Carrano, Dominic (EL ENG 120 LEC 001 SIGNALS AND SYSTEMS (EVAL FOR GSI)) - Spring 2019

Project Title: **[ENGINEERING] Spring 2019 Evaluations**
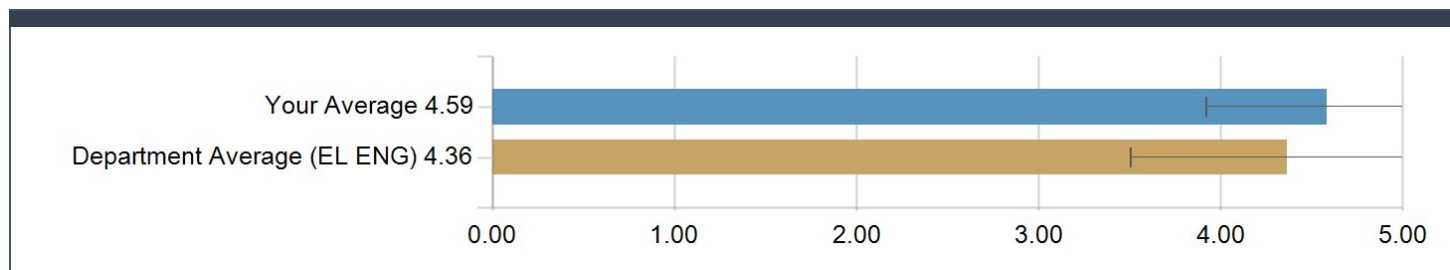
Courses Audience: **133**
Responses Received: **114**
Response Ratio: **85.71%**

Creation Date: **Tuesday, June 04, 2019**

Instructor Ratings

Considering both the limitations and possibilities of the subject matter and the course, how would you rate the overall effectiveness of this graduate student instructor?
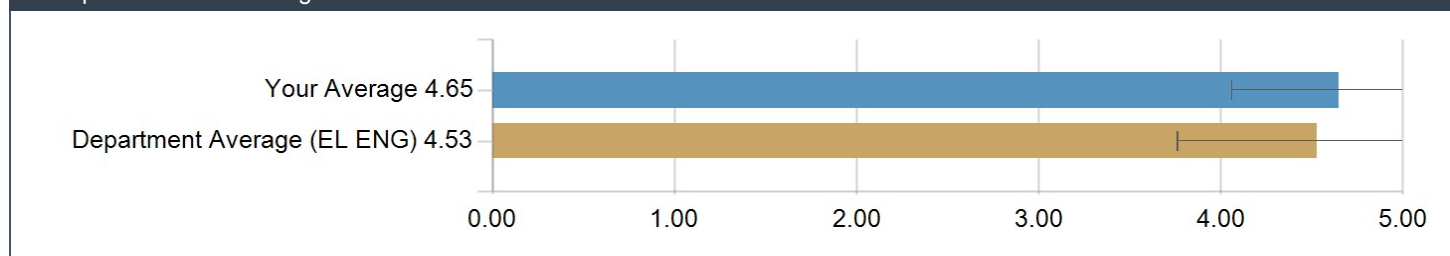
⊢ StandardDev

Your Average 4.59
Department Average (EL ENG) 4.36

Please rate the GSI's overall teaching effectiveness.		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Least Effective	0	0.00%
2	1	1.22%
3	5	6.10%
4	21	25.61%
5-Most Effective	55	67.07%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		82
Mean		4.59
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.67

GSI Ratings

1. Helpful in understanding course material
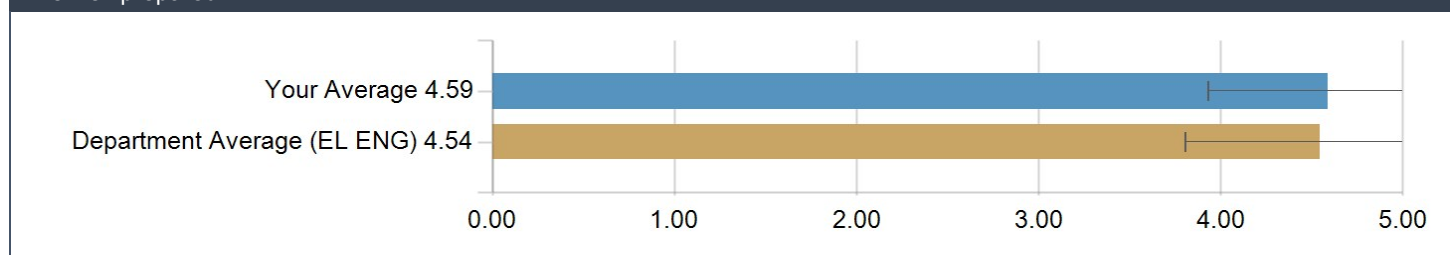
Your Average 4.65
Department Average (EL ENG) 4.53

2. Is well prepared

Your Average 4.59
Department Average (EL ENG) 4.54

3. Communicates ideas effectively

Your Average 4.65

Department Average (EL ENG) 4.47

| 0.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |

4. Appears to have a good knowledge of the subject matter

Your Average 4.69

Department Average (EL ENG) 4.62

| 0.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |

5. Answers questions accurately

Your Average 4.66

Department Average (EL ENG) 4.54

| 0.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |

6. Encourages questions and/or classroom discussion

Your Average 4.64

Department Average (EL ENG) 4.48

| 0.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |

7. Is aware when students are having difficulty

Your Average 4.59

Department Average (EL ENG) 4.39

| 0.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |

8. Is accessible during office hours

Your Average 4.58

Department Average (EL ENG) 4.55

| 0.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 3.00 | 4.00 | 5.00 |

1. Helpful in understanding course material

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	1	1.18%
Neutral	2	2.35%
Agree	23	27.06%
5-Strongly Agree	59	69.41%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		4.65
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.59
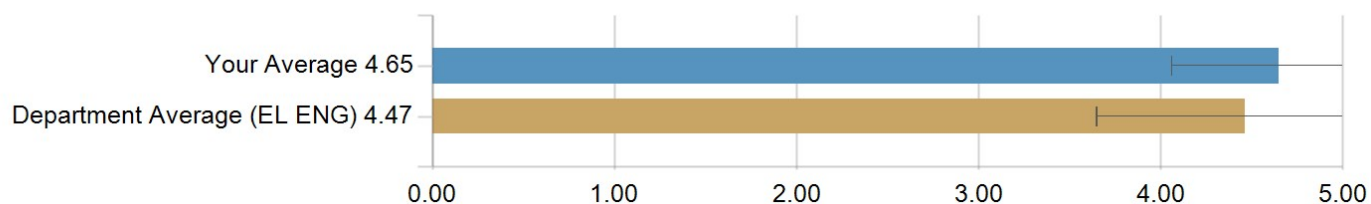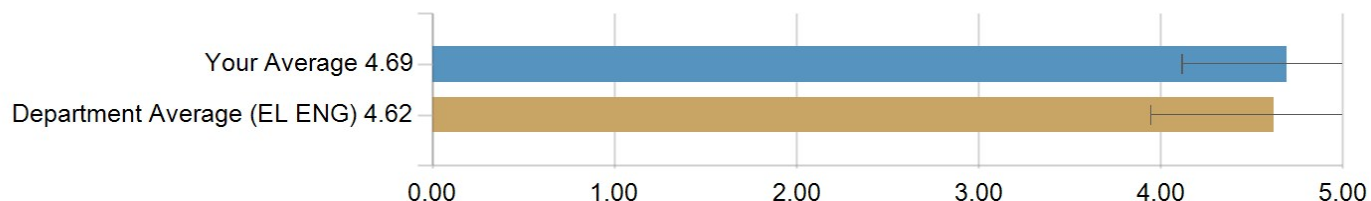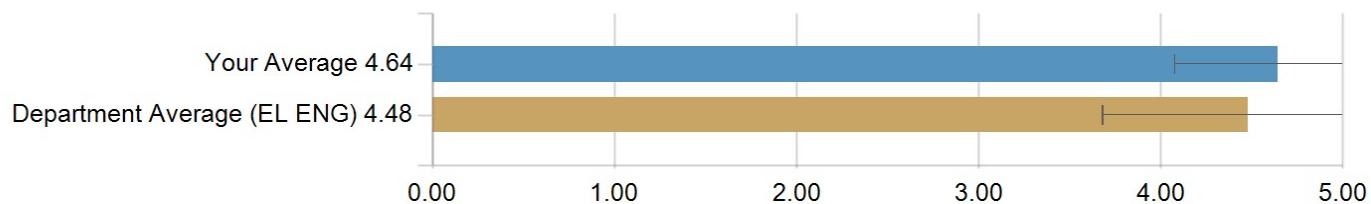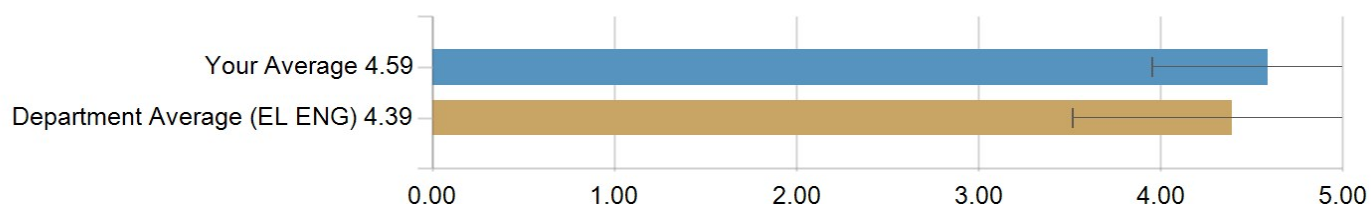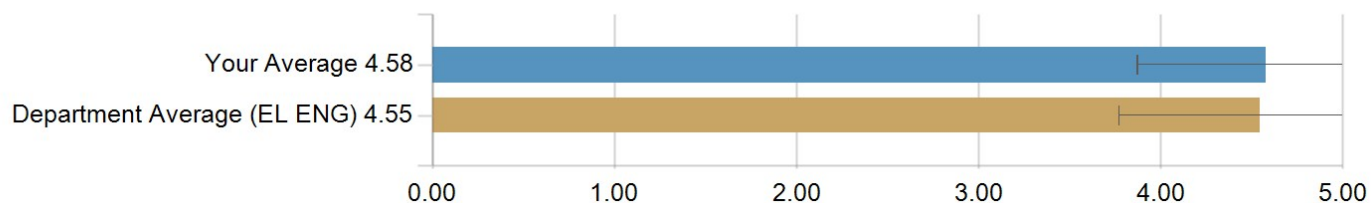
2. Is well prepared

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	2.35%
Neutral	2	2.35%
Agree	25	29.41%
5-Strongly Agree	56	65.88%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		4.59
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.66

3. Communicates ideas effectively

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	1	1.18%
Neutral	2	2.35%
Agree	23	27.06%
5-Strongly Agree	59	69.41%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		4.65
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.59

4. Appears to have a good knowledge of the subject matter

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	1	1.18%
Neutral	2	2.35%
Agree	19	22.35%
5-Strongly Agree	63	74.12%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		4.69
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.58

5. Answers questions accurately

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	3.53%
Agree	23	27.06%
5-Strongly Agree	59	69.41%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		4.66
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.55

6. Encourages questions and/or classroom discussion

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Neutral	4	4.76%
Agree	22	26.19%
5-Strongly Agree	58	69.05%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		84
Mean		4.64
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.57

7. Is aware when students are having difficulty		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	0	0.00%
Neutral	7	8.24%
Agree	21	24.71%
5-Strongly Agree	57	67.06%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		85
Mean		4.59
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.64

8. Is accessible during office hours		
Options	Count	Percentage
1-Strongly Disagree	0	0.00%
Disagree	1	1.41%
Neutral	6	8.45%
Agree	15	21.13%
5-Strongly Agree	49	69.01%
Statistics		Value
Response Count		71
Mean		4.58
Median		5.00
Standard Deviation		0.71

Open Ended Questions

Instructor

Please provide comments or suggestions about the GSI

Comments
Was very helpful during office hours (when covering for Babak) and felt as though the labs were well designed and useful.
Dominic does a great job of facilitating discussion sections and running the course as an "admin" GSI.
Your explanations, labs, and Piazza contributions are very helpful and often tie in bigger picture importance. However, while you responded well to Piazza, I don't think Piazza was overall helpful because not many people used it. Maybe the students did not feel comfortable posting, but there was no shortage of questions that could have been on Piazza. It would be good to figure out how you might facilitate and encourage a more supportive Piazza community.
NA
Enjoyed attending your OH, led discussions well
Very good TA, but sometimes doesn't understand the confusion/question on Piazza and starts repeating the same answer.
Not enough office hours accessibility
Very responsive to questions on Piazza
did a good job!
Dominic writes great detailed responses to student questions on Piazza.
I thought all the GSIs for this class did a very good job leading discussion sections!
Fantastic. You can tell he cares very much about the course (based on his involvement with developing labs, thoroughly answering Piazza questions, etc.) For reference, because I'm not sure if GSIs get to look at the overall course feedback, I'm copying over some of what I wrote there (because I liked the subject matter and hope the course can improve even more): The homework assignments were mostly straightforward computations of transforms and derivations of properties of these transforms. Given that we spent so much time in lecture doing exactly these things, I don't think the assignments were particularly interesting or stimulating. Some additional mechanical practice can be useful, but I wish there were at least some interesting "real–world" applications on the homework (it felt like the problems that required us to think the most were "DTFT Puzzles", which did test our knowledge of the properties of the DTFT but seemed like completely arbitrary setups.) I believe lecture, homework, and discussion should complement each other, not do the same thing. Furthermore, the frequency at which assignments were given was too low. Looking back, assignments were given on 2/1, 2/11, 3/7, 4/2, 4/13, 4/20 (only two assignments in the middle ~2 months of the semester!). I get the intent was to release a homework for each new concept area, but the fact that there were so few assignments perhaps indicates that the pace of lecture was too slow (especially since we had seen some material on LTI systems and DFT in EE 16B). The frequency of assignments at the end of the semester felt appropriate and should have been maintained from the beginning of the semester.

Comments

Exams felt much the same way in terms of difficulty and level of interesting–ness. For the most part, they also felt like you could do well just knowing how to do the mechanical computation, and the fact that the grade distributions were upward–sloping (for midterm 3, the "point bin" with the most people was the 90–100% one) as opposed to normal meant that the exams were not testing us enough.

A bright spot were the labs, which I believe were mostly TA–developed. I hope these continue for future semesters (and that they continue to be developed), and I felt like I learned the most from these.
_____
I wish Babak had relied more on the content we had seen in EE 16B on LTI systems and the DFT, as opposed to explicitly disdaining it in lecture and essentially starting from scratch. Then, we could have done more with the material.

Also, Babak mentioned that he was considering removing Z–transforms and Laplace transforms from the course. I hope this doesn't happen. In fact, the course could probably take on more material while still being at a reasonable pace for the majority of students.

Super accessible on piazza and great at answering questions in person in OH!

Thank you for your devoted work!

Dominic is great!

Always active on Piazza and helpful answering questions!

He and Babak seem to be running the course

Dominic went above and beyond to not only help me understand course material, but also help me out to accommodate a time conflict that I had realized a lot later than I should have.

He teaches the material very well and is patient with students.

Throughout the course, Dominic provided very clear, explicit, and reasonable instructions, explanations and guidance. Thank you

Very good

Solid teaching ability, I usually left discussion feeling better about the material due to the practice problems. Relaxed, helpful, cheerful, knowledgeable.

Dominic is clearly well prepared with regards to handling course logistics and other TA duties. In addition, he has good knowledge of the material and is very responsive on Piazza. I haven't been to Dominic's office hours, so I can't comment on those.

Dominic was really awesome, prepared, caring, etc. Great TA.

Dominic always offered in–depth explanations including on Piazza that were extremely helpful for understanding the course material. He was always very thorough with his explanations and it was evident that he cared about the material and about us understanding it. I didn't see him much at office hours which is why I put neutral for that one.

Very good

Very helpful and very responsive for logistical issues.

A nice guy

Dominic was super helpful and I knew I could always rely on him when I was feeling lost or needed help. I really appreciate Dominics friendliness and eagerness to help.

He's been super helpful and accessible at all times. Serious and focused. Has a thorough answer for every question.

Great Job! Thank for fast response to student needs.

All the GSI's have been great

Great GSI. Provides in–depth answers on piazza and is very helpful and clear teacher.

Although he has a strong grasp of the material, his explanations and answers are often too complicated to understand.

Dominic was a really great TA, his discussions were always really helpful and he was always active on piazza.

Dominic was consistently helpful on Piazza, and seemed to always be available to write thorough responses to student questions. The discussion that Dominic taught was also very helpful and it seemed like he had prepared to talk about each problem thoroughly.

Dominic is friendly and encourages students to work together and participate which I think is nice

Very supportive and resourceful when it comes to helping students who are having difficulty

The discussions he holds held in excellent. And, no drawback I think.

Helpful during office hours.

Dominic is always active on piazza and can be approached for any question. 10/10 would take again.

The most enthusiastic GSI I have ever seen in my years here at Berkeley. Super helpful on Piazza and at office hours with detailed

Comments
hints.
Funny guy, was a great GSI!