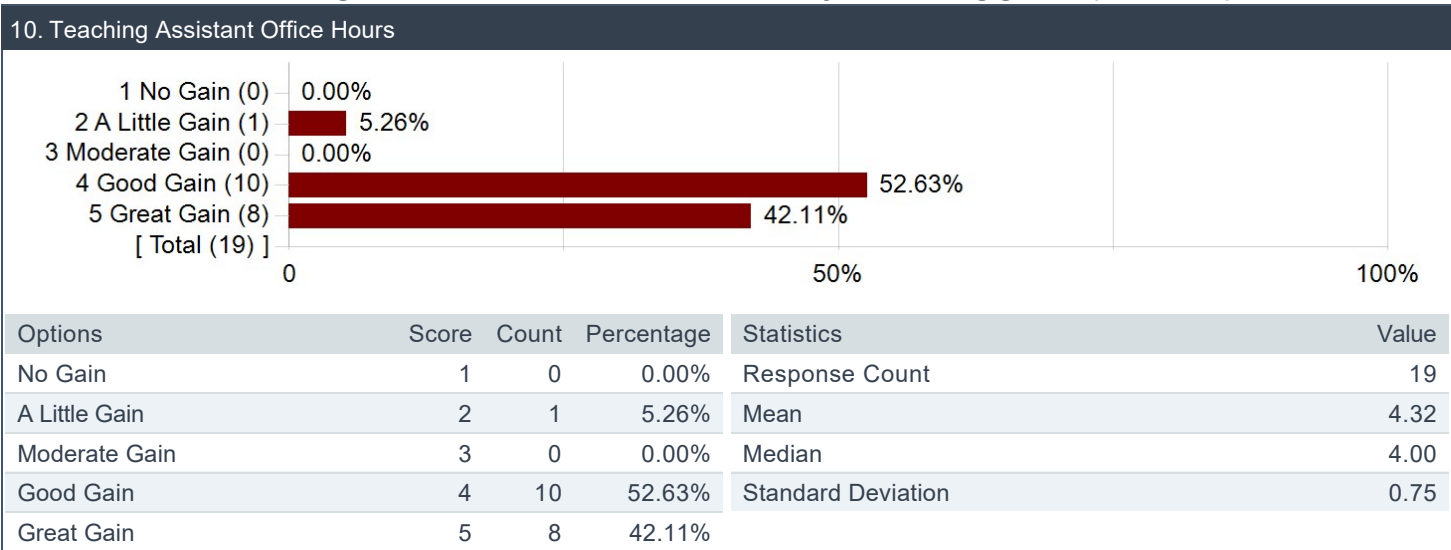
Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	24
A Little Gain	2	1	4.17%	Mean	4.17
Moderate Gain	3	4	16.67%	Median	4.00
Good Gain	4	9	37.50%	Standard Deviation	0.87
Great Gain	5	10	41.67%		

9. Faculty Office Hours



Options	Score	Count	Percentage	Statistics	Value
No Gain	1	0	0.00%	Response Count	15
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%	Mean	4.53
Moderate Gain	3	0	0.00%	Median	5.00
Good Gain	4	7	46.67%	Standard Deviation	0.52
Great Gain	5	8	53.33%		

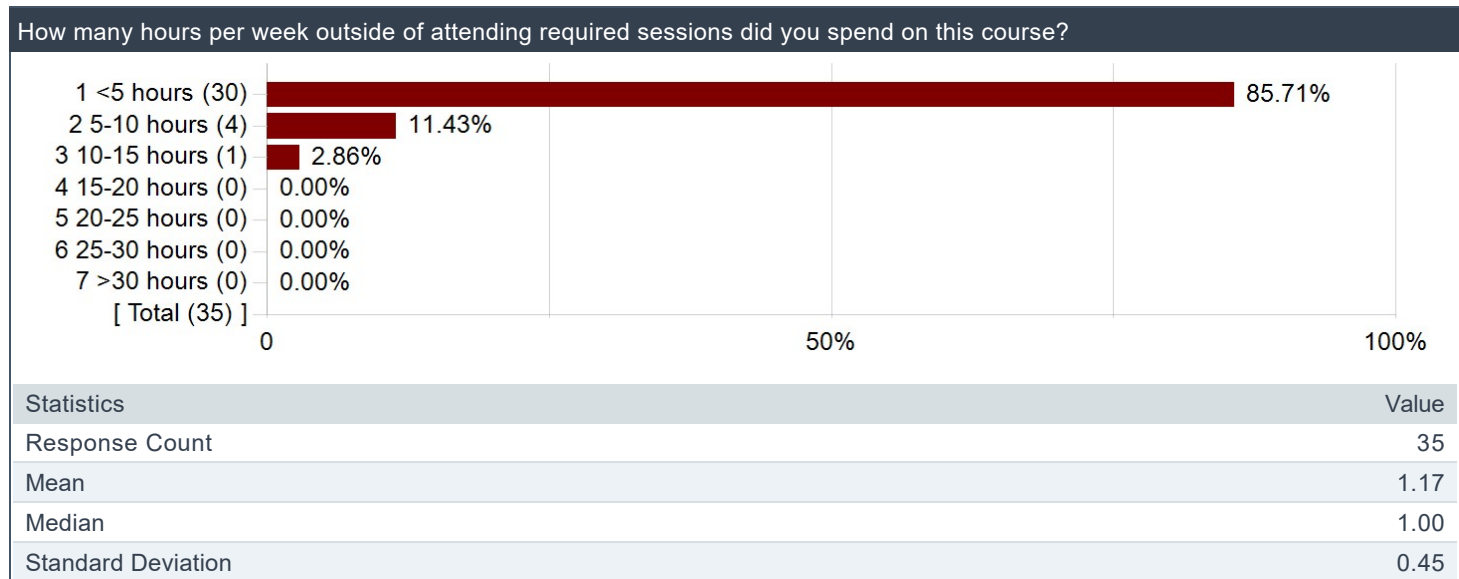
How much did the following elements of the course contribute to your learning gains? (continued)



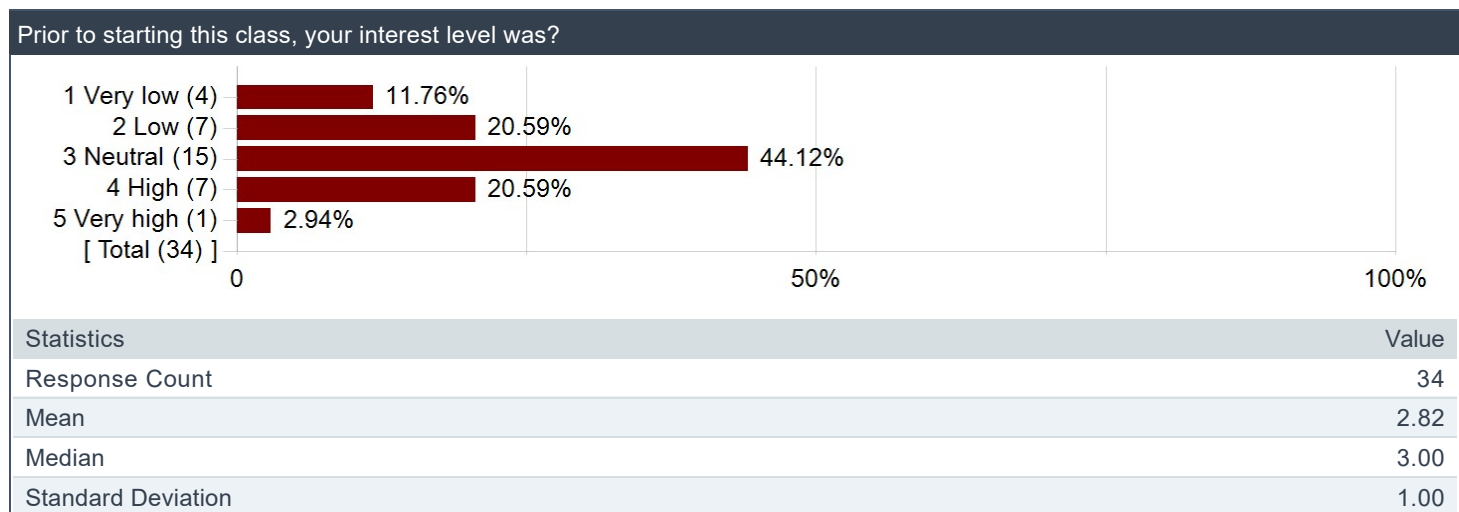
What was the most important thing (to you) that you learned in this course? What aspect of the material is still unclear for you, that you wish you could have learned better?

Comments
I learned about how insects work and their ecosystems, which was new and interesting to me! Larsen also did a great job of connecting the world of insects to other topics (i.e. social, economic, environmental, etc).
I learned that science can be fun and interesting if taught the right way.
This class has been a profound journey into the diverse world of insects. We've explored topics ranging from the ecological niches insects occupy to the rapid mechanisms of speciation that drive their evolution. The course also delved into the symbiotic relationship between insects and flowering plants, the application of insects in medical and forensic contexts, and the taxonomy of arthropods.
One of the most captivating discussions focused on the Hymenoptera order, which includes ants, wasps, and bees. A common misconception is that, according to the laws of aviation, there is no way that a bee should be able to fly. Its wings are too small to get itself off the ground. However, this course has dispelled such myths by explaining the intricate design and evolutionary history of insect wings.
Professor Larsen emphasized that all insects, including bees, possess two pairs of chitin wings that have been refined through nearly 450 million years of evolution. The fossil record suggests that arthropods developed wings shortly after transitioning to land, indicating that the ability to fly is not unique to bees but a common feature in many insects.
Furthermore, we learned about the morphological similarities between bees and wasps and the surprising fact that ants, though typically seen as ground-dwelling creatures, also belong to the Hymenoptera order. Interestingly, ants do have wings during certain life stages. They use these wings for dispersal flights in search of new colony sites but shed them after establishing a new colony. The lifecycle of these colonial insects was thoroughly covered in our lectures, providing fascinating insights into their complex social structures and behaviours.
This course has not only corrected many misconceptions about insects but also deepened my appreciation for their intricate biology and the pivotal roles they play in our ecosystems. It has been an enlightening experience, shedding light on insects' unseen lives and profound impact on the natural world.
Insects
I gained a lot of knowledge on a subject I didn't know much about previously, which is important to me. I think my gain was sufficient.
I learned how to study for quizzes the most efficiently
I think things were presented very well.
Soooo much about bugs – how they interact, reproduce, communicate, their habitats, plant defenses and insect responses, pesticides and the environment, forensic entymology (corpses!), eyes... and a bunch of great anecdotes from his grad school days researching in the desert and getting bitten by stuff.
I had a deep dive into insects' facts, including taxonomy, food habits, mating, forensic entomology, vision, orientation, conservation, etc.
Insect habits, really interesting cool stuff
I learned about bugs, nothing is unclear
learned a great deal about insects and broader biology
I really enjoyed learning about the anatomical structure of insects and some of the reproduction strategies they deploy to be successful.
I just liked learning about insects a lot. It was a topic that was already interesting to me so that probably helped with my motivation to do well.
Insect physiology and the coevolution of insects and angiosperms.
You learn all about bugs. It's actually really interesting and fun core bio. This is the perfect class for someone who is not that into science because you cover history, criminology, and just fun and quirky topics. I honestly learned a lot about insects and their purpose and there's not much that I feel is missing from my understanding.

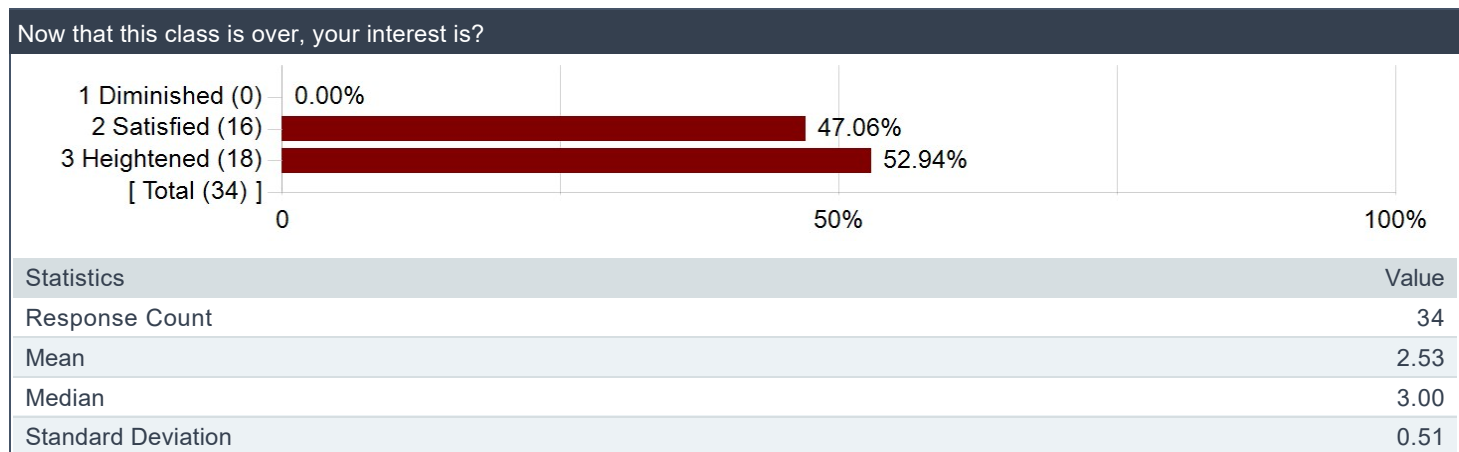
How many hours per week outside of attending required sessions did you spend on this course?



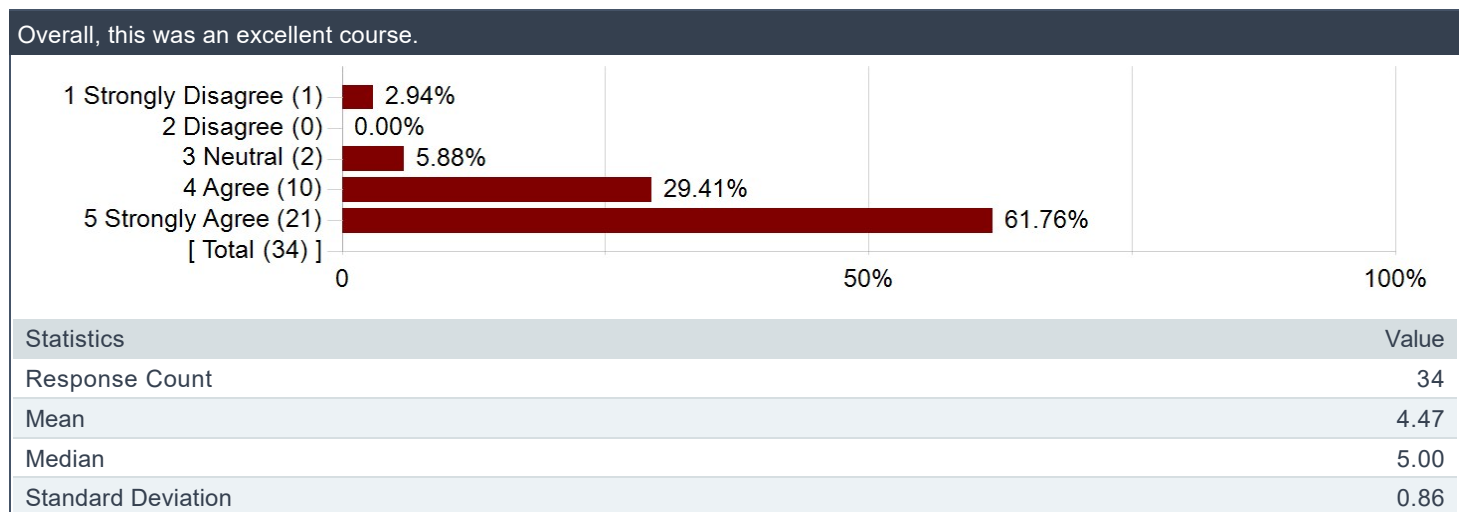
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



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
Take great notes in class and utilize the TAs!
You don't have to come to class, but you HAVE to have good study materials if you don't go because otherwise the quizzes will be very difficult
TAKE THIS COURSE. Three non-cumulative quizzes, NO final (unless you want to take it to improve your grade). Go to class, take good notes, and do well on the quizzes and you're set.
The course lectures may contain a few insect images of a grotesque nature.
Attend all the lectures.
Go to class,
GO to class. The slides only tell you general info, not everything he'll talk about and put on the quizzes, and he'll often drop hints about what will be on the quiz in class. You can always Zoom in.
TAKE GOOD NOTES!!!! the quizzes are sometimes taken word-for-word from the class slides, so actually take good notes and pay attention during the lectures.
Good popular science class that helped me learn a whole lot about insects! Just be prepared to spend some time memorizing the facts.
Good course. Professor Larsen is great
the quizzes are on the lectures, some people can gt by without going to lecture and just looking at the slides, but you do learn from the anecdotes that he shares that are not on the slides. Plus he is super engaging and the time passes quickly so I would recommend going
Take it! You will not regret it!
Take organized notes on everything so you can look over them before the quizzes. Its much better than looking at the slides.
Larsen is a definite take! He's an animated lecturer and clearly likes what he teaches. If you're satisfied with your grade after the three quizzes you can opt out of the final.
quizzes are harder than Larsen's Principles class, more detail oriented than they were. take lots of notes
Start studying for the quizzes at least a week out. It's a lot to cover and can feel overwhelming. Also-go to the TA review sessions!! They help narrow down what you need to know for the quizzes and review Larsen's key points.
Study for the quizzes, go to the review sessions