



2022 Spring Individual Report FAS-GENED 1125-Artificial & Natural Intelligence 001 Venkatesh Murthy

Project Title: **2022 Spring Harvard FAS Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **101**

Responses Received: **81**

Response Ratio: **80%**

Report Comments

Note:

The order that the questions appear on this report is not the same as the way the questions were displayed to students. The order has been changed to make the report more readable.

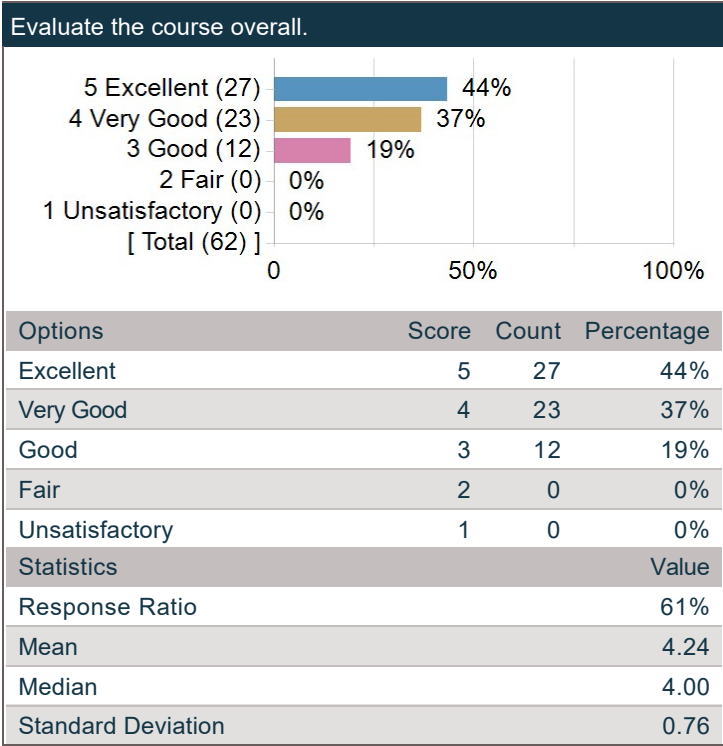
Creation Date: **Tuesday, May 17, 2022**

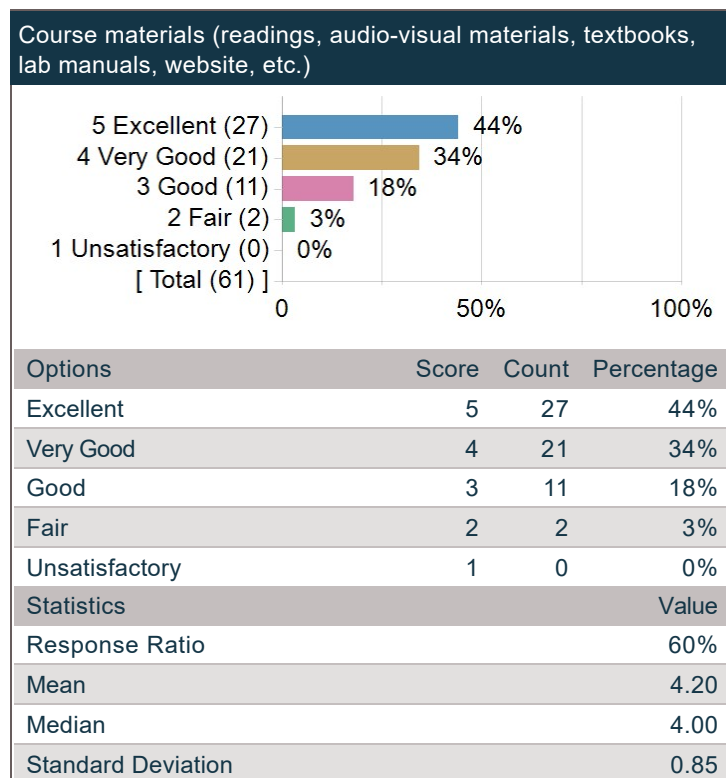
General Course Questions

Course General Questions

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Course Mean	Dept Mean	Division Mean
Evaluate the course overall.	62	44%	37%	19%	0%	0%	4.24	4.06	4.06
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)	61	44%	34%	18%	3%	0%	4.20	4.03	4.03
Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)	59	53%	29%	17%	2%	0%	4.32	3.97	3.97
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course	60	60%	23%	15%	2%	0%	4.42	4.04	4.04
Section component of the course	60	62%	22%	12%	3%	2%	4.38	4.23	4.23

Evaluate the course overall.

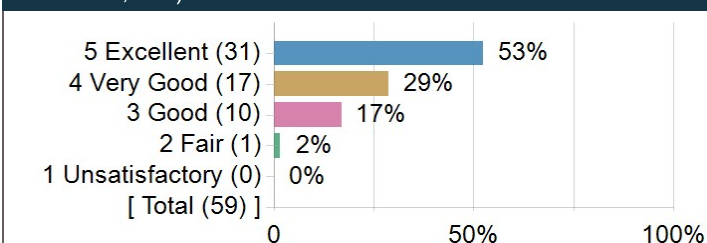


Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)**Add comments about course materials?**

Comments
The course website was a nice way to keep everything in a single place! I wasn't clear if the supplementary readings were supposed to be done before or after each lecture, since I usually wouldn't see them show up beforehand. Overall helpful resources, though.
I liked the readings – I think the AI ones were very accessible and the neuroscience ones were quite interesting
Course readings were relevant and interesting. The course website was very useful and pretty. I appreciated slides being posted, but they often contained large blank spaces where writing would have been filled in. It would be good to post the final, marked-up version of the slides for reference.
The materials were extremely accessible. THANK YOU.
The lecture slides were lackluster and not super helpful when trying to review lecture material.
The course website was super helpful! It was both aesthetic and well organized in keeping all the course materials in one place.
I like that they range from blog posts to academic journals
assigned readings/slides were super helpful!
Course materials were generally good.
they were in general very nice (apart from the readings for the ethics part), one of the few readings I enjoyed and didn't skip
The readings were somewhat long, but manageable.
really interesting readings
Everything was accessible and easy to read
The course material was in-depth but the psets didn't ask very deep questions.
Wish there were lecture notes but otherwise everything was very helpful

Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)

Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)

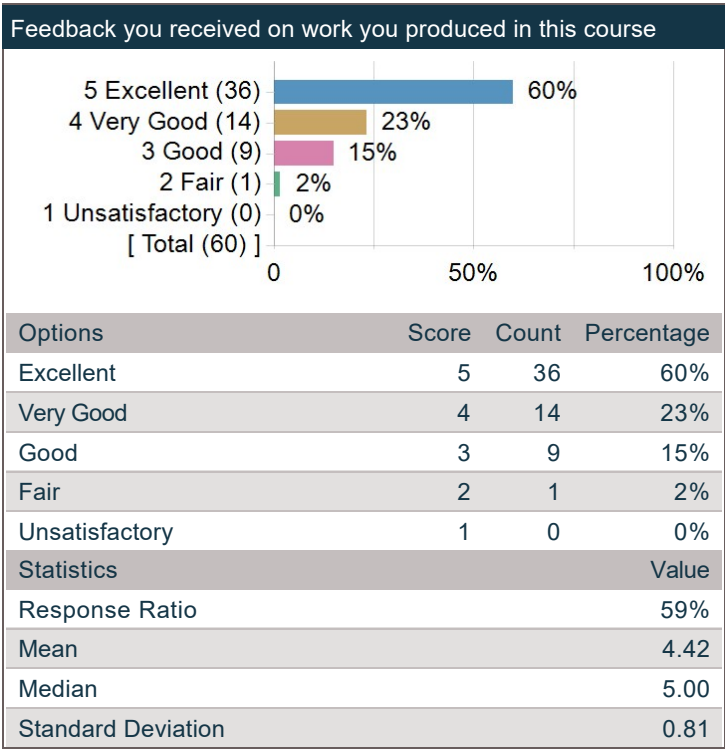


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	31	53%
Very Good	4	17	29%
Good	3	10	17%
Fair	2	1	2%
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%
Statistics			Value
Response Ratio			58%
Mean			4.32
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.82

Add comments about course assignments?

Comments
Very reasonable. Didn't assume much prior knowledge and was able to help people understand the concepts at a pretty fundamental level.
The psets and the midterm were a good way to reinforce the course material. I think that the final paper could have had a little more guidance / structure.
Problem sets were generally good but did feel like recalling memorized answers from lecture at times.
very fair midterm
The assignments were fair.
Some of the problem sets had concepts we did not cover in depth in class.
It's the precise amount of work to make it challenging but not overwhelming.
psets were very manageable and actually fun!
Good variety of problems that covered different aspects of lecture; final paper was fun to write too
The course assignments and problem sets were usually fine, but they usually constituted looking back into notes for information, rather than problem solving or creative thinking.
problem-sets could involve a bit more problem solving skills, instead of just free response questions that are not too concrete
Thorough enough to make sure I understood the material, but very reasonable in length, time given to complete them, and allowing the use of notes.
pets were o. manageable and actually helpful
They covered everything and were very fair
as mentioned, final grades were harsh and not really sticking to rubric
Assignments were all very clear and not stressful to do at all (besides the final essay which was still pretty chill)

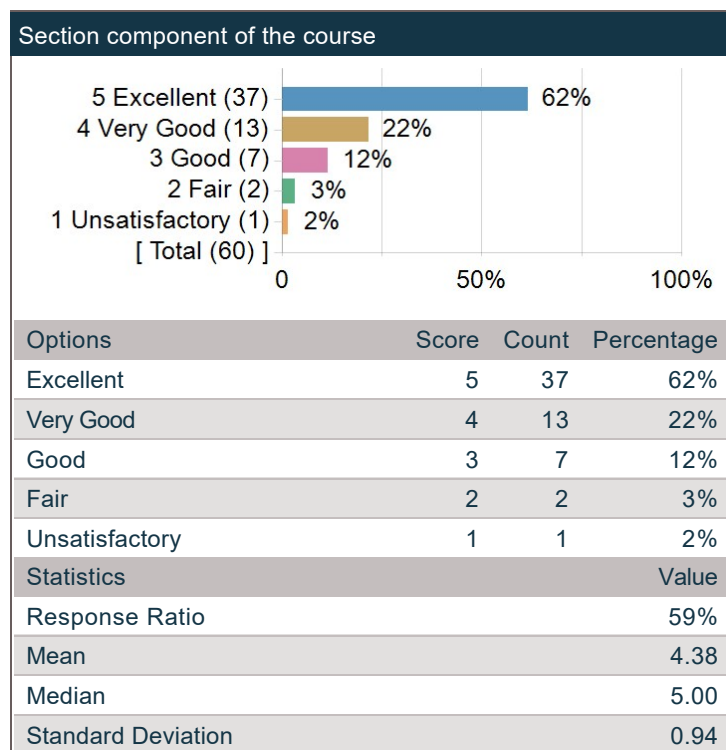
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course



Add comments about course feedback?

Comments
Grading was always fast and efficient!
thorough feedback and fair grading
Assignments came back in a timely fashion.
TF made sure to explain areas where I made the mistakes and took the time to explain the correct method/reasoning.
The feedback on assignments was very timely and thorough.
The feedback was incredibly useful.
feedback was timely and i appreciated the fact that we reviewed the pset solutions in section too.
Course feedback was usually good.
I appreciated being told where I had made mistakes so I could improve in future assignments.
n/a
They told me what I did wrong and I understood it
final feedback didn't match rubric
Very comprehensive and made sense

Section component of the course



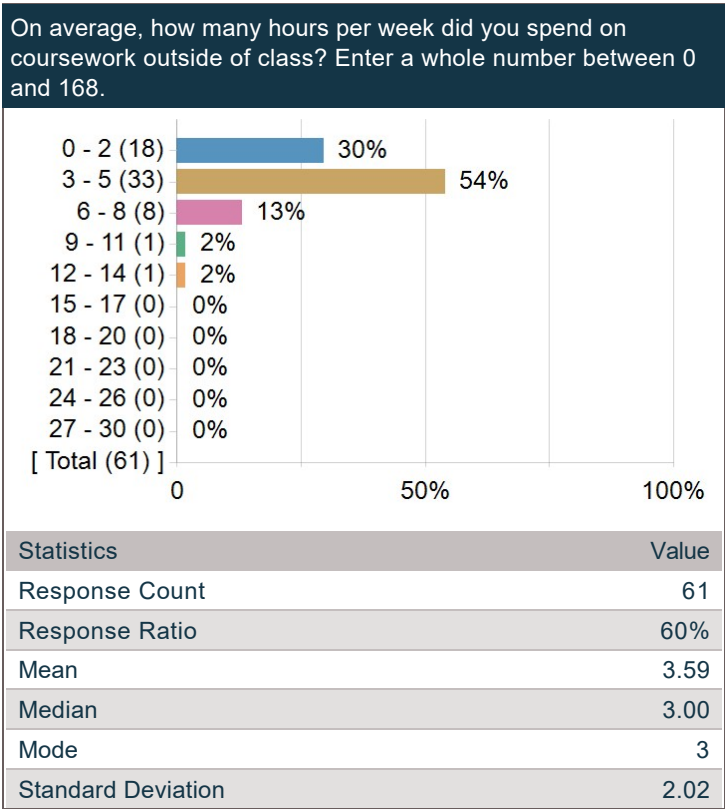
Add comments about the course section?

Comments
Fantastic discussions beyond the course content! I really loved it. (Thanks a ton to Lucy for running an awesome section!)
Section was very interactive and a good review of course material
Generally good and interactive discussion. Sometimes, especially early on, section was more of a review of lecture, which was not as interesting as the later discussions.
Section was amazing.
My tf was great.
Course section were always engaging and the TF encouruaged fruitful conversations.
Section often provided me a better understanding of the concepts covered in lecture. I do think, however, that the sections could have reviewed the content more before going into activities.
Lucy is the best. She warned us about it and lived up to the promise.
always fun and informative; great review of most important things covered in lecture.
My section TF did not appear engaged and was not an effective teacher. Section often felt unhelpful in learning or enhancing material.
I loved Lucy's section! She is such a fantastic teacher, as she always very enthusiastic about the subject matter and willing to go out of her way to explain concepts you do not fully understand. Her section activities were well thought out, and really helped deepen my understanding of what I learned in lecture. I also enjoyed that she encouraged class participation and discussions and created a sense of community within the section.
I think that section is where I learned most of the content from this class as well as reinforced the content I learned in lectures.
It was very useful to be able to ask questions about the class material and go through practice problems with my TF.
loved the section set up
Felt a bit irrelevant/unhelpful at times.
It went over some of things from lectures that I didnt understand
It could have benefited from more practice problems when applicable. The discussions were interesting, but the course material review was hard to follow.
SJ was awesome!
Helped me understand the material better; wish there was a better location than bio labs

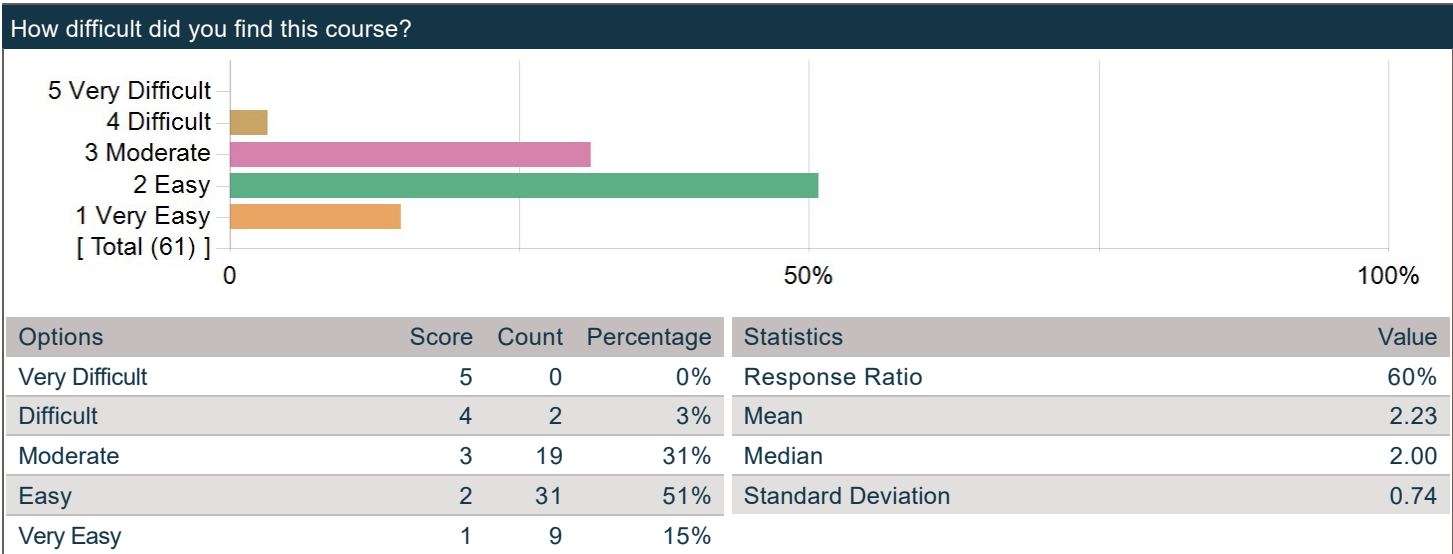
Requirements - What did this course require of you?

On average, how many hours per week did you spend on coursework outside of class? Enter a whole number between 0 and 168.

Frequency chart and mean excludes students who answered 31 or more hours.

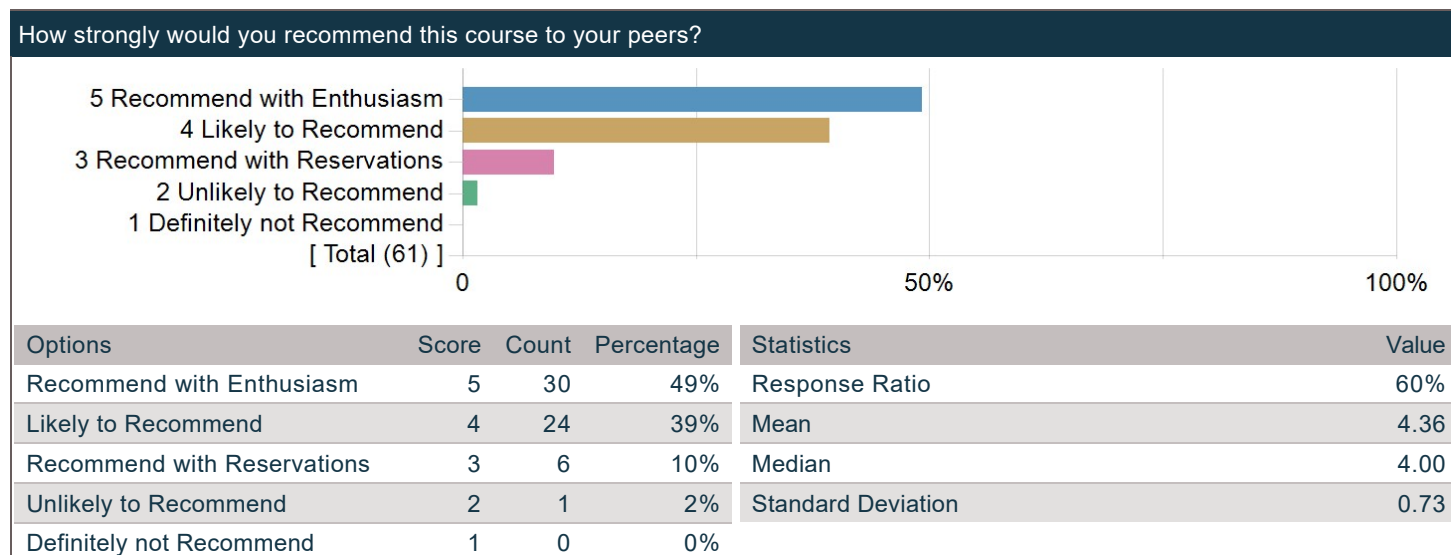


How difficult did you find this course?



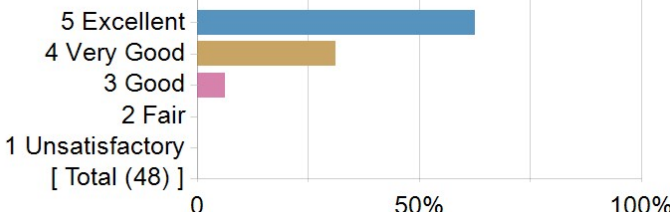
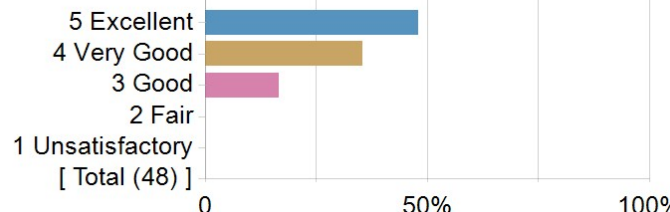
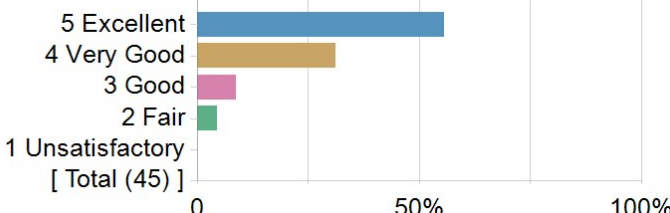
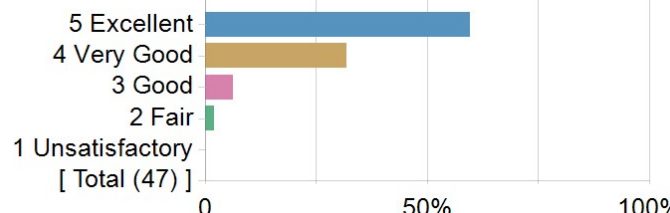
What was/were your reason(s) for enrolling in this course? (Please check all that apply)

Options	Count
Elective	20
Concentration or Department Requirement	0
Secondary Field or Language Citation Requirement	0
Undergraduate General Education Requirement	44
Expository Writing Requirement	0
Foreign Language Requirement	0
Pre-Med Requirement	0
Divisional Distribution Requirement	1
Quantitative Reasoning with Data Requirement	1

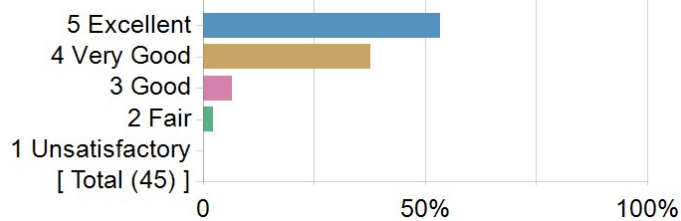
Recommendations - Would you recommend this course?**How strongly would you recommend this course to your peers?****Evaluation of Instructors****General Instructor Questions**

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Instructor Mean	Dept Mean	Division Mean
Evaluate your Instructor overall.	48	63%	31%	6%	0%	0%	4.56	4.41	4.41
Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable	48	48%	35%	17%	0%	0%	4.31	4.29	4.29
Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)	45	56%	31%	9%	4%	0%	4.38	4.33	4.33
Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter	47	60%	32%	6%	2%	0%	4.49	4.48	4.48
Facilitates discussion and encourages participation	45	53%	38%	7%	2%	0%	4.42	4.34	4.34
Gives useful feedback on assignments	22	68%	18%	9%	5%	0%	4.50	4.34	4.34
Returns assignments in a timely fashion	22	82%	14%	5%	0%	0%	4.77	4.30	4.30

Instructor

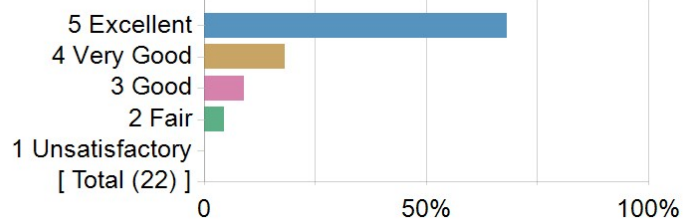
1. Evaluate your Instructor overall.					2. Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable				
									
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	30	63%		Excellent	5	23	48%	
Very Good	4	15	31%		Very Good	4	17	35%	
Good	3	3	6%		Good	3	8	17%	
Fair	2	0	0%		Fair	2	0	0%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				48%	Response Ratio				48%
Mean				4.56	Mean				4.31
Median				5.00	Median				4.00
Standard Deviation				0.62	Standard Deviation				0.75
3. Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)					4. Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter				
									
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	25	56%		Excellent	5	28	60%	
Very Good	4	14	31%		Very Good	4	15	32%	
Good	3	4	9%		Good	3	3	6%	
Fair	2	2	4%		Fair	2	1	2%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				45%	Response Ratio				47%
Mean				4.38	Mean				4.49
Median				5.00	Median				5.00
Standard Deviation				0.83	Standard Deviation				0.72

5. Facilitates discussion and encourages participation



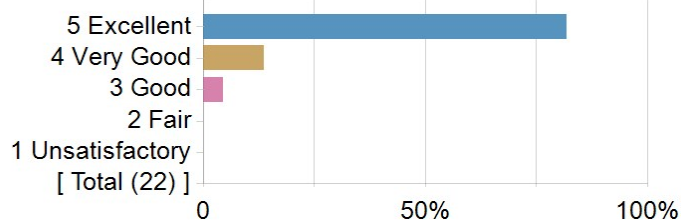
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
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Very Good	4	17	38%
Good	3	3	7%
Fair	2	1	2%
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%
Statistics			Value
Response Ratio			45%
Mean			4.42
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.72

6. Gives useful feedback on assignments



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	15	68%
Very Good	4	4	18%
Good	3	2	9%
Fair	2	1	5%
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%
Statistics			Value
Response Ratio			22%
Mean			4.50
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.86

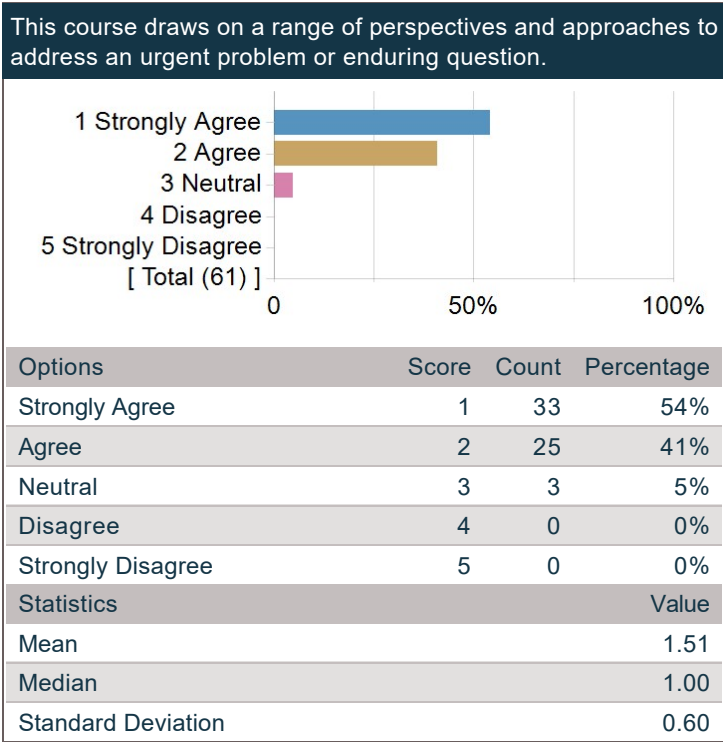
7. Returns assignments in a timely fashion



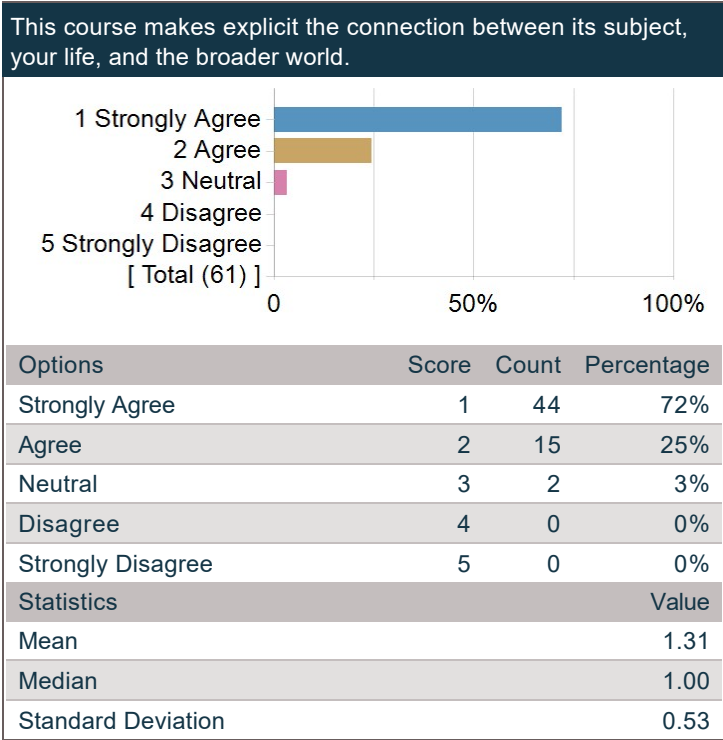
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	18	82%
Very Good	4	3	14%
Good	3	1	5%
Fair	2	0	0%
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%
Statistics			Value
Response Ratio			22%
Mean			4.77
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.53

General Education Module Questions

This course draws on a range of perspectives and approaches to address an urgent problem or enduring question.



This course makes explicit the connection between its subject, your life, and the broader world.



General Course Questions - Comments

What were the strengths of this course? Please be specific and use concrete examples where possible.

Comments
Incredible teaching staff
A great balance between AI and neuroscience content. Great and engaging guest lecturers really demonstrated cutting-edge approaches in the field. Fantastic and approachable course staff. Reasonable assignments.
I thought that the guest lecture lineup was super cool – we got to hear from leading researchers across both neuroscience and AI. In general I thought that the lectures were good as well.
Covered a wide range of topics.
Broad, very accessible introduction to neuroscience and machine learning and their intersection. All of the guest lectures were incredible and the highlight of the course.
It was super accessible! I could feel the emphasis on LEARNING instead of on grades and it meant a lot to me. The course felt like a community. I have already started to use what I learned in class in my everyday life, I have started to notice AI/Neuroscience themes everywhere.
One of my favorite courses I've taken this semester! INCREDIBLE teaching staff, Venki cares deeply about the material and is always available to answer questions, love the TFs, and lectures were both engaging and relevant. A hard GENED course to beat!
The course is very beginner friendly in my opinion, and it is pretty easy to succeed. The class has an excellent website, the guest speakers were mostly interesting (bar one who went a little too in depth/misjudged the level a bit) and you have a lot of time to tackle the PSETs and midterm, all of which are very doable and you can receive help from your TF in section such that they are pretty low-pressure.
gave an accessible overview of AI and neuroscience that could be understood to a non-technical, non-stem audience.
The course was both engaging and informative without the presence of overbearing busywork.
The assignments were good and helped reinforce the material well.
Passionate professor and TAs, engaging content, relevant psets, and interesting readings,
This course provides a very broad introduction into machine learning, and some of its connections to neuroscience. There is also some time spent discussing ethical questions regarding the impact ai has in exacerbating social disparities.
This course provided a very broad overview of artificial intelligence and some of the applications and issues that come along with it. I certainly learned a lot about machine learning and neural networks that I did not know before. In addition, the comparisons between artificial intelligence and the human brain were also very interesting.
the lectures are very clear and well structured.
very comprehensive but high-level overview of many things related to artificial/natural intelligence — definitely serves the general education purpose well!
Professor was great.
A broad overview of different aspects of neuroscience and artificial learning; lots of examples drawn from scientific research which made the class more engaging
Interesting content matter, fantastic head TF (Lucy Lai), good guest lectures, reasonable workload.
Each lecture has a fresh start and interesting material, which is great for a gened.
This course was incredibly interesting, both from the neuroscience and the AI aspect. I especially loved learning about the interaction between the two fields. Professor Murthy lectures on very interesting topics, and there are often also fantastic guest lecturers. I loved how the class focused on getting you an understanding of the overarching concepts and trends in AI rather than the minutia of technical details.
Gave a comprehensive but understandable introduction to artificial intelligence.
provides an introduction to AI and machine learning, basic knowledge for neural networks
This course was a great overview course. It managed to pack in enough information for me to understand the basics of the human brain, neural networks, and the similarities and differences between them, even though each topic could easily require a class on its own.
varying topics
There was a clear order and organization of work, psets and classes
It was a fun course
The problem sets were a good way to hone in on the important topics of the lectures.
It introduced opinions from various fields of study through the guest lectures which was awesome.
Exposed to a wide variety of material relating to subject matter. Very accessible and helpful session leaders. Very interesting material.

Comments
Section
great lectures, section
Interesting material, educational assignments that were not stressful at all
Lectures at beginning were good, got bored with content halfway through, might be because I am a senior too.
This course is a wonderful introduction to AI and neuroscience. The class generates a lot of excitement and interesting discussion about the nature of artificial intelligence, a pivotally important field for the future. The assignments are generous, the guest lectures are mostly great, and the subject matter is fascinating (we actually go pretty in-depth while not getting technical).

How could this course be improved? Please use concrete examples where possible and provide constructive suggestions.

Comments
Not sure
It'd be cool to have a "technical" section where people could actually learn some of the code for the topics we cover. (Of course, there are CS/Stat courses that teach this, but it might be nice to have the opportunity.)
I think that having little more guidance on the final paper would be good – maybe like a draft due first and then feedback and then the final deadline?
Sometimes the information we were taught was too in depth to the average learner to understand. As someone without AI background, sometimes I found the lectures to be confusing even though the course was designed for people with no background knowledge.
Section sometimes felt like an unnecessary review of lecture and better use of the time could be made.
It would be nice to be in a lecture hall with a little bit more room.
The lectures are recorded which is helpful and are generally pretty good, although I know most of us gave feedback at the end of the class that more interactive elements would be useful (and honestly, a different lecture room, the basement of the science center isn't super conducive to enjoying lectures, I personally hate that room).
more discussions & practice with teaching staff, maybe during section.
NA
The grading scheme is unfair for this course. The cutoff for an A should not effectively be a 96.
More support with psets (maybe like problem sessions).
To me, I wish more time could have been spent talking about the ethics in ai, especially because of how prevalent it is and the severe impacts it can have on people.
Given that this is a gened course, the more technical concepts of the class could have been distilled more in a way that someone with no computer science or neuroscience background could understand. Many of these concepts were explained in a confusing way.
Maybe by adding more lectures of how AI is changing society, as the syllabus promises.
a little more technical discussion/section for folks with more experience could be helpful!
Make it more general and emphasize the main takeaways more greatly.
Lectures could be more interactive
The course was not very rigorous, which was understandable given the survey nature of the course. The problem sets often had vaguely worded questions that required additional clarification from teaching staff.
I think a different balance of AI and Neuroscience would be good.
Some of the problem set questions could use a little more clarity, but overall I thought they were very good and reinforced what I learned in class.
More engaging assignments and guest lectures could help make the class more exciting.
get into the scientific material a bit more deeply, instead of engaging with too many topics too broadly
The course could be improved by having some sort of presentation or feedback on the final paper, so it doesn't feel like almost an afterthought to the rest of the class.
paper within semester
I wish attendance was taken a little less seriously as the lectures are all recorded anyways
The lectures could be easier to follow/have more structure.
Maybe make the pset questions a little more clear. Sometimes the questions/instructions were a little vague and ambiguous.
The most annoying/frustrating part of the class was the final grade distribution. Having an A– be from 90–95 felt like the class was trying to punish us students for doing well. Especially announcing this at the very end felt like the class was waiting to see how well we would do before announcing grades.
super harsh grading, final was graded to a completely different (harsher) standard
Not much I can think of; to be honest I wasn't a fan of the Science Center E environment so might be better to situate the class elsewhere in the future
This course could be improved by including more interactive elements. While the content matter is interesting, without any hands-on demonstrations or exploratory activities, learning was a little dull. This applies to both lecture and section – section was better, but there could be less review slides and more review activities.

Requirements Comments - What did this course require of you?

In your opinion, what preparation or background is necessary to take this course?

Comments
None
None
Not much. Some experience with machine learning or neuroscience might help one get more out of it and engage with more of the content on a deeper level.
I think that this course is accessible to pretty much anyone. I knew no neuroscience and that part of the course was super accessible. Maybe knowing a little bit of AI background is helpful for some of the guest lectures but I think you would still be fine on the assignments not having that either.
Some AI or CS background
None.
None – only an interest in intelligence/AI.
No preparation necessary! Thanks to intentional design by the course staff to make the course accessible to those of all backgrounds.
none
This class did not require any background knowledge.
none.
No background preparation is required for taking the course.
Some basic neuroscience and computer science background is helpful.
Some calculus and familiarity with computer science in a very basic level at least
nothing really, it starts with the basics!
Interest.
None
None.
Nothing, just interest in neuro or AI
Not much, just general interest in some of the topics in the course.
None, although some familiarity with AI may be useful.
no prep
No preparation is necessary for this course, but any neuroscience, programming, or linear algebra experience will only help you.
having a neuron or cs background is helpful. I dint think you need both
STEM background
None
None
Some science background to understand the more technical stuff
None
None
none, but technical background helped a lot, especially for background info etc
Not much. I'm quite interested in CS so I think that was pretty helpful but I can imagine people without that background being successful
None

Recommendations Comments - Would you recommend this course?

What did you take away from your experience in this course? What did you learn? How did this course change you?

Comments
A broad understanding of neuroscience and how it influences artificial intelligence development
Much better with biology and AI
I really enjoyed hearing the guest lecturers talk about what current research is actually going on. This course definitely solidified my interest in going into machine learning and potentially neuroscience! In terms of being changed, I'm now a lot more excited (but also scared) about where research in ML is going.
I learned a lot of neuroscience – that field was completely new to me so it was great to get some exposure. I think that it had definitely changed how I think about the brain and cognition in general which is very cool.
I learned about some of the basics of neuroscience in an accessible way, which I was hoping for. I also learned about how interrelated neuroscience and artificial intelligence have been. Finally, it was fascinating to learn about the frontier of neuroscience research, like connectome mapping and BCI.
I am afraid for the robot uprising. However I also now want to buy an iRobot.
This course was a great opportunity to think deeply about the intersection of biological and machine intelligence.
This course might not have been the right course for me as I have learned much of this in prior classes.
I was a bit surprised regarding how widely used machine learning algorithms are, and how it's been utilized to study neuroscience. I think by the end of this course, I've gained an appreciation for how machine learning algorithms work, their advantages, and the problems that arise when using them.
I learned a lot about the intersection of humans and artificial intelligence in this course. The course has definitely made me more interested in the topic.
I came to this course from curiosity and was totally worth it.
always been interested in artificial/natural intelligence, and this just made me more sure of it. I definitely want to take more computational bio courses now.
I learned a lot of new topics and concepts that I'll research further.
I absolutely loved this class and this has helped inspire me to pursue research in computational neuroscience as well as doing the Mind, Brain, and Behavior track of the Computer Science concentration.
I feel like I have a foundational understanding of neuroscience and AI.
basics of AI, theoretical concepts behind them, and some structure of the brain
I am much more aware of the advances that have been made in AI technology, and more likely to possibly utilize them in any possible computing career. I am also more invested in the ethical implications of technological advancement.
as a neuro major, it was such a nice course to actually take your knowledge somewhere new. I didn't take any comp neuro classes but I feel like this satisfied my thirst for it. I also think where the world/field is headed, thaws a critical course.
More enthused about AI
I think it was a really great course and I explored a lot about intelligence what it means for us and computers and how one translates to the other
The connection between neuroscience and machine learning is important and our understanding of it is rapidly evolving.
learned a lot of cutting edge issues
I learned about so many ways the human brain influences artificial intelligence design, and it changed me in that I now know I might like to study neuroscience to some degree in order to supplement my technical work within AI
I took away a greater understanding of the biological connections of artificial intelligence. I really appreciated learning about temporal difference learning and RL and I felt that this course in general did a very good job at overviewing both machine learning and neuroscience perspectives on intelligence. Through this course, I affirmed my interest in machine learning, and I also gained a better idea of what I wanted to do in machine learning.

What would you like to tell future students about this class? (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments
This course is SO interesting!! Even tho the field is complex, Venki does an amazing job of keeping the lessons simple yet

Comments
interesting. There is not that much work at all (only 4 problem sets, a take home midterm and final paper/project) and section leaders really help with filling in gaps of understandings!!
good mix of neuro + computer-related AI
Incredibly teaching staff
This is a fantastic class! Absolutely wonderful, and I would highly recommend. No prior experience in either neuroscience or ML is required. The sections are engaging, especially if you enjoy discussing some of the moral implications around developing AI in addition to the lecture content. Light coursework and really fascinating content.
This is a great way to get either some AI or neuroscience experience in a chill way. I had not taken any neuroscience courses before and I really wanted to learn a bit of that before I graduated – in that regard the course was great! I think the same would also be true if you wanted a bit of AI exposure – I have taken a lot of very technical AI classes before and this one was able to cover like 80% of the detail in 20% of the work. The guest lectures are truly amazing – interesting topics, very engaging speakers, and some pretty famous people too! Would definitely recommend as a gened or a chill senior elective.
This course offers a very broad and accessible introduction to neuroscience, artificial intelligence, and their intersection. If you have exposure to either neuroscience or AI/ML, you will already know a lot of the content. The coursework is very light. Solid science gened or general light class.
Take this class! It will start a lot of meaningful conversations.
This course is a great opportunity to think deeply about the intersection of biological and machine intelligence, and is one of my favorite courses I've taken this semester. INCREDIBLE teaching staff, Venki cares deeply about the material and is always available to answer questions, love the TFs, and lectures were engaging. A hard GENED course to beat! Thanks to intentional design by the course staff to make the course accessible to those of all backgrounds, no preparation or background is necessary; but, quantitatively-inclined folks will likely get more out of the course. Venki is a phenomenal instructor and I'd recommend taking his class with enthusiasm and without reservation.
This class is pretty beginner friendly, with PSETs and midterms all generally pretty easy and with plenty of time to do them. The course material is generally interesting and varied, although lectures could do with a bit of a re-vamp to make sure the second half of the course is engaging (mainly please move out of the basement of the science center, it's dark and dreary and makes most of us want to fall asleep at 3pm. Section is pretty good and relaxed, and overall a pretty solid course.
great for non-CS people!
If you apply yourself, it is not difficult to get good grades in the class, but you have to get excellent grades in order to get a good grade because they curve is unfair.
If you know a lot about neuroscience or computer science and would like to know more about the intersection with the other topic, then this is the class for you.
Approach it with an open mind. It is not a specialized course and there's a lot that you can learn from other disciplines.
engage with the course material and lectures, you get out of the class what you put into it!
This class is a great survey course if you're broadly interested in AI, theories of natural intelligence, or very basic neuroscience. You won't get into enough depth with any component of the course to develop expertise, but the teaching staff are generally great, the guest lectures are cool, the workload is extremely reasonable (even if the high-level nature of the course material means that problem set questions are often vaguely written), and the class is overall a very smooth and completely painless way to fulfill the science GenEd requirement.
Take it.
This class is absolutely amazing! I loved it so much, as the topics were super interesting, there were fantastic guest lecturers, and it the workload was low. This is one of my favorite classes that I have taken.
If you are looking to get into or learn more about AI or neuroscience, this is a good class to start that will give you some foundational knowledge.
the course is generally a gem, although you don't dive too deeply in the concepts
It's a good class, and you learn a lot about AI and neurology. It was more science and less ethics than I was expecting, but still good. The readings are kind of long and they aren't always posted until the day of class, but you'll be ok as long as you skim them at least.
so useful!
It is a GEM, low time commitment, and has 4 psets and a project. TFs are wonderful and the professor is good. Take it
You should probably take it, its chill and you do learn
The problem sets are easy/ straight from lecture. As a neuroscience/biology person (and not a CS person), the lectures on machine learning were very hard to follow, but the content that was assessed on the problem sets and midterm was not hard.
class is great and knowledgeable but harsh grading at end
Really chill class, not stressful at all (average midterm grade was a 104% and the grade threshold for an A was a 95%). I wouldn't

Comments
be surprised at all if they make grading tighter next year though so might be good to keep that in mind
Good course, graded fairly/easily, interesting content. Lectures got boring near end of year but course is very doable and low time commitment.
I would recommend this class if you are looking for a chill way to learn about artificial intelligence and neuroscience, a pivotally important topic for the future of technology. It truly is an introductory course, so if you have any kind of AI/ML/Neuro background, you will probably not be challenged. That being said, this class does a really wonderful job of covering the foundational ideas of intelligence from a conceptual point of view, and we actually go pretty in-depth while not getting technical. The assignments are generous, the guest lectures are mostly great, and the subject matter is fascinating.
A digestible mix of neuroscience and machine learning concepts.
GENED1125 is the best GENED I took (I only taken one gened btw, don't take my words for it). I think it is very easy to fulfill the requirement and generally, the staff are very helpful in helping out with homework and stuff. The grading is very transparent; For example, in my year, as long as you get a 95%+, you will get an A. There are also a lot of extra credit questions on midterm so it is not that difficult. Overall, you might need to spend some time reading up but this is a GEM gened.

Instructor Comments

Please comment on this person's teaching. (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments
Great lecturer! Encourages discussion at the end of each class and is very good at exposing students to open areas for exploration.
Prof Murthy did a great job explaining both AI and neuroscience topics and drawing connections between the two of them! He was clearly always well prepared for class and had put a lot of thought into what he was going to say. He also did a great job integrating the guest lectures into the curriculum. Sometimes the Q and A at the end of lecture left like it would drag on a bit but I know he was just trying to make sure that everyone was perfectly clear on everything and the class never ran over time so it was not an issue.
Venki is a solid, engaging lecturer. He sometimes had limited success facilitating discussion, but a lot of that is due to students not feeling like participating.
Venke is great. His lectures were easy to follow and the supplementary media/videos he added were very memorable. He chose great guest lecturers (including Lucy :)). He was very available for OH and was extremely knowledgeable about the subject matter.
Thank you Venki for a great course!
very knowledgable, but sometimes can be a bit dry, especially with the more technical stuff.
I think the slides accompanying lecture could have been much better. I found that they often were either too wordy (hard to know what the key points were) or not wordy enough (no key points listed at all).
Venki is amazing, with a great personality and a lot of knowledge but capable of leveling down to make the subjects easy for us. So much humility. I'm so happy I got to take a class with him.
Professor Murthy always gives such interesting lectures and is very thoughtful in his explanation of concepts.
Venki was a good lecturer and definitely generated interest among the class.
the lectures can be a bit more interesting and concrete
He has an approachable teaching style, and is willing to answer questions just after class and explain the topics in more detail as needed.
great lecturer. I wish the posted slides were more useful/organized
Great teacher
great lecturer, amazing presentations and curriculum. Tough grader with respect to the rest of class and the grading thresholds that were set before the final (which was the only assignment he graded)