BIOS 10140 12 - Inquiry-based Exploration of Biology - Instructor(s): Pliny Smith

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

Number Enrolled: **17**
Number of Responses: **11**

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, March 28, 2024**

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

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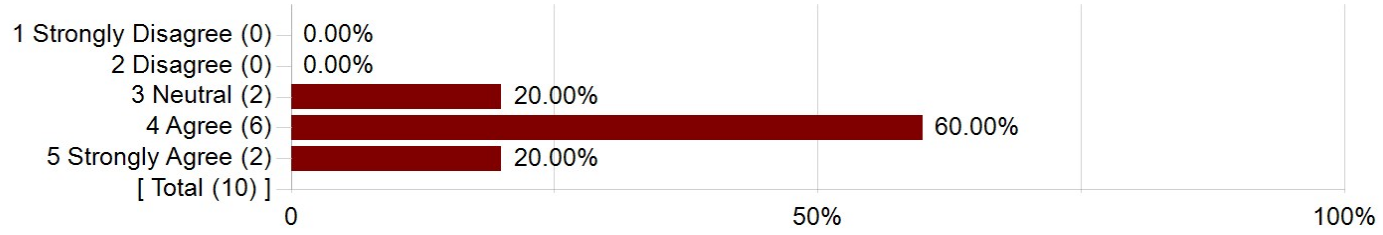

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.67

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

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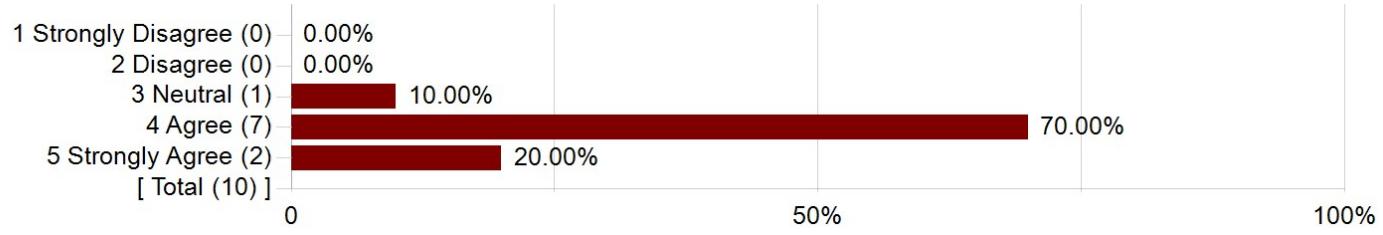

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	4.10
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.57

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

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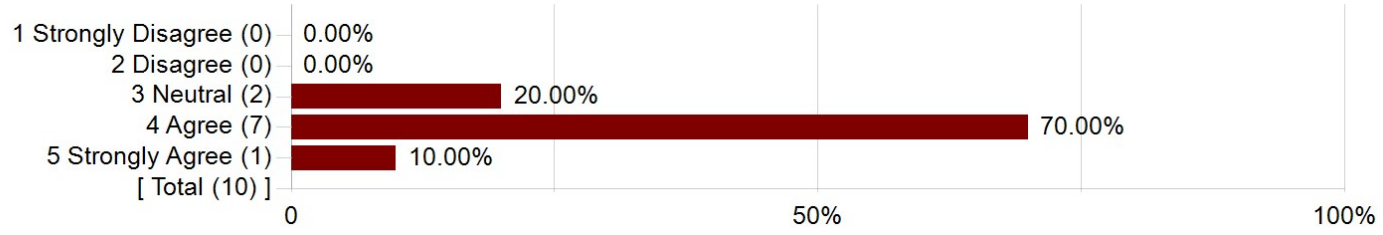

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.90
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.57

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

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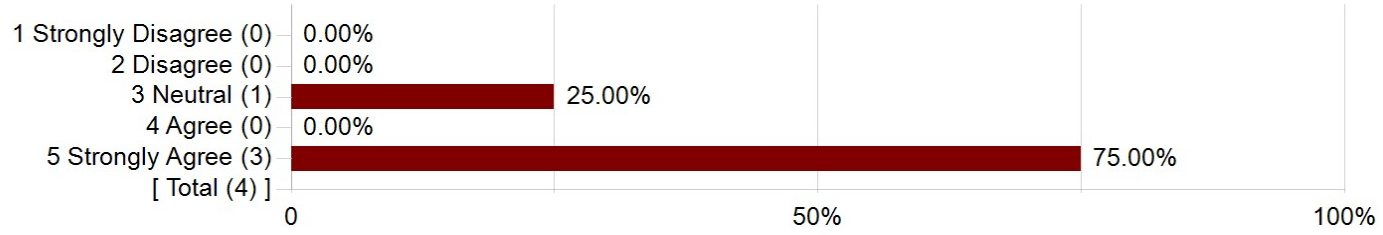
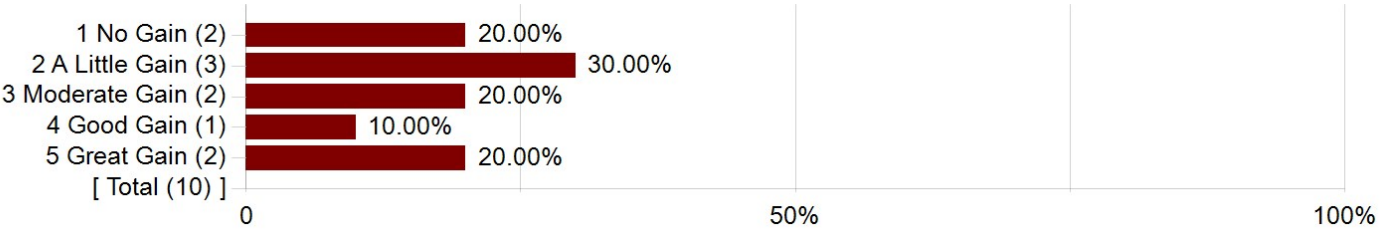


Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

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

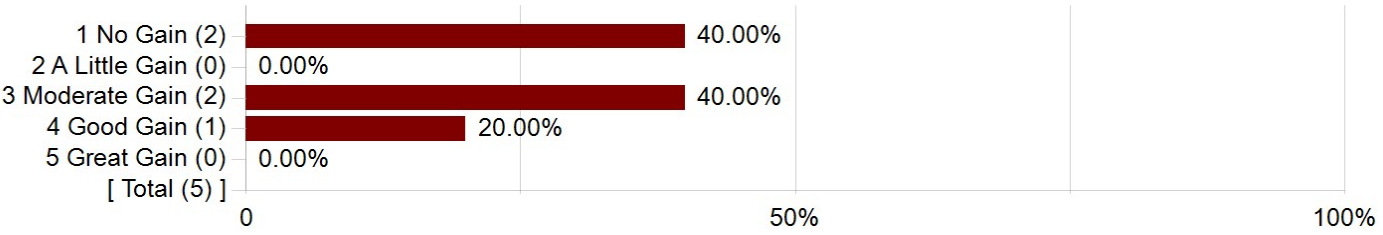
1. Classroom Lectures



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	2	20.00%
A Little Gain	2	3	30.00%
Moderate Gain	3	2	20.00%
Good Gain	4	1	10.00%
Great Gain	5	2	20.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	2.80
Median	2.50
Standard Deviation	1.48

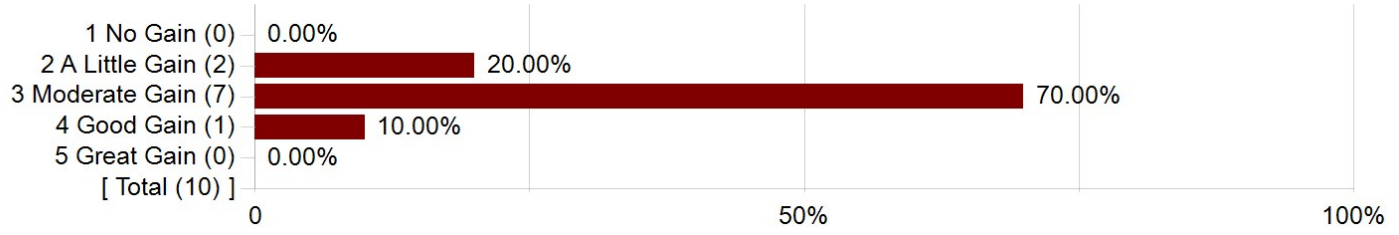
2. Classroom Discussions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	2	40.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	2	40.00%
Good Gain	4	1	20.00%
Great Gain	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	2.40
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	1.34

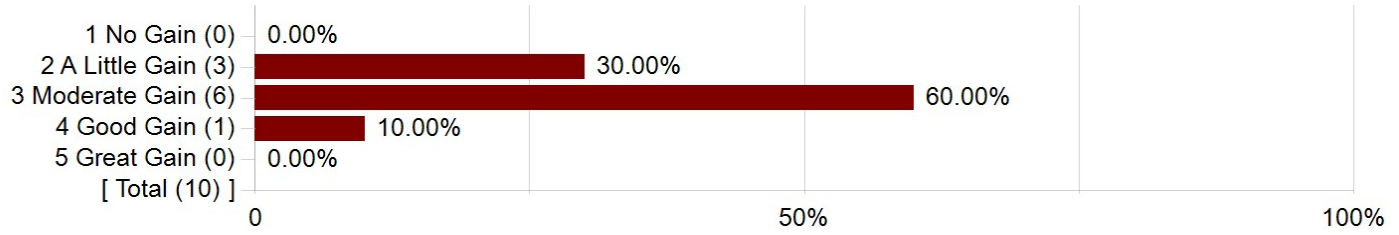
3. Assigned Readings



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	2	20.00%
Moderate Gain	3	7	70.00%
Good Gain	4	1	10.00%
Great Gain	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	2.90
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.57

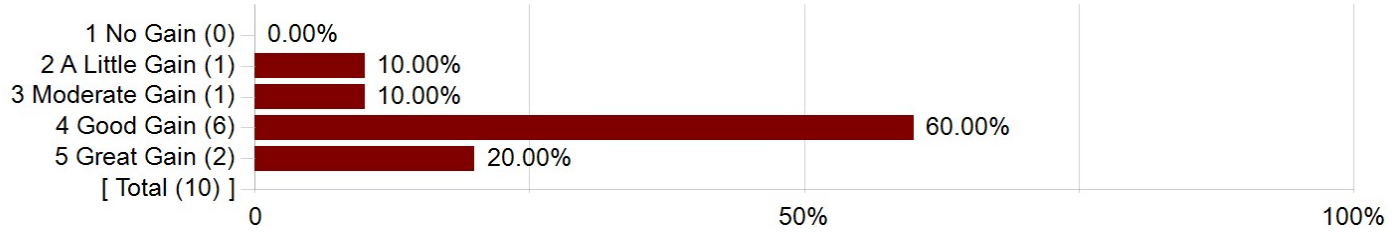
4. Homework Exercises



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	3	30.00%
Moderate Gain	3	6	60.00%
Good Gain	4	1	10.00%
Great Gain	5	0	0.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	2.80
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.63

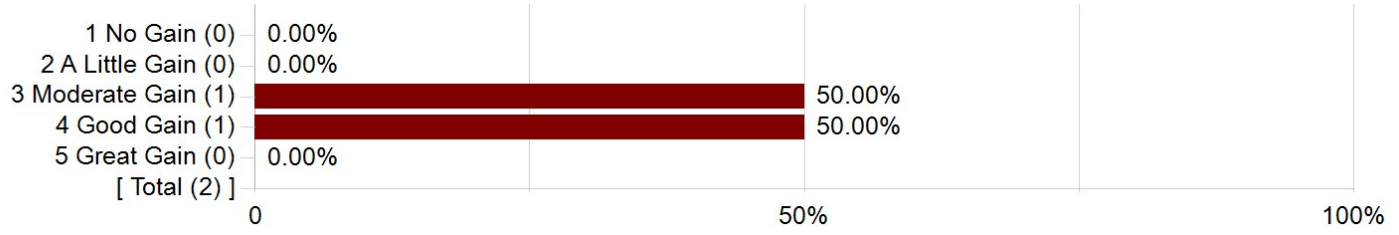
5. Lab Experiences



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	10.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	10.00%
Good Gain	4	6	60.00%
Great Gain	5	2	20.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.90
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.88

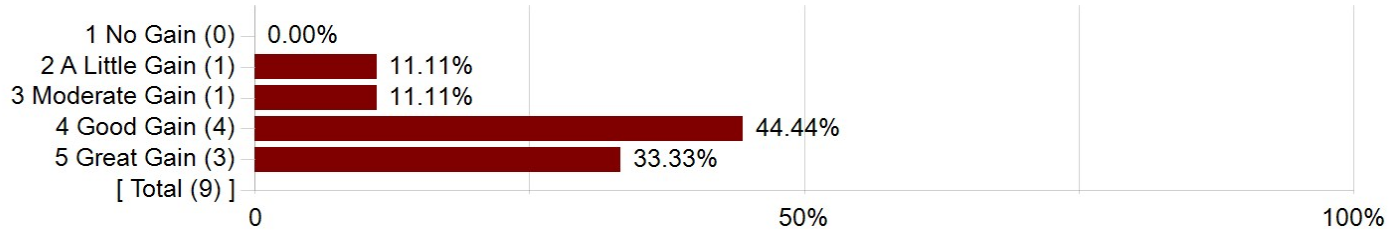
6. Discussion Sessions



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

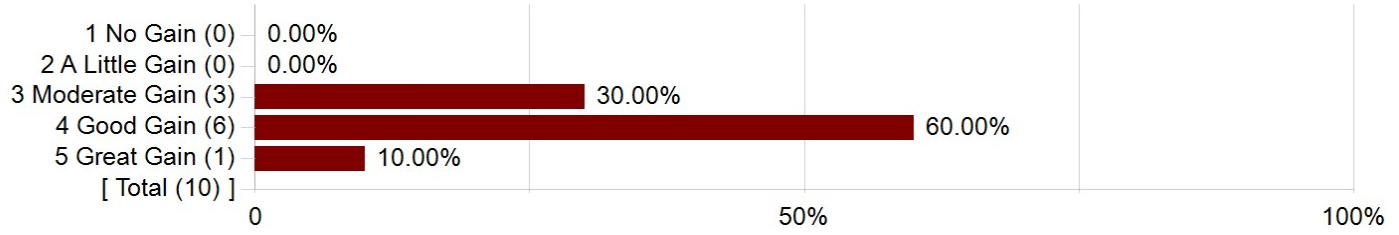
7. Review Sessions



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	11.11%
Moderate Gain	3	1	11.11%
Good Gain	4	4	44.44%
Great Gain	5	3	33.33%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.00
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

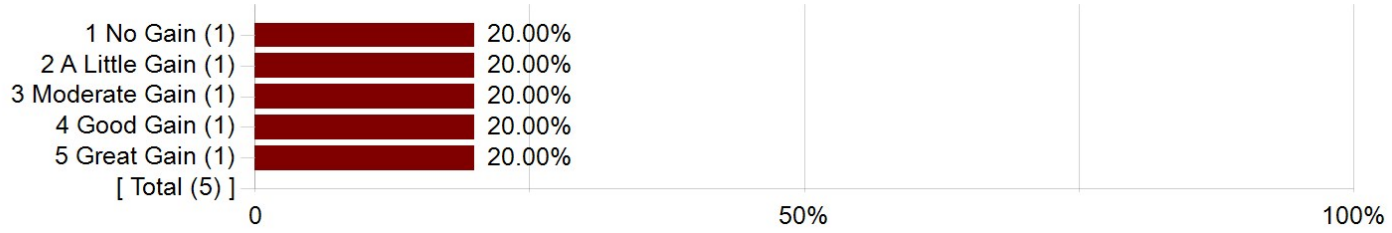
8. Interactions with Other Students



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	0	0.00%
A Little Gain	2	0	0.00%
Moderate Gain	3	3	30.00%
Good Gain	4	6	60.00%
Great Gain	5	1	10.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.80
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.63

9. Faculty Office Hours

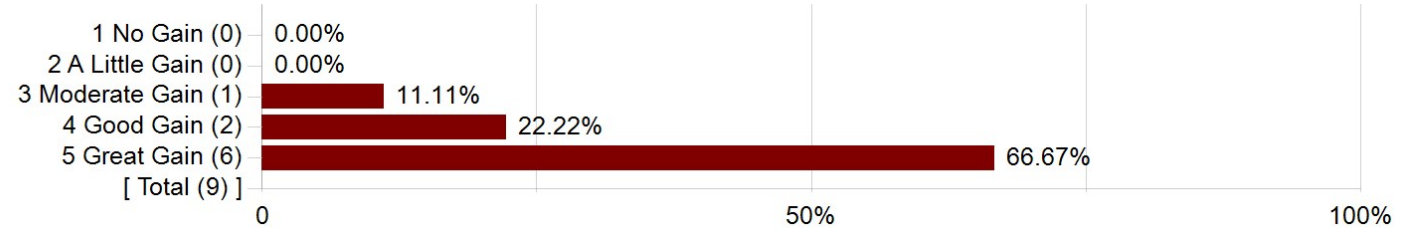


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
No Gain	1	1	20.00%
A Little Gain	2	1	20.00%
Moderate Gain	3	1	20.00%
Good Gain	4	1	20.00%
Great Gain	5	1	20.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	5
Mean	3.00
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	1.58

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	11.11%
Good Gain	4	2	22.22%
Great Gain	5	6	66.67%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	9
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.73

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
The four different theories of biological aging (i.e. why do organisms age?) is actually a very interesting topic. The part I am weakest on is definitely the limb development section, and I'm still kinda confused how it relates to aging.
The most important thing was the various sets of genetic factors that can lead to all kinds of different outcomes in terms of life.
N/a
I learned more study skills
Learned a lot about aging, evolution and the interplay between these subjects. There was a lot of focus on specific genes, genetic pathways and processes that impact aging and ways to potentially remedy these. The C. elegans project was the main lab focus and put the aging material into actual practice.
I learned a lot about longevity, which was actually really interesting. If you are interested in how to live longer, what kinds of things effect aging, and how to prevent those things, this course content will speak to you. It definitely helps you succeed if you are interested in the content.

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

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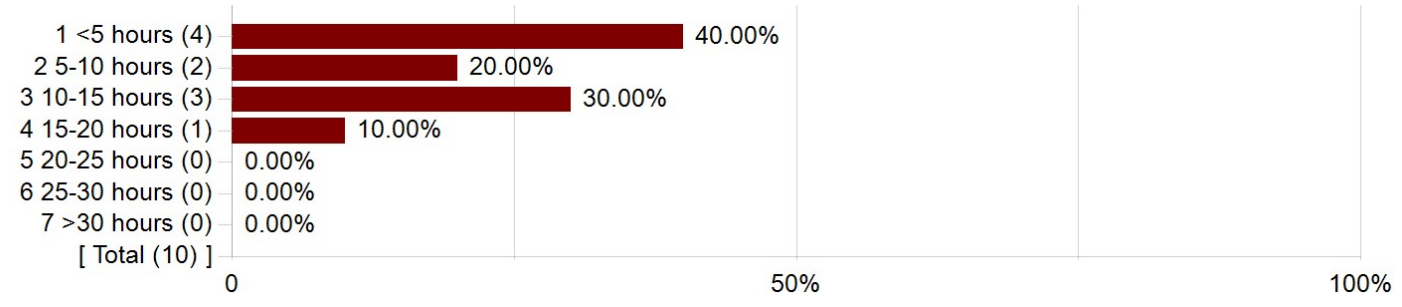
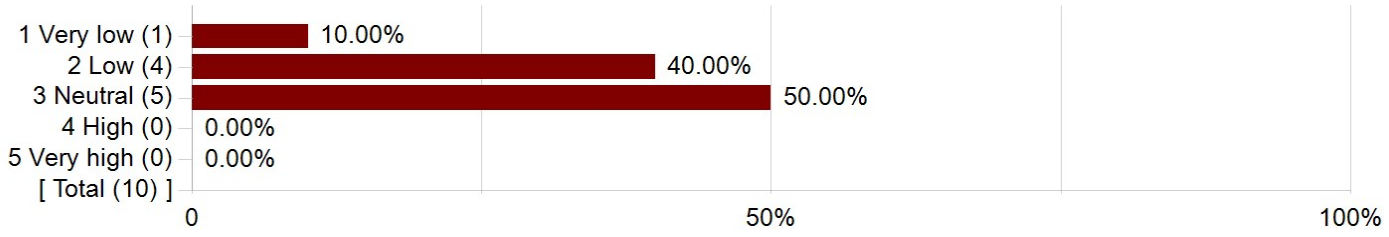


Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	2.10
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	1.10

Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?

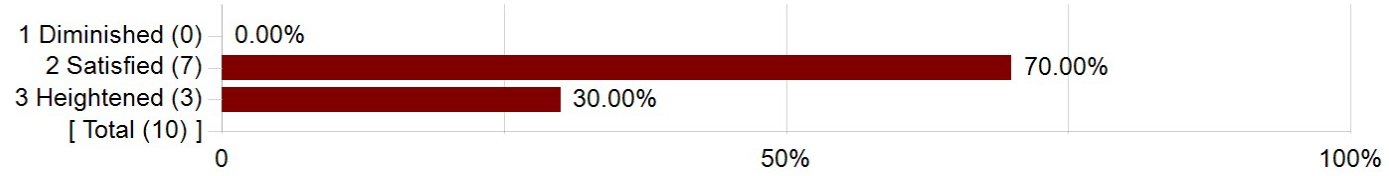
Prior to starting this class, your interest level was?



Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	2.40
Median	2.50
Standard Deviation	0.70

Now that this class is over, your interest is?

Now that this class is over, your interest is?



Statistics	Value
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Mean	2.30
Median	2.00
Standard Deviation	0.48

Overall, this was an excellent course.

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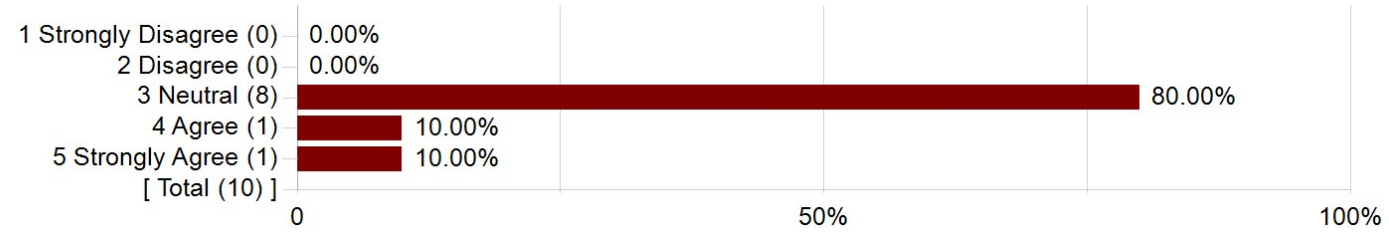


Statistics	Value
Response Count	10
Mean	3.30
Median	3.00
Standard Deviation	0.67

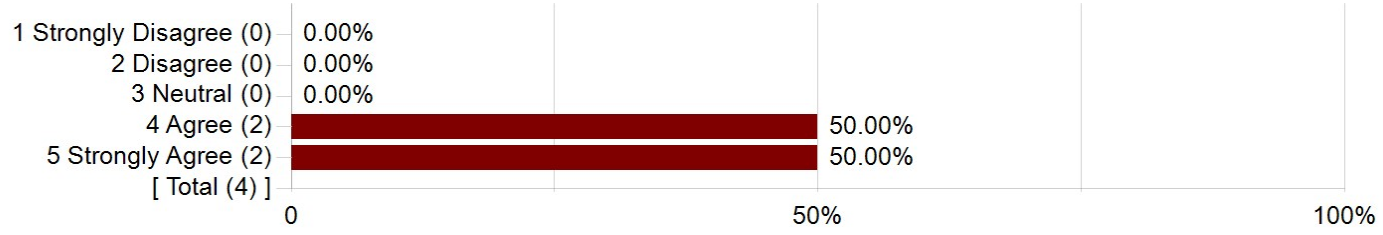
Please share any advice you have for students who are considering taking the course.

Comments
3 hours twice a week is a lot of time. Obviously the lack of midterm or final is nice, but don't think of this course as no time commitment since it is 6 hours of class time alone. I definitely think Smith's course is harder than the other IBL Bio classes, but the format is pretty long regardless. I guess what I'm saying is really consider if you will like this option best. That said, and while he is harder, this class is very manageable and can even be enjoyable once you figure out how best to study for the quizzes (ie go to TA office hours).
Don't take this course unless you really like aging or something. The grading system will just stress you out for real. Like UChicago is the life of the mind but not this.
There are easier inquiry bios. You can get an A in this one but you have to do a lot more work than in other classes.
pay attention well and read things with heavy attention to detail
n/a
We are expected to know a lot for each weekly quiz however as long as you are committed to studying and attended TA hours you will most likely be fine. I cannot stress enough how helpful the TA hours are in learning the materials.
This class is not easy. To get a good grade you will have to pay attention and study a lot. As long as you memorize well and can handle a lot of information, this class is managable.
I would be prepared for a slightly more challenging "Inquiry of Bio" course than expected. I have compared this course's content to other Inquirty of Bios, and it is definitely more challenging and more work— and with the class being curved up due to the ease of other decisions (you must get a 94 to get an A), I would say it is pretty hard to get an A. But this course has taught me substantially more than I would have learned in a class with an easier workload, and you quickly adapt— you have to get into a flow. This isn't necessarily a bad class in an aspect, and you can do well. Don't get me wrong; it just requires a lot of effort on your part to be consistent and be a listener during lectures.

Laboratory Meetings

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

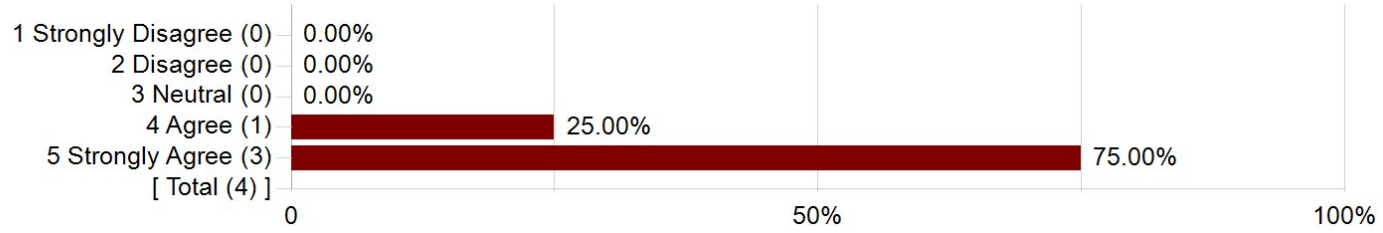
1. The laboratory protocols and instructions were clear and well organized.



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

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.50
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.58

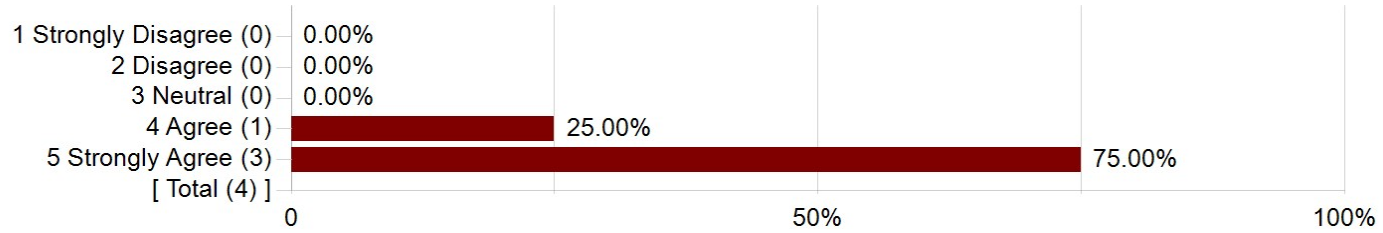
2. Materials and equipment needed for performing the exercises were readily available.



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

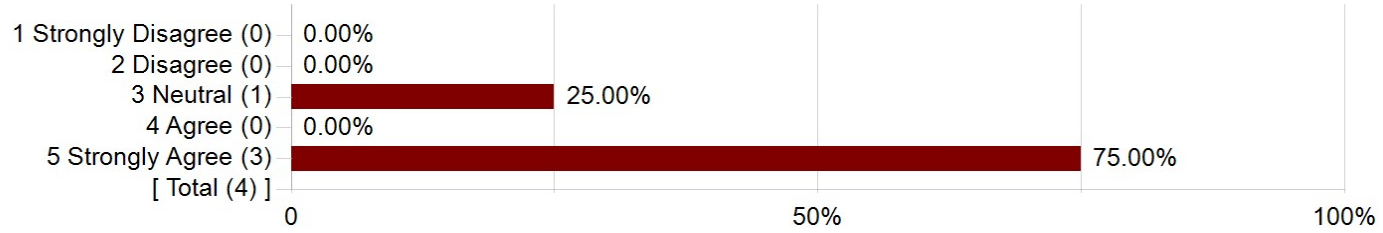
3. The lab exercises had clear educational goals.



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

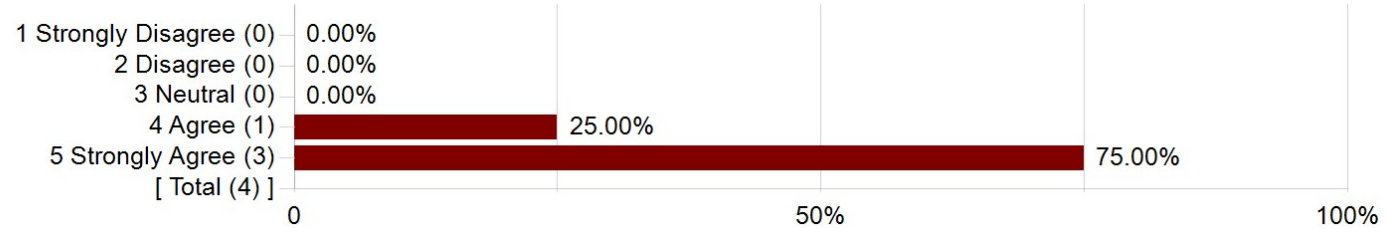
4. The goals of the lab exercises were well integrated with the overall objectives of the course.



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

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.50
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	1.00

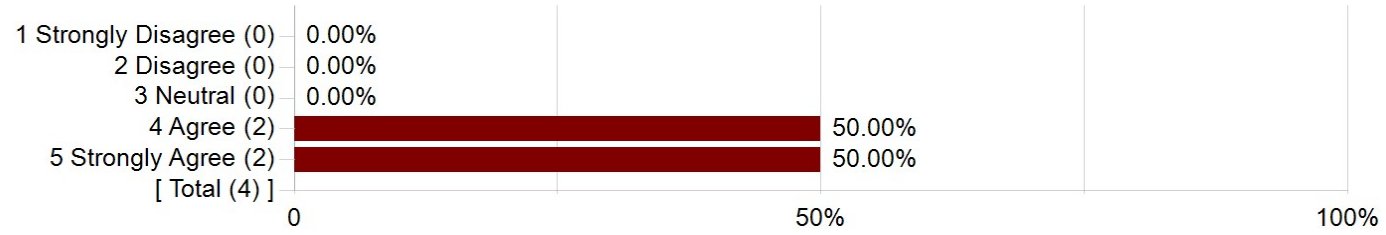
5. The lab exercises explored course topics in ways that could not have been accomplished in lecture or discussion.



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.

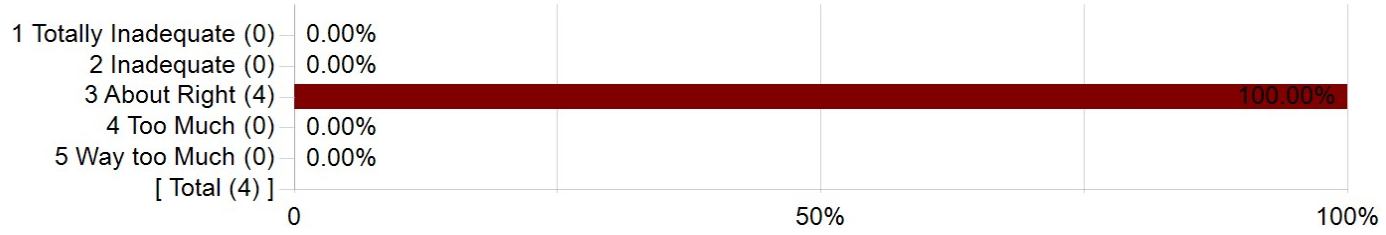


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	0	0.00%
Agree	4	2	50.00%
Strongly Agree	5	2	50.00%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	4
Mean	4.50
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	0.58

The time allocated for completing the lab was:

The time allocated for completing the lab was:



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
How to count worms. Again. And again. And again. And again and again and again. Also PCR/sequence analysis was cool.
Eh not much just worm counting
How to analyze data well, and a more well rounded understanding of how experiments are created and thought of.

Please share any recommendations to improve the laboratory learning experience.

Comments
More time allotted for the worm counting would have been helpful.
None