



## Individual Report for BIOL\_SCI\_378-0\_20: Functional Genomics (Norman Wickett)

Project Title: **Course and Teacher Evaluations CTEC  
Winter 2020**

Courses Audience: **17**  
Responses Received: **12**  
Response Ratio: **70.6%**

### Report Comments

Course and Teacher Evaluations are intended solely for the use of faculty, staff and students of Northwestern University. Any reproduction, republication or redistribution of this site's content is prohibited without the express permission of Northwestern University.

In the last two weeks of Winter Quarter 2020, students were strongly encouraged and subsequently required to leave campus as a result of a public health emergency. Faculty redesigned and rescheduled final assessments, in some cases overnight. As a result, CTEC response rates may be lower, and quantitative feedback may be less robust or may reflect the turmoil of the time.

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

Creation Date: **Tuesday, April 14, 2020**



## Northwestern University

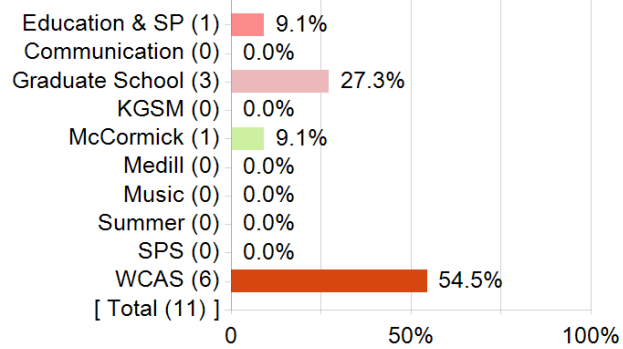
### Course Evaluations

Instructor	Course
Norman Wickett	BIOL_SCI_378-0_20: Functional Genomics

### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Your School

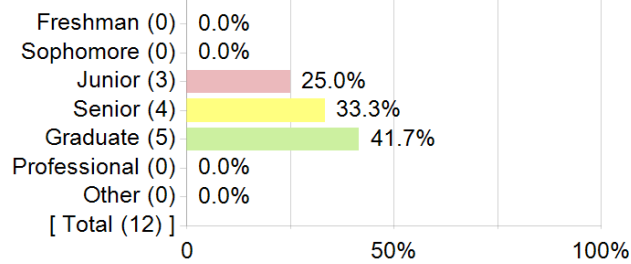
1. Your School



Options	Count	Percentage
Education & SP	1	9.1%
Communication	0	0.0%
Graduate School	3	27.3%
KGSM	0	0.0%
McCormick	1	9.1%
Medill	0	0.0%
Music	0	0.0%
Summer	0	0.0%
SPS	0	0.0%
WCAS	6	54.5%

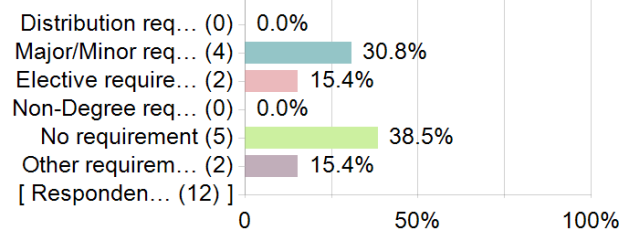
## Your Class

### 1. Your Class



Options	Count	Percentage
Freshman	0	0.0%
Sophomore	0	0.0%
Junior	3	25.0%
Senior	4	33.3%
Graduate	5	41.7%
Professional	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

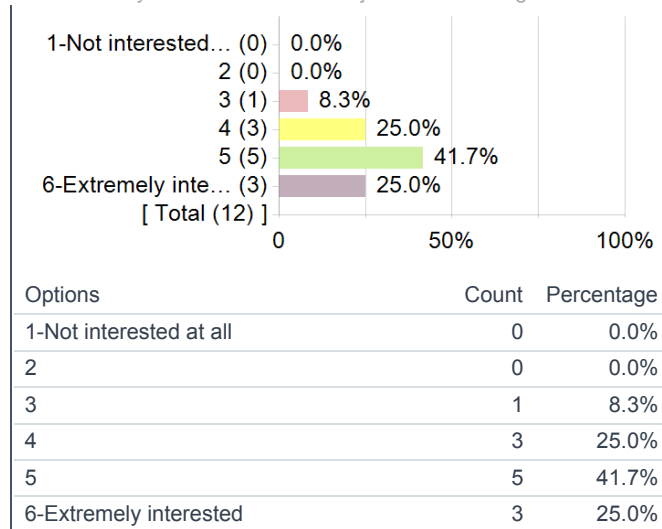
## What is your reason for taking the course? (mark all that apply)



Options	Count	Percentage
Distribution requirement	0	0.0%
Major/Minor requirement	4	30.8%
Elective requirement	2	15.4%
Non-Degree requirement	0	0.0%
No requirement	5	38.5%
Other requirement	2	15.4%
Respondent(s)	12	

## What was your Interest in this subject before taking the course?

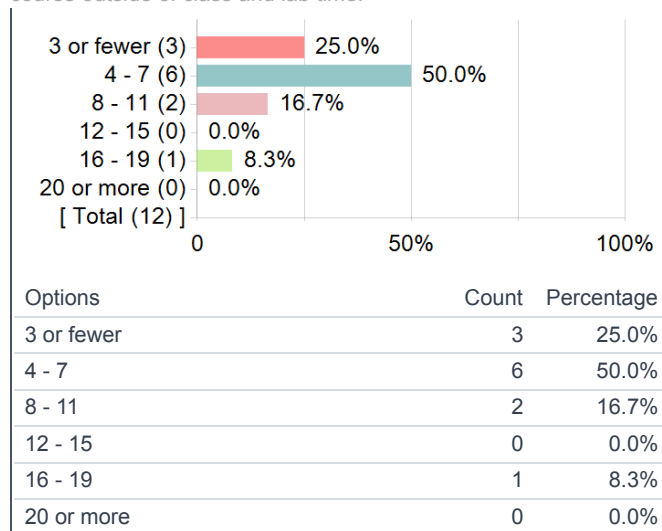
1. What was your interest in this subject before taking the course?



## TIME-SURVEY QUESTION

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

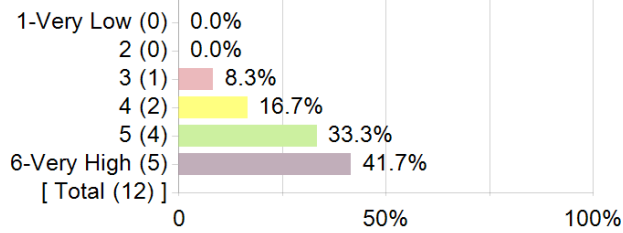
1. Estimate the average number of hours per week you spent on this course outside of class and lab time.



## COURSE QUESTIONS

Provide an overall rating of the course.

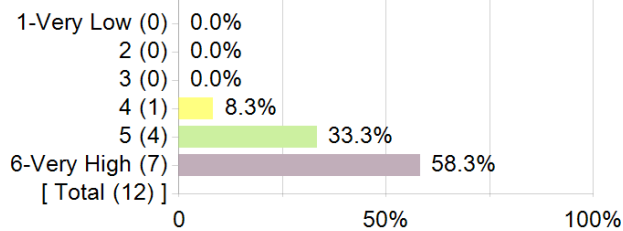
1. Provide an overall rating of the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	1	8.3%
4	4	2	16.7%
5	5	4	33.3%
6-Very High	6	5	41.7%
Statistics	Value		
Response Count	12		
Mean	5.08		
Median	5.00		
Standard Deviation	1.00		

Estimate how much you learned in the course.

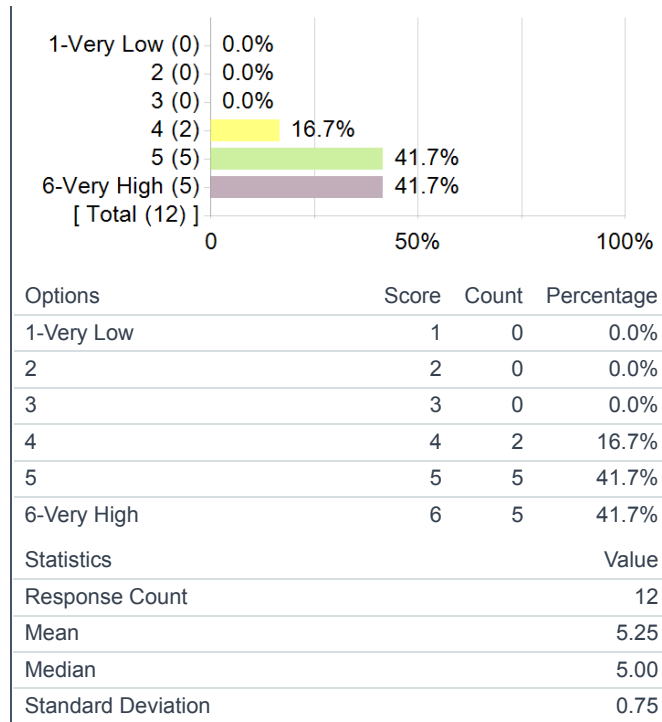
1. Estimate how much you learned in the course.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	0	0.0%
3	3	0	0.0%
4	4	1	8.3%
5	5	4	33.3%
6-Very High	6	7	58.3%
Statistics	Value		
Response Count	12		
Mean	5.50		
Median	6.00		
Standard Deviation	0.67		

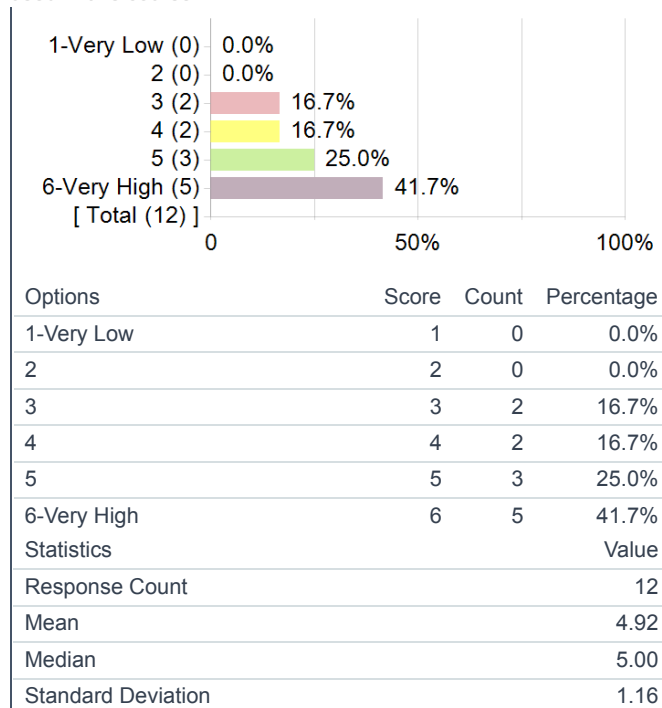
## Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.

1. Rate the effectiveness of the course in challenging you intellectually.



## Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.

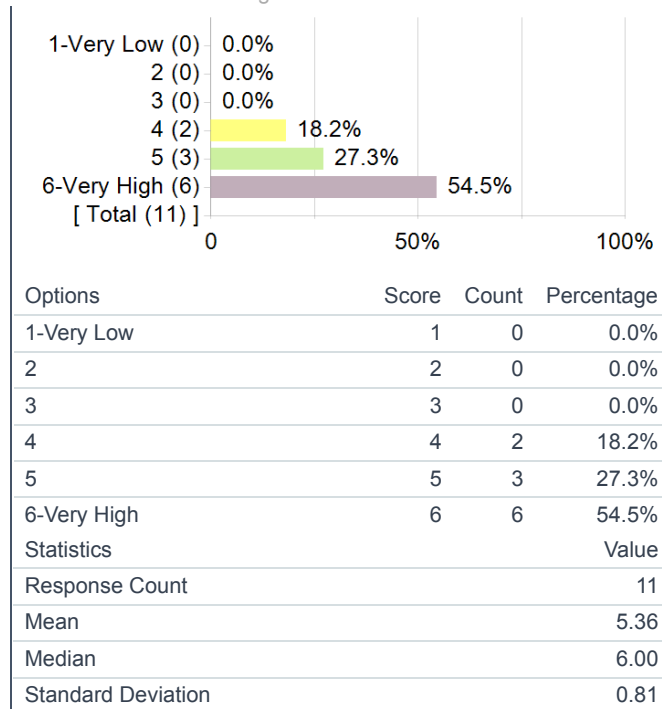
1. Rate the instructional materials (texts, audiovisual materials, etc.) used in this course.



## INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS

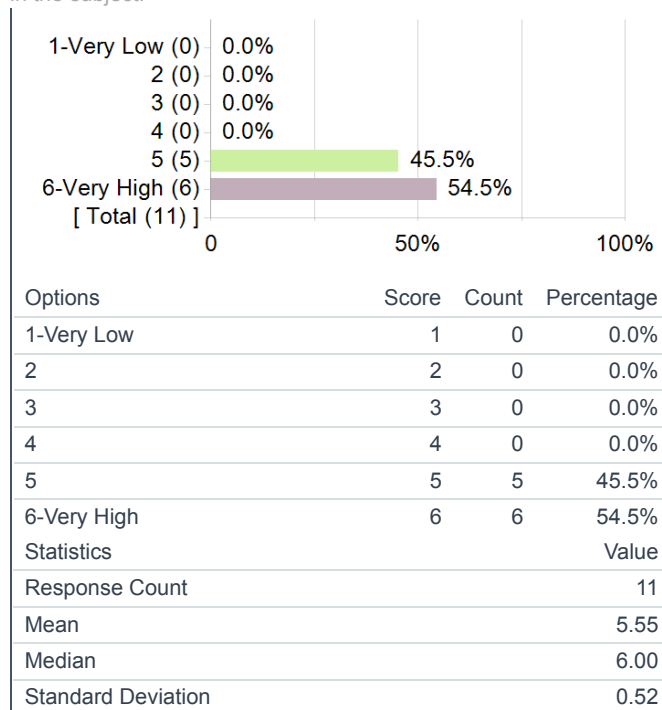
**Provide an overall rating of the instruction.**

1. Provide an overall rating of the instruction.



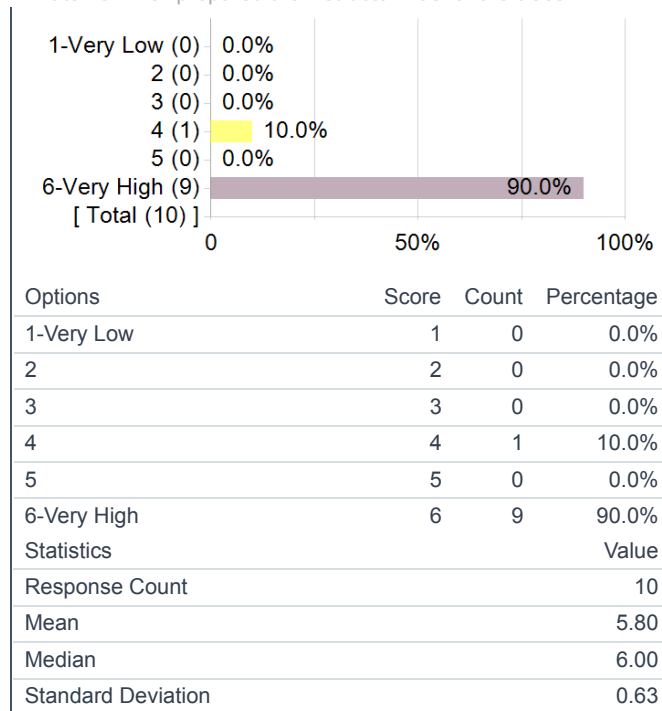
**Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.**

1. Rate the effectiveness of the instructor in stimulating your interest in the subject.



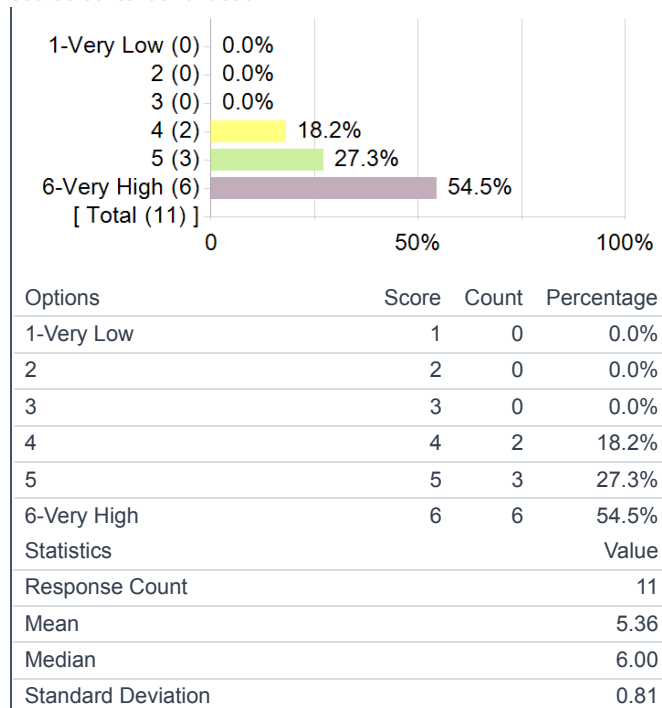
### Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.

1. Rate how well prepared the instructor was for the class.



### 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.





Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.

1. Rate the instructor's enthusiasm in teaching this class.

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	9.1%
6-Very High	6	10	90.9%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			11
Mean			5.91
Median			6.00
Standard Deviation			0.30

Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.

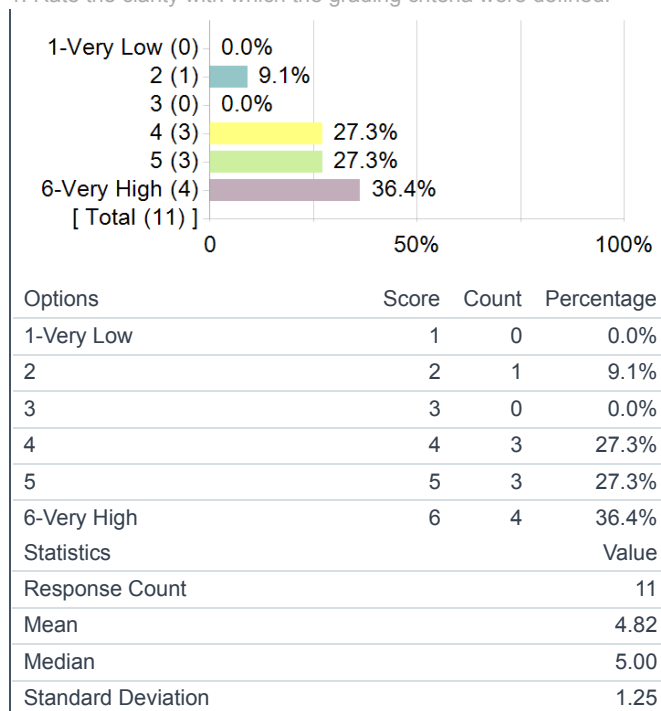
1. Rate how consistently the instructor returned assignments and tests promptly.

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	1	9.1%
3	3	1	9.1%
4	4	5	45.5%
5	5	3	27.3%
6-Very High	6	1	9.1%

Options	Score	Count	Percentage
1-Very Low	1	0	0.0%
2	2	1	9.1%
3	3	1	9.1%
4	4	5	45.5%
5	5	3	27.3%
6-Very High	6	1	9.1%
Statistics			Value
Response Count			11
Mean			4.18
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			1.08

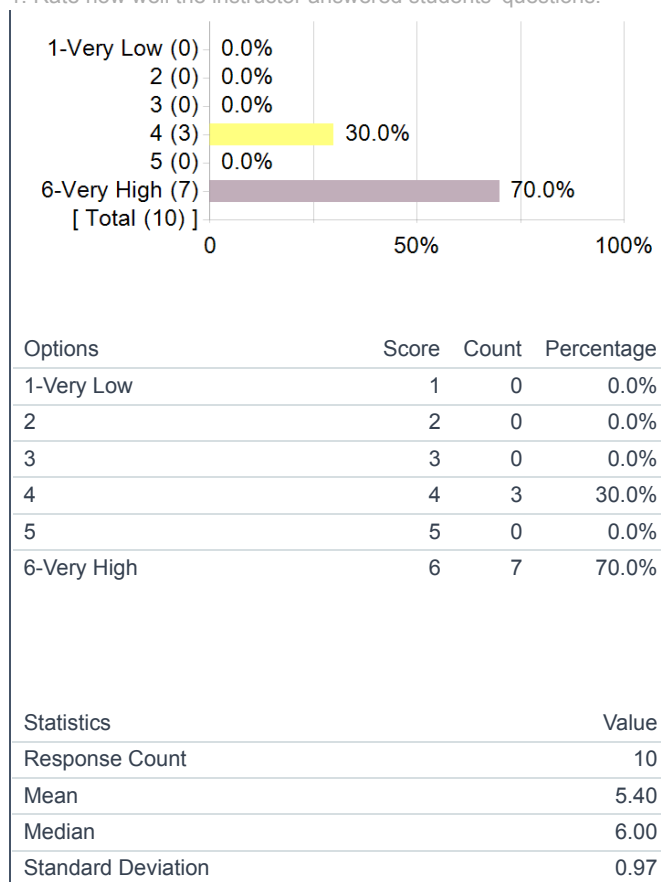
## Rate the clarity with which the grading criteria were defined.

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



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

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



## OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

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

Comments
Yes! Both lecture and reading the primary lit helped me learn a lot.
Yes, the professor was extremely well versed and very enthusiastic about the genomics. I enjoyed reading scientific papers to understand how what we were learning is being utilized in contemporary research.
the class is really well-organized which helped me keep up with the material
Yes, the small class size and tailored material made learning very achievable. Office hours were also a very helpful tool.
Yes, the powerpoints were clear and the lectures were easy to understand. Office hours were extremely helpful and I felt like I always had a grasp of course content.
I learned a lot in this course. The readings and textbook were well-paired, and I appreciated that the readings were a combination of reviews and primary research articles. I think I would have learned the material more quickly if this class had had a lab component. I learn more quickly by doing, rather than reading the same thing phrased in different ways.

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

Comments
Professor Wickett was very good at explaining complicated concepts so that we could understand.
The instructor was fantastic and great lecturer.
the workload for this class is not bad at all for a bio class, however Prof Wickett is a pretty picky grade. He's really particular about the wording you use to answer short answer questions and will take points off if it doesn't match what he's looking for. He loves if you go to office hours so definitely go, he's very approachable. There are only 2 midterms and a presentation, along with weekly quizzes
Norm is a really cool professor. He establishes a very relaxed learning environment which helps stimulate interest in the material since it feels more like learning for the sake of learning than a chore for a test. He's very understanding and helpful in office hours and he's open to class feedback. Definitely recommend taking this course to establish a base understanding of genomics.
This was an amazing class! Norm is such a great professor who makes a difficult clear and easy to understand. He's personable and an entertaining lecturer. I would recommend this class to anyone interested in lab research, it has already helped me with my independent research. The workload is very manageable and Norm is very helpful in office hours. The concepts covered can be complicated, but topics were taught in a logical and easy-to-follow way. Overall, this was my favorite class this quarter!
This course was very intense and fast-paced. I understand that the quarter system necessitates the cramming of material into a shorter timeframe, but at times the amount of new material felt overwhelming. Before taking this course, I did not know much of the vocabulary and I struggled to learn both the vocabulary and the concepts and to tie them together in a timely manner for the quizzes and exams. I feel that had this course been longer I would feel, now at the end of quarter, more confident in what I learned and could explain what I learned to someone who did not know much about this field. The lecture materials were very well-prepared and the combination of the textbook, article readings, and PowerPoint presentations was very useful to get the same information in a variety of ways. I am very grateful that this course was offered because it is the only course in all the course offerings at Northwestern that exposed to me to the kinds of concepts and techniques that I will be using for my MS thesis. It is surprising to me that the biological sciences do not have more courses related to the fields of bioinformatics, genomics, and other -omics, as those fields are growing rapidly right now and more undergraduates and graduate students will be interested in taking courses related to their interests and research, respectively. It would behoove Northwestern to make sure that this course and similar courses are offered so that Northwestern maintains its reputation as a school that solid science training, not just in engineering.
Definitely an above-average class, Professor Wickett is a good teacher and he is very accessible for office hours. I found that the assessments (weekly quizzes and two midterms) were not very difficult.

## What are the primary teaching strengths of the instructor?

Comments
Norm has a very approachable teaching style and clearly cares about his students learning the material. Very available with office hours.
Great lecturer. very enthusiastic and passionate. Helps that he's very funny and tries to keep the class as a casual discussion style which makes it much less intimidating.
very well-organized and the slides are beautiful super approachable and office hours are very relaxed and helpful he really wants you to do well
Very approachable, funny, and knowledgeable. Kept class atmosphere positive and engaging.
Great one-on-one in office hours. Slides are very well organized and are easy to follow.
He's an engaging lecturer and amazing at teaching effectively. Everything was explained in a clear way and he answered students' questions very well.
Norm is enthusiastic, very approachable, and is invested in getting students to understand the material. He understands that the course material is challenging and made sure to encourage us students to come to office hours and ask many questions. In addition, Norm communicates his interests in the material he presents in a clear, convincing way that made me want to learn the material and understand it so that I could appreciate why he was so energized about the field. The lecture materials, readings, and textbook all work very together, and show that Norm is interested in forming the class to the class dynamic of a given year.

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

Comments
It was a little difficult to keep up with the amount of material presented.
sometimes explanations were pretty vague and his expectations for short responses were kind of unclear
Sometimes felt a little unsure what was expected for the weekly quizzes.
Inconsistent with expectations in answering exam questions (tells you not to include too much detail but takes off points for missing details he wanted). Moves too fast in lecture.
None
I would have liked this course to have a lab component in which I could have learned about the different sequencing techniques.

## Can you offer suggestions for improvement?

Comments
I would recommend one research paper for reading per lecture instead of 2-3 and instead maybe assign a summary of the reading (that is due before class, but we can go over in small groups or something during class) to allow us to really understand the paper and discern what the main points are and how they are related to what we're learning. I felt like reading 2-3 was much too time consuming and felt tedious without a lot of return on learning.
maybe emphasize that wording in your answers is really important because I found myself getting points off for using incorrect wording that I didn't know was incorrect
Keen providing old exams, it's very helpful.
I would've liked if we got all the quizzes back before the exams, so that we could use them to prepare.
I enjoyed this course, and wish that it had been longer so that I could have dedicated more time to understanding all the material.