Individual Report for
BIOL_SCI_378-0_20: Functional
Genomics (Norman Wickett)

Project Title: **Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC Winter 2019**

Courses Audience: **23**
Responses Received: **16**
Response Ratio: **69.6%**

Report Comments

For more information about the CTEC Guidelines please visit our website: http://www.northwestern.edu/ctec/guidelines/index.html

Creation Date: **Friday, August 09, 2019**

Course Evaluations

Instructor	Course
Norman Wickett	**BIOL_SCI_378-0_20: Functional Genomics**

DEMOGRAPHICS

Your School

1. Your School

Options	Count	Percentage
Education & SP	0	0.0%
Communication	1	9.1%
Graduate School	3	27.3%
KGSM	0	0.0%
McCormick	2	18.2%
Medill	0	0.0%
Music	0	0.0%
Summer	0	0.0%
SPS	0	0.0%
WCAS	5	45.5%

Your Class

```
Freshman (0)   0.0%
Sophomore (0)  0.0%
Junior (4)        25.0%
Senior (4)        25.0%
Graduate (8)              50.0%
Other (0)      0.0%
[ Total (16) ]
            0        50%       100%
```

Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0.0%
Sophomore	0	0.0%
Junior	4	25.0%
Senior	4	25.0%
Graduate	8	50.0%
Other	0	0.0%
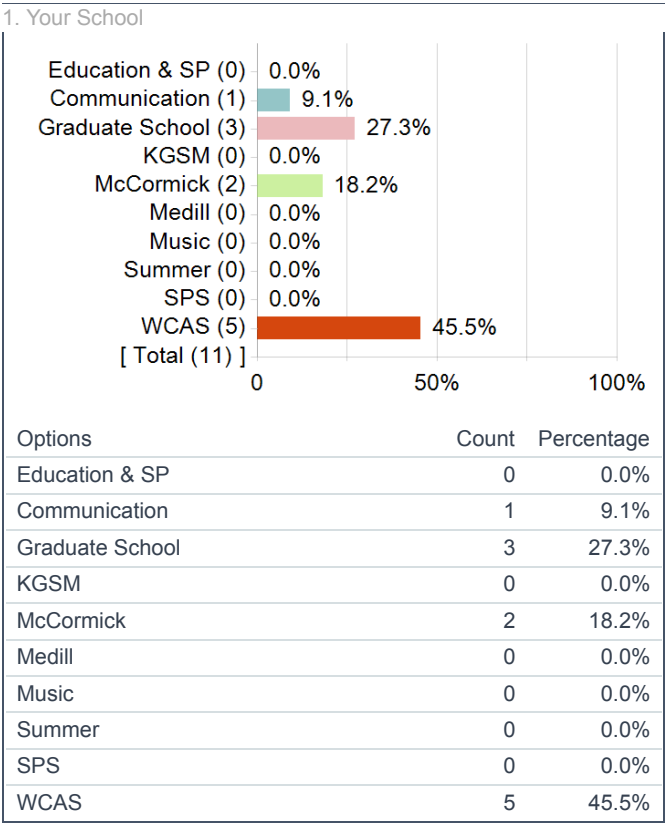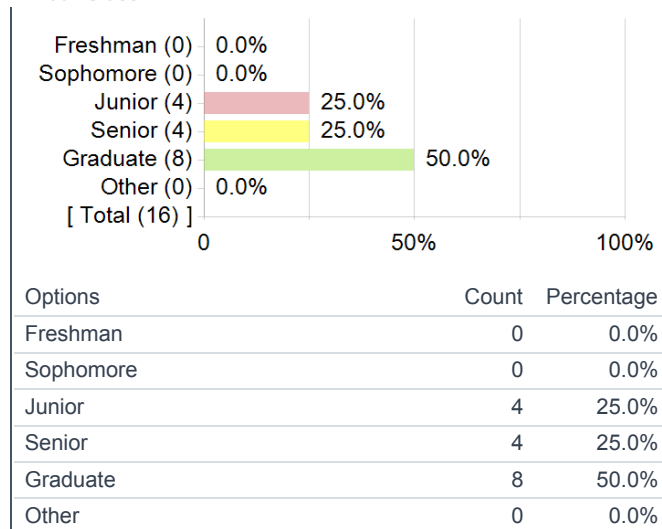
What is your reason for taking the course? (mark all that apply)

```
Distribution req… (1)   5.9%
Major/Minor re… (11)        64.7%
Elective require… (1)   5.9%
No requirement (4)      23.5%
Other requirem… (0)   0.0%
[ Responden… (16) ]
            0        50%       100%
```

Options	Count	Percentage
Distribution requirement	1	5.9%
Major/Minor requirement	11	64.7%
Elective requirement	1	5.9%
No requirement	4	23.5%
Other requirement	0	0.0%
Respondent(s)	16	
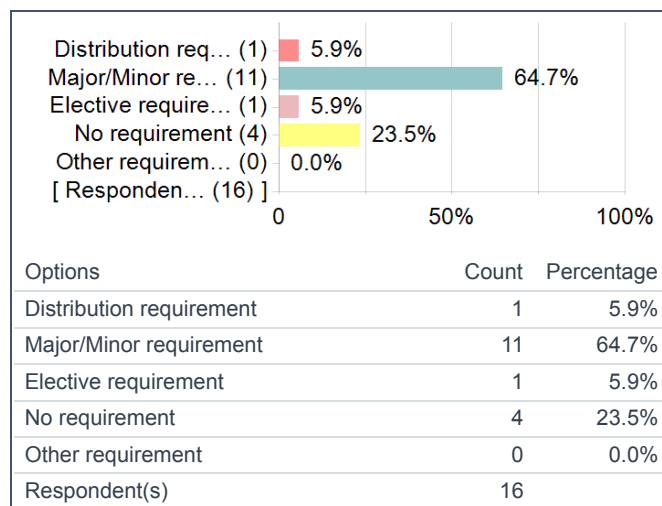
What was your Interest in this subject before taking the course?

```
1-Not interested... (0)   0.0%
             2 (0)        0.0%
             3 (0)        0.0%
             4 (5)        31.3%
             5 (6)        37.5%
6-Extremely inte... (5)   31.3%
        [ Total (16) ]
                     0          50%          100%
```

Options	Count	Percentage
1-Not interested at all	0	0.0%
2	0	0.0%
3	0	0.0%
4	5	31.3%
5	6	37.5%
6-Extremely interested	5	31.3%
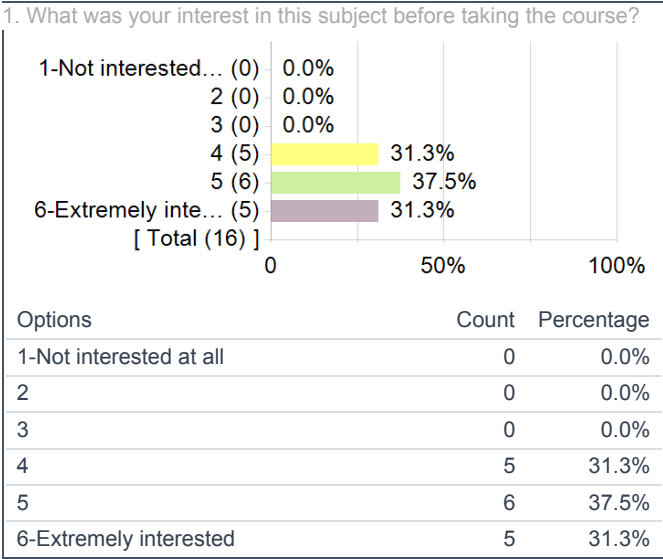
TIME-SURVEY QUESTION

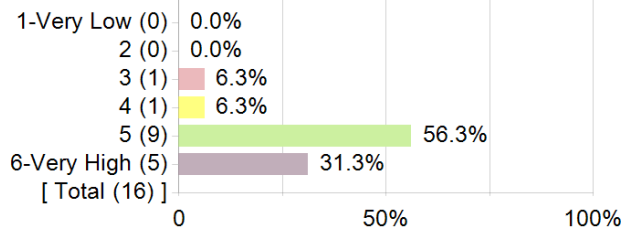### Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.

1. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.

```
  3 or fewer (3)     18.8%
       4 - 7 (7)     43.8%
      8 - 11 (3)     18.8%
     12 - 15 (3)     18.8%
     16 - 19 (0)     0.0%
  20 or more (0)     0.0%
   [ Total (16) ]
                0          50%          100%
```

Options	Count	Percentage
3 or fewer	3	18.8%
4 - 7	7	43.8%
8 - 11	3	18.8%
12 - 15	3	18.8%
16 - 19	0	0.0%
20 or more	0	0.0%
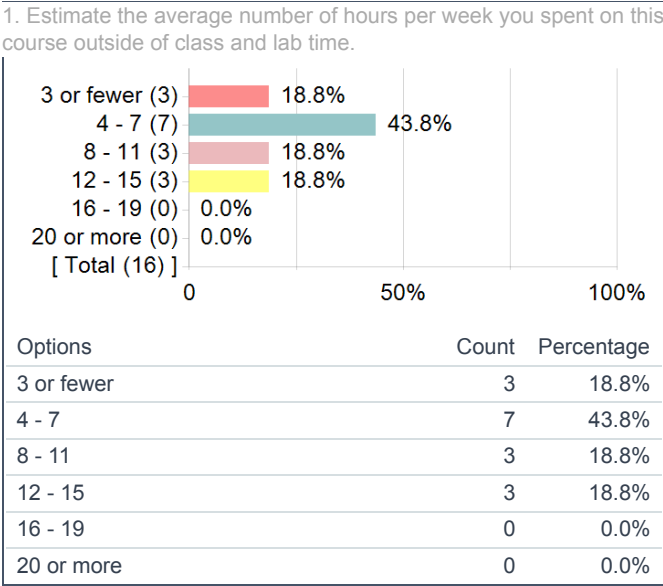
COURSE QUESTIONS

Provide an overall rating of the course.

1. Provide an overall rating of the course.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
        2 (0)   0.0%
        3 (1)   6.3%
        4 (1)   6.3%
        5 (9)                    56.3%
6-Very High (5)        31.3%
  [ Total (16) ]
              0         50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	1	6.3%
4	4	1	6.3%
5	5	9	56.3%
6-Very High	6	5	31.3%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			16
Mean			5.13
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.81

Estimate how much you learned in the course.

1. Estimate how much you learned in the course.

```
1-Very Low (0)    0.0%
        2 (0)    0.0%
        3 (0)    0.0%
        4 (1)    6.7%
        5 (4)         26.7%
6-Very High (10)                66.7%
  [ Total (15) ]
              0         50%        100%
```
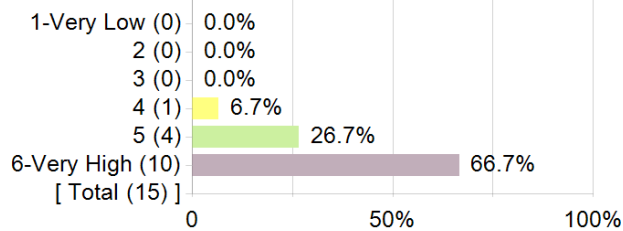
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	6.7%
5	5	4	26.7%
6-Very High	6	10	66.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.60
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.63

Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
       2 (0)     0.0%
       3 (0)     0.0%
       4 (1)     6.7%
       5 (6)     40.0%
6-Very High (8)  53.3%
  [ Total (15) ]
              0        50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	6.7%
5	5	6	40.0%
6-Very High	6	8	53.3%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	5.47
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.64
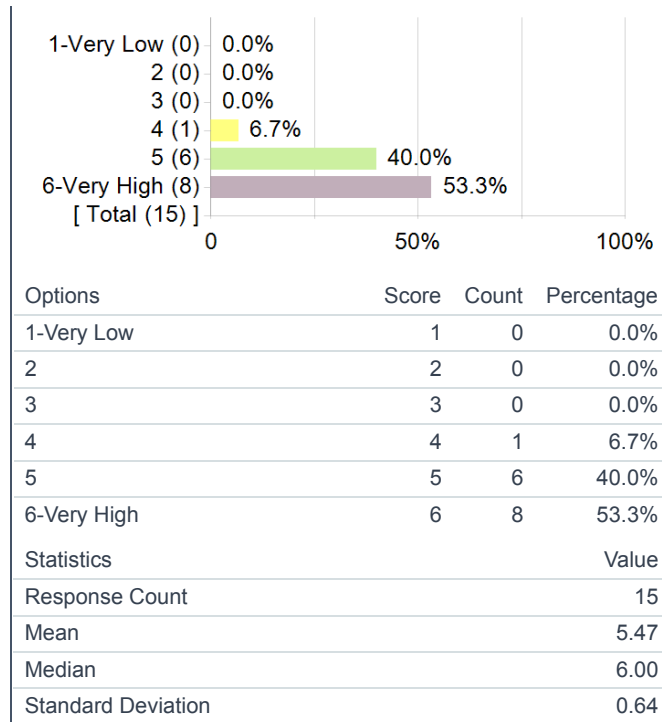
Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
       2 (0)     0.0%
       3 (1)     6.7%
       4 (2)     13.3%
       5 (5)     33.3%
6-Very High (7)  46.7%
  [ Total (15) ]
              0        50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	1	6.7%
4	4	2	13.3%
5	5	5	33.3%
6-Very High	6	7	46.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.20
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.94

Provide an overall rating of the instruction.

1-Very Low (0)	0.0%
2 (0)	0.0%
3 (0)	0.0%
4 (1)	6.7%
5 (3)	20.0%
6-Very High (11)	73.3%
[Total (15)]	

0   50%   100%

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	6.7%
5	5	3	20.0%
6-Very High	6	11	73.3%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.67
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.62
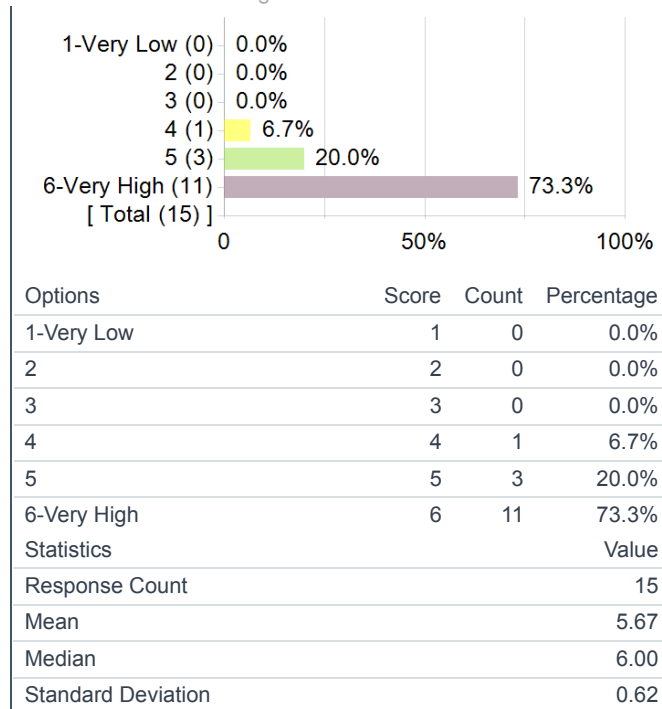
Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.

1-Very Low (0)	0.0%
2 (0)	0.0%
3 (0)	0.0%
4 (0)	0.0%
5 (6)	40.0%
6-Very High (9)	60.0%
[Total (15)]	

0   50%   100%

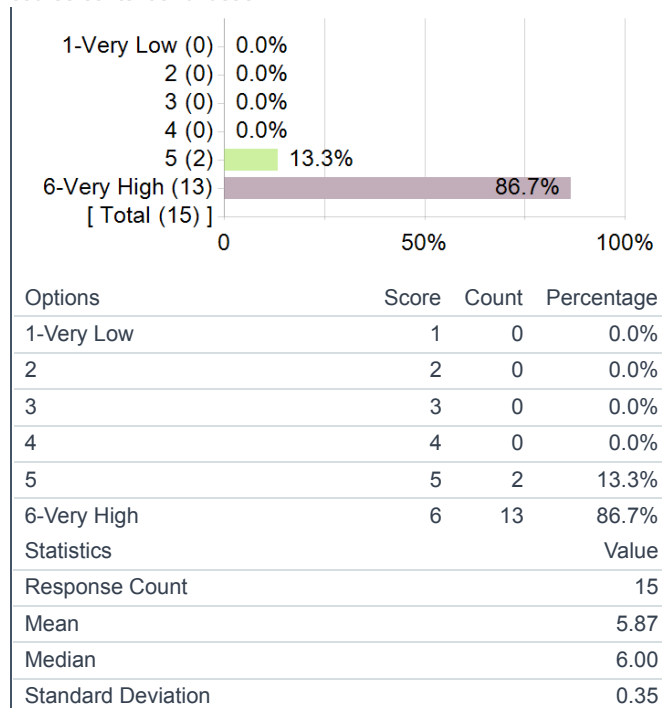| Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	6	40.0%
6-Very High	6	9	60.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.60
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.51
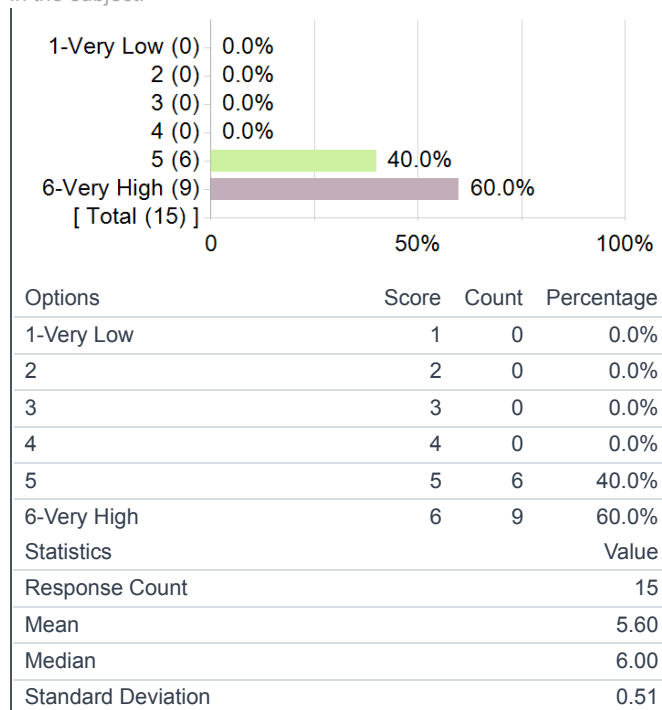
Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.

1. Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.
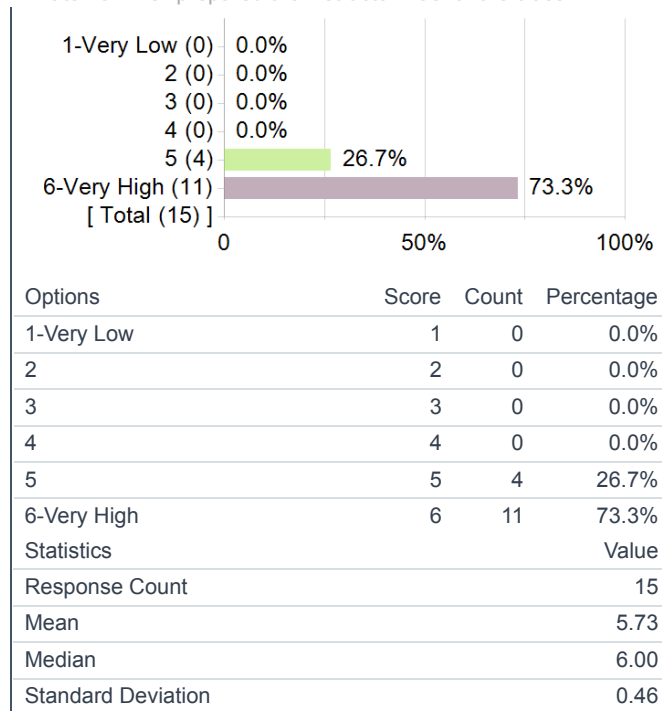
```
    1-Very Low (0)  0.0%
           2 (0)    0.0%
           3 (0)    0.0%
           4 (0)    0.0%
           5 (4)    ████ 26.7%
  6-Very High (11)  ████████ 73.3%
      [ Total (15) ]
                 0         50%        100%
```
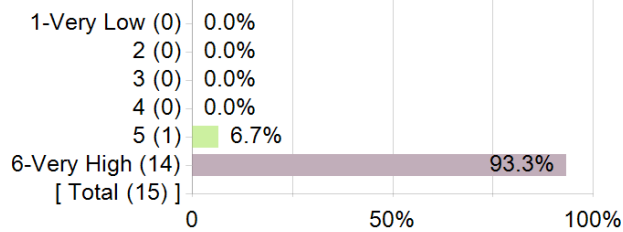
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	4	26.7%
6-Very High	6	11	73.3%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.73
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.46

Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.

1. Rate the effectiveness with which the instructor communicated course content and ideas.

```
    1-Very Low (0)  0.0%
           2 (0)    0.0%
           3 (0)    0.0%
           4 (0)    0.0%
           5 (2)    ██ 13.3%
  6-Very High (13)  ████████ 86.7%
      [ Total (15) ]
                 0         50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	2	13.3%
6-Very High	6	13	86.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.87
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.35

Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
        2 (0)   0.0%
        3 (0)   0.0%
        4 (0)   0.0%
        5 (1)   6.7%
6-Very High (14)              93.3%
  [ Total (15) ]
              0        50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	1	6.7%
6-Very High	6	14	93.3%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	5.93
Median	6.00
Standard Deviation	0.26

Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
        2 (0)   0.0%
        3 (0)   0.0%
        4 (3)        20.0%
        5 (5)          33.3%
6-Very High (7)            46.7%
  [ Total (15) ]
              0        50%        100%
```
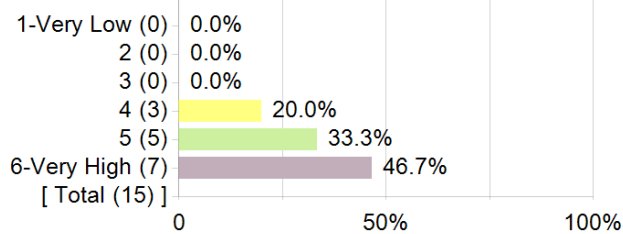
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	3	20.0%
5	5	5	33.3%
6-Very High	6	7	46.7%

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	5.27
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.80

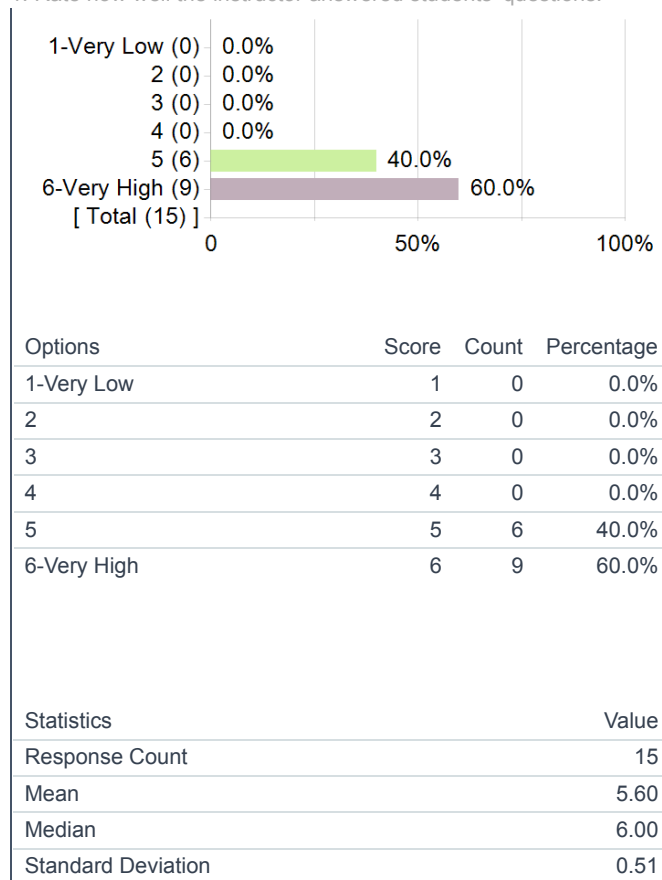## Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.

1. Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
        2 (0)   0.0%
        3 (0)   0.0%
        4 (3)          20.0%
        5 (8)                      53.3%
6-Very High (4)       26.7%
   [ Total (15) ]
                0        50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	3	20.0%
5	5	8	53.3%
6-Very High	6	4	26.7%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.07
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.70
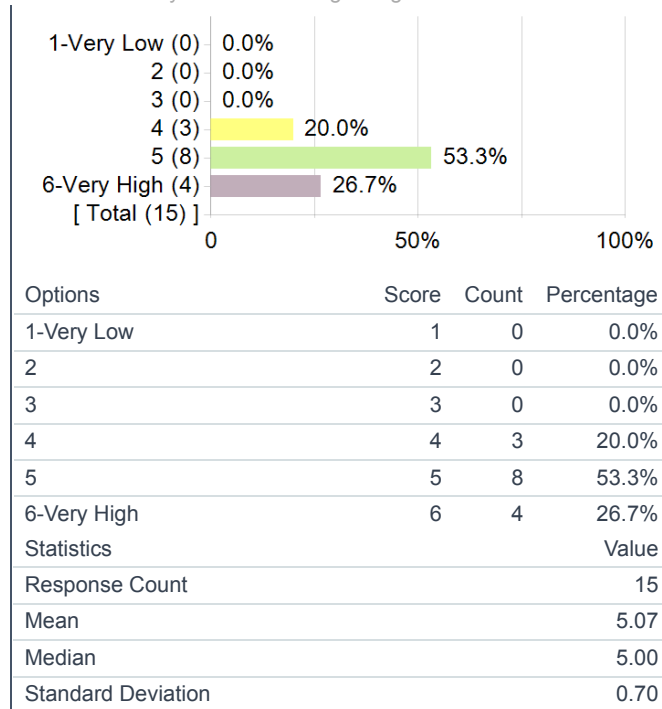
Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.

1. Rate how well the instructor answered students' questions.

```
1-Very Low (0)   0.0%
        2 (0)   0.0%
        3 (0)   0.0%
        4 (0)   0.0%
        5 (6)              40.0%
6-Very High (9)              60.0%
   [ Total (15) ]
                0        50%        100%
```

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	0	0.0%
5	5	6	40.0%
6-Very High	6	9	60.0%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			15
Mean			5.60
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.51

OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

Did the course help you learn? Why or why not?

Comments
Yes, it was all new material to me so I learned a lot
Yes, this was the most helpful biology class I have ever taken at Northwestern. I have already used so much of the information I learned in this class in my lab and other classes.
I learned a lot about sequencing technologies and other methods in genomics.
This course helped me to learn about genomics because Norm is a very clear lecturer and has very nice slides. The papers also significantly improved my ability to read a genome paper and learn something from it.
Yes! All the papers we read were very current (2017–2019) which made the course feel highly relevant and made it easy to apply what we learned to research that was being done.
Yes. Very well organized. Professor was great.
This is a useful course on learning the aspects of genomics and DNA sequencing. I'd assumed we'd learn more about the applications of genomics with respect to humans. But we covered a lot of species, which was unexpected yet cool.
Yes! I feel very confident in my ability to understand genomics papers moving forward

Please summarize your reaction to this course focusing on the aspects that were most important to you.

Comments
This is a really nice class that covers ways of sequencing genomes, what a genome is/looks like, how genomes vary across species and time, ways of annotating genomes, etc. Ways of improving the class: practice exams and (possibly) quizzes. This would boost learning by so much. There's only so much you can learn without testing yourself/practice. I am ok with this class not being curved since it is more valuable to have a solid grasp of fundamentals (which is what high average tests reward) than to show flashes of brilliance (which is what low average tests reward). Another suggestion is to reduce the reading load in the class. Especially in the beginning. The class could have maybe 5–6 "canon" papers students are expected to know well. And maybe the rest of the readings could be cut into excerpts. In general, I feel like reading papers is time–consuming and reading papers quickly is not a skill you can acquire by practice alone as an undergrad. Advice for students is to ask questions in class or go to office hours.
Professor Wickett is fantastic, and even though this subject could be very dry, he brings humor and personality to it that makes it fun.
This is a really interesting class that's a super reasonable workload. More importantly, Wickett's slides are gorgeous. I've never seen a presentation will such curated organization.
This is by far, the BEST CLASS I have taken at NU. Norm is the greatest teacher ever. He explains super hard genomic concepts in a very clear manner. Weekly quizzes are very fair. Definitely go to his office hours bc it is super helpful to talk through all the concepts. Two midterms and one presentation (no final). TAKE THIS CLASS!!!
I was worried I would not understand the material in this class but Wickett does a really good job explaining things and making complex technologies and methods understandable. There are weakly quizzes but they aren't bad if you pay attention and they are graded reasonably.
Norm is one of the best professors I have had at Northwestern! He is so kind and funny and also has really clear slides and a way of communicating. His lectures are very engaging. I felt the quizzes were helpful for staying on top of the material and that the midterms were a little harder than expected, but very fair nonetheless. I now feel more confident in my ability to read genome papers. I would recommend this class to anyone interested in genomics or research!
I really enjoyed this course because of how it related what we were learning to current developments in the field. I learned so much about the language of genomics and understand it enough to talk about it in interviews for internships in related fields.
The class was really important for my professional development. I learned a lot.
Weekly quizes are a bit hard! Tests are too and the daily articles reads are a bit too much sometimes.
Dr. Wickett is a great instructor, he can communicate very effectively and has a great sense of humor. Going to office hours helps.
I thoroughly enjoyed this class! I learned a lot and Dr. Wickett is a great instructor

What are the primary teaching strengths of the instructor?

Comments
Very funny and engaging. Very good at answering questions.
Approachable and makes going to class fun
clear communicator
He is so intelligent and personable, and genuinely cares if you are learning or not. He's one of the only professors I've had who isn't threatening towards his students, he just wants you to do the best you can. Would highly recommend taking this class with him.
Very clear at explaining complex concepts.
Enthusiasm and knowledge!
Excellent at communication and being able to deliver lectures. He is also updated with recent advances in the field making the class interesting.
Super knowledgeable about the subject and very patient when explaining things during office hours

What are the primary weaknesses, if any, of the instruction?

Comments
n/a
Not enough extra credit questions about Canada.
Na
Sometimes in class he would ask open–ended questions that no one really understood and if someone was brave enough to try to answer, he could be unkind in the way he dismissed their answer as wrong

Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

Comments
The setup of reading papers outside of class and then discussing concepts related to them in lecture is great, and should be continued. However, it might be useful to go over some of the important parts of each paper in depth, just to make sure people are on the same page about what key results and vocabulary means.
Na
I found the weekly tests quite challenging. It would be nice to go through more examples of plots and graphs in class or as homework before the tests.
None