



# Report for CS 3330 - 200 Computer Architecture Luther Tychonievich

Project Title: **2022 Spring Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **138**

Responses Received: **36**

Response Ratio: **26.09%**

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## Report Comments

**Spring 2022 Individual Instructor Report by Section.**

### Final Report

Course Name: CS 3330 - 200 Computer Architecture

Instructor Name: Luther Tychonievich

Evaluation Start Date: Apr 26 2022 12:00AM

Evaluation End Date: May 6 2022 12:00AM

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Creation Date: **Monday, May 30, 2022**

## Spring 2022 Questionnaire

### Course Preparation:

1. The average number of hours (per week) that I spent outside of class preparing for CS 3330 - 200 Computer Architecture :
  - Less than 1
  - 1-3
  - 4-6
  - 7-9
  - 10 or more

### Course Questions:

Answer the following questions based on your experience in CS 3330 - 200 Computer Architecture.  
(*Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree*)

1)The course increased my enthusiasm for the topic.

2)Through this course I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

3)I had access to the course materials I needed to learn, including access to required textbooks, course readings, technology tools, and other materials required for class assignments and projects.

**\* If the above question generates a negative response, a branching question will be generated:**

3-A) You disagreed or strongly disagreed that you did not have access to the course materials you needed to learn. Please review the options below and select any of the reasons that may better describe what affected your access to course materials.

- Internet speed and reliability
- Internet connectivity
- It was difficult to obtain hand-on materials needed for the course
- I didn't have the funds to purchase the course materials
- The instructor didn't provide the course materials needed to learn
- Other: Please Specify

### Learning Activities Question:

To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning? (A Lot, A Moderate Amount, A Little, Not At All)

- Real-time lecture
- Recorded lectures
- Recorded video demonstrations
- Hands-on activities
- Real-time, whole-class discussion
- Real-time small-group discussion
- Online discussion boards
- Office hours

### Open Comment Questions (Course):

1) Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.

2) What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

### Instructor Questions:

Answer the following questions based on your experience with Luther Tychonievich. Your constructive feedback will help your instructor identify what went well and ways to improve the course in the future.  
(*Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Neutral, Agree, Strongly Agree*)

1) The instructor clearly communicated the course schedule and expectations for participation (e.g., readings, discussions).

- 2) The instructor clearly communicated the course learning objectives.
- 3) The instructor implemented learning activities and assignments that allowed me to demonstrate understanding of the course material.
- 4) The instructor provided me prompt and useful feedback on my learning.
- 5) The instructor provided opportunities for my active participation.
- 6) The instructor was available to help support my learning.
- 7) The instructor fostered an environment where I felt valued as an individual and that I belonged in the class.
- 8) Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.
- 9) The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

**\* A positive or negative response to the above question will generate a follow-up comment question.**

9A) You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how Luther Tychonievich created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

9B) You selected "DISAGREE or STRONGLY DISAGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how Luther Tychonievich did not create an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

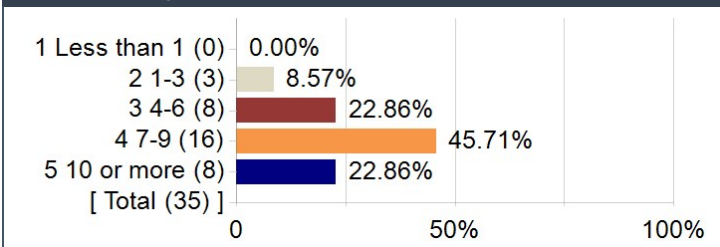
**Open Comment Question (Instructor):**

Your response to the open-ended question below will be shared only with Luther Tychonievich. If this course was taught by multiple instructors, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback to each. Please avoid using instructors' names in your responses to ensure confidentiality.

- 1) What constructive suggestions do you have to help Luther Tychonievich improve this course for future students?
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## Student Preparation

The average number of hours (per week) that I spent outside of class preparing for CS 3330 - 200 Computer Architecture:



Statistics	Value
Response Count	35
Mean	3.83
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.89

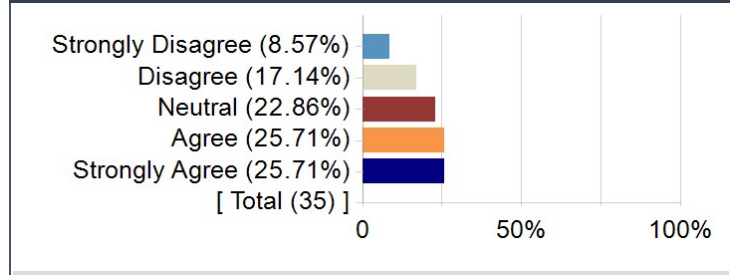
## Course Questions

Mean values are displayed below.

Scale 1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

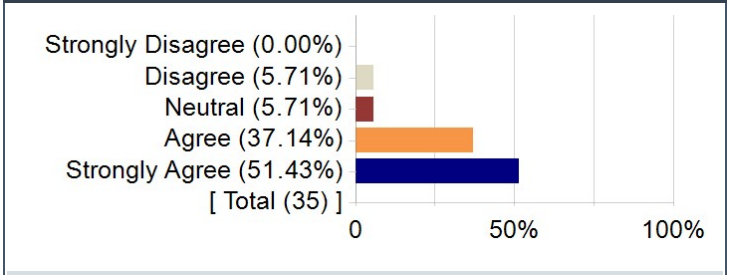
Question	Course (CS 3330 200)		Department (CS)		School (ENGR)		Institution (University of Virginia)	
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
The course increased my enthusiasm for the topic.	35	3.43	3545	3.75	9333	3.77	54638	3.97
Through this course I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.	35	4.34	3524	4.19	9292	4.18	54326	4.30
I had access to the course materials I needed to learn, including access to required textbooks, course readings, technology tools, and other materials required for class assignments and projects.	35	4.31	3540	4.30	9320	4.34	54598	4.47

1. The course increased my enthusiasm for the topic.



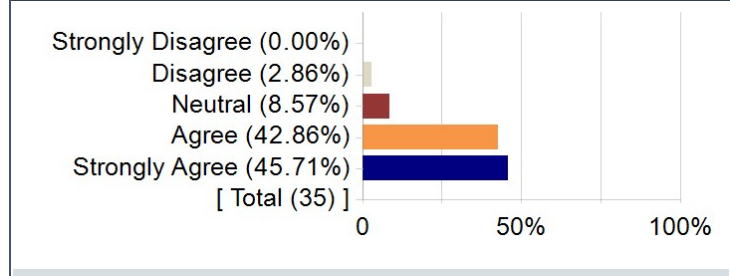
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	3	8.57%
Disagree	2	6	17.14%
Neutral	3	8	22.86%
Agree	4	9	25.71%
Strongly Agree	5	9	25.71%
Statistics			Value
Mean			3.43
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			1.29

2. Through this course I gained a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

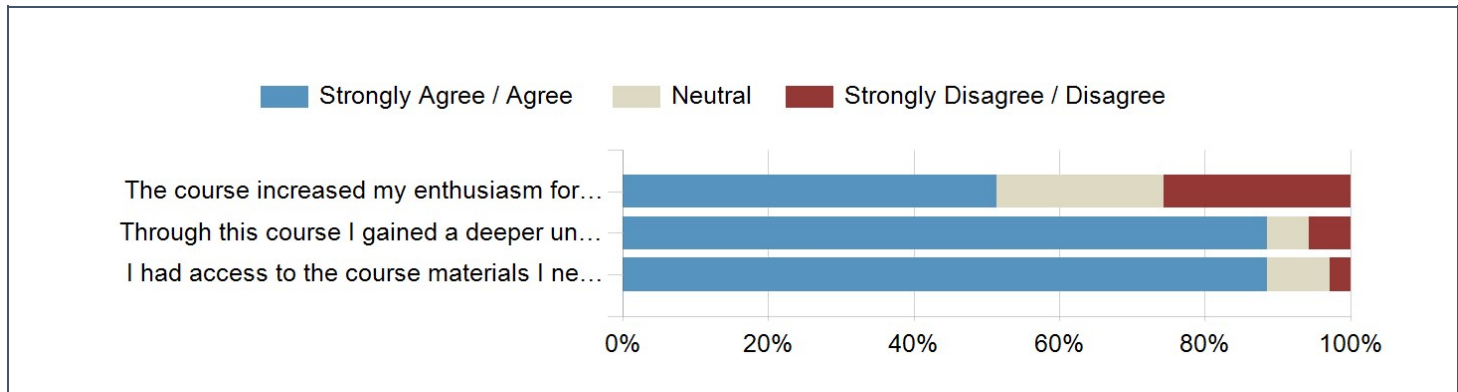
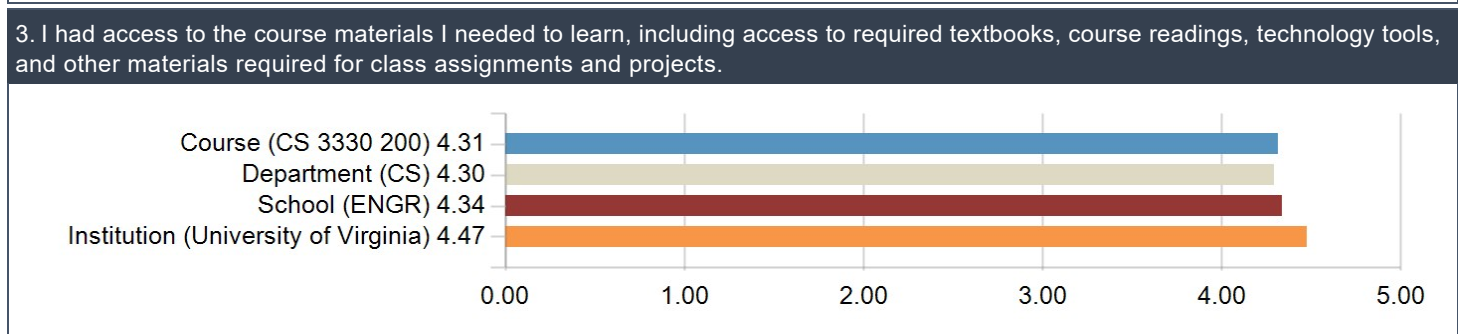
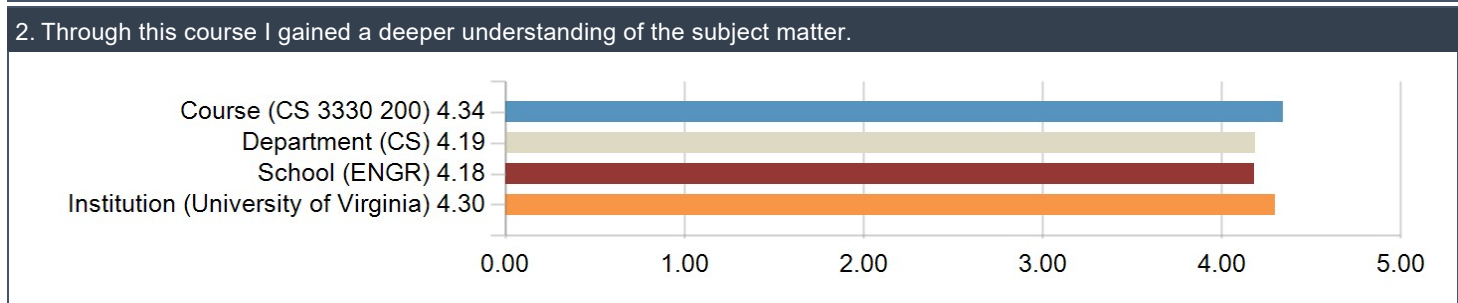
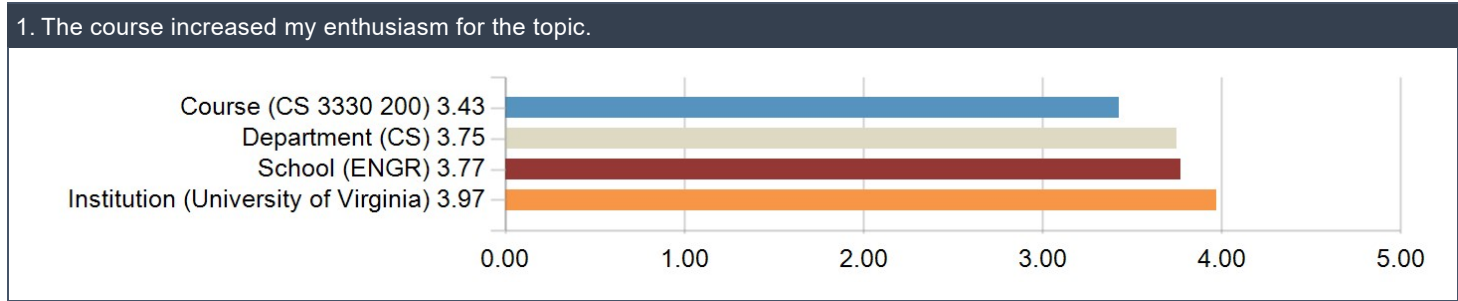


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	2	5.71%
Neutral	3	2	5.71%
Agree	4	13	37.14%
Strongly Agree	5	18	51.43%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.34
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.84

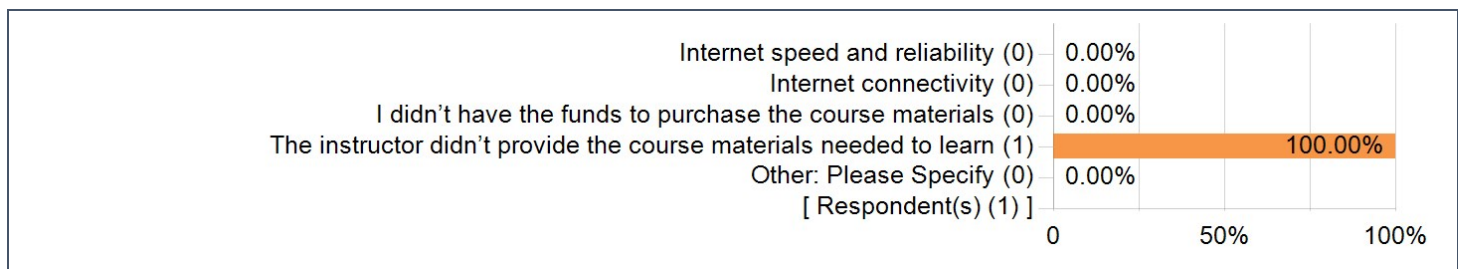
3. I had access to the course materials I needed to learn, including access to required textbooks, course readings, technology tools, and other materials required for class assignments and projects.



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	2.86%
Neutral	3	3	8.57%
Agree	4	15	42.86%
Strongly Agree	5	16	45.71%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.31
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			0.76



**You disagreed or strongly disagreed that you did not have access to the course materials you needed to learn. Please review the options below and select any of the reasons that may better describe what affected your access to course materials.**



## Learning Activities

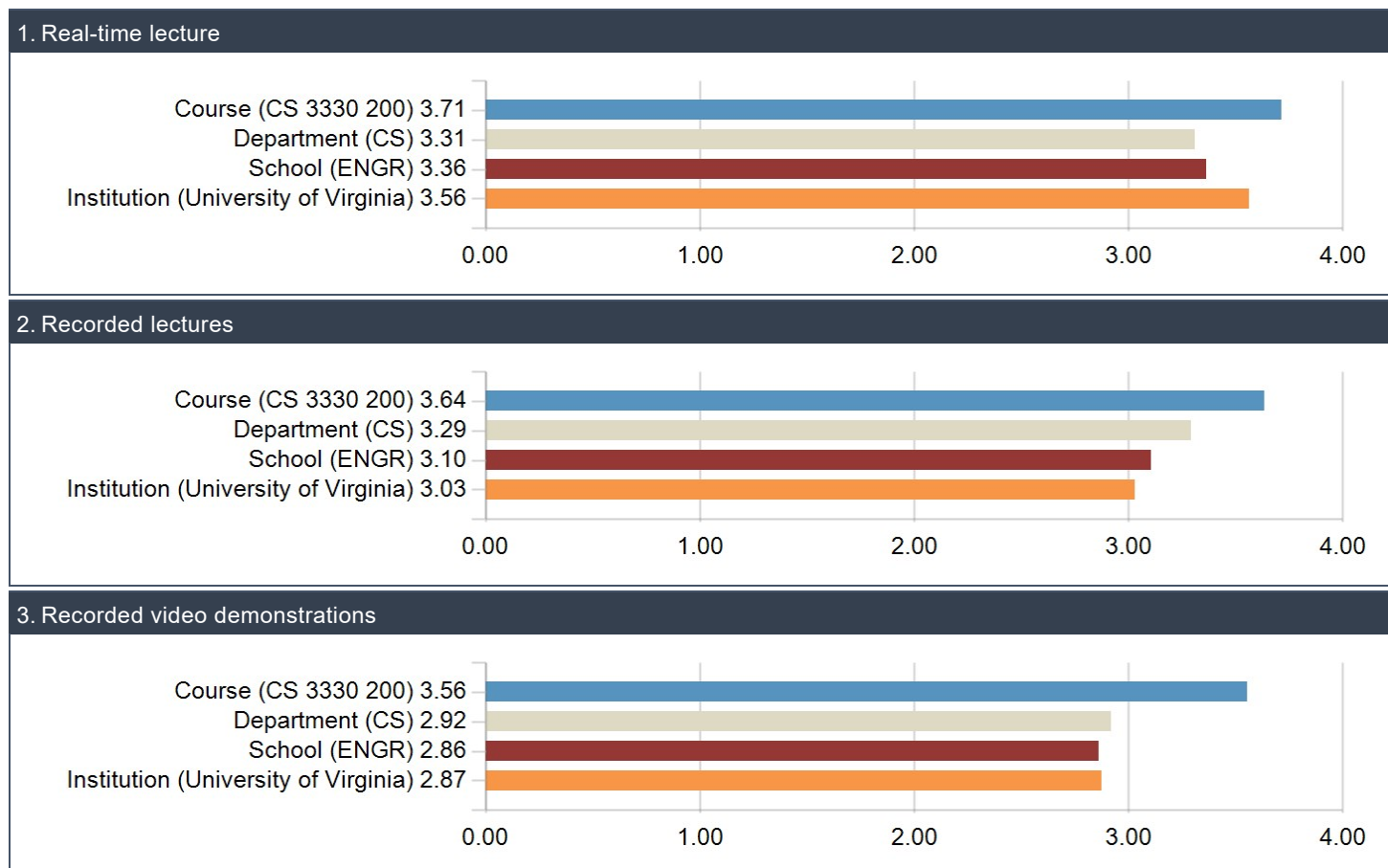
Mean values are displayed below.

Scale: 1 = Not at All 2 = A Little 3 = A Moderate Amount 4 = A Lot

Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?

Question	Course (CS 3330 200)		Department (CS)		School (ENGR)		Institution (University of Virginia)	
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
Real-time lecture	35	3.71	3070	3.31	8420	3.36	48875	3.56
Recorded lectures	33	3.64	2649	3.29	6340	3.10	25800	3.03
Recorded video demonstrations	9	3.56	1655	2.92	4185	2.86	19874	2.87
Hands-on activities	24	3.50	2673	3.35	6492	3.32	34826	3.36
Real-time whole-class discussion	22	3.14	1946	2.73	6014	2.94	40705	3.29
Real-time small-group discussion	20	3.20	1984	2.86	5857	3.07	36919	3.28
Online discussion boards	26	3.12	2417	3.02	5144	2.84	22615	2.75
Office hours	26	3.15	2617	2.99	6474	2.88	31436	2.88

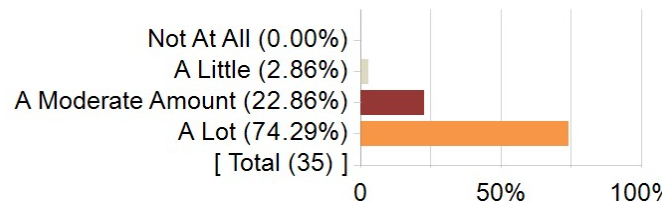
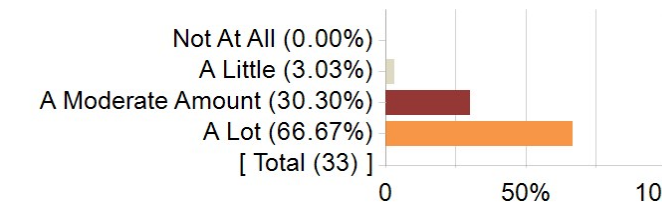
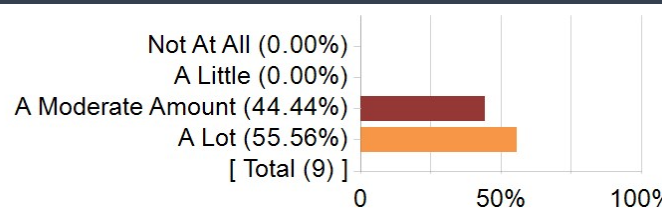
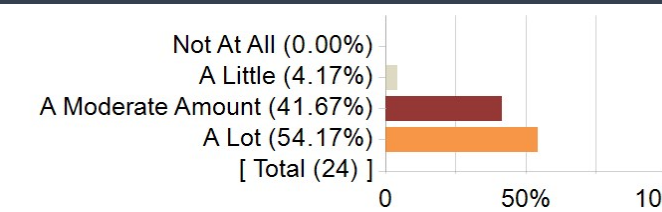
Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?

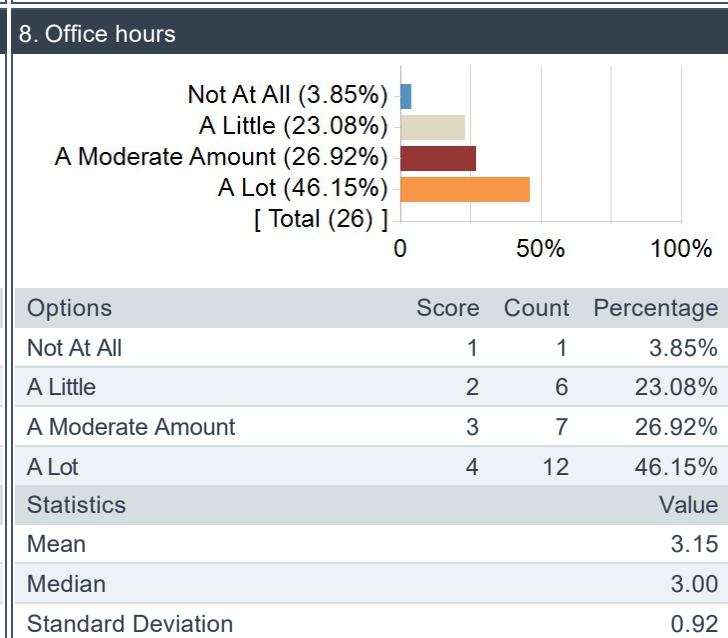
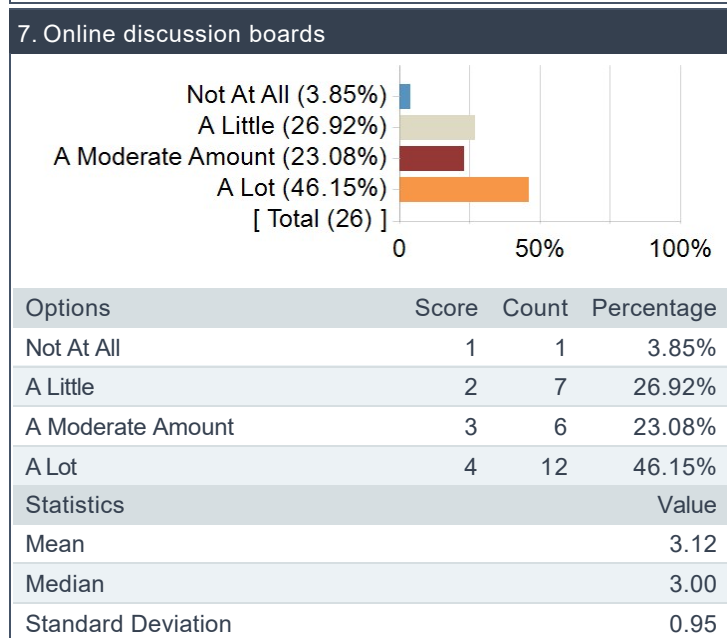
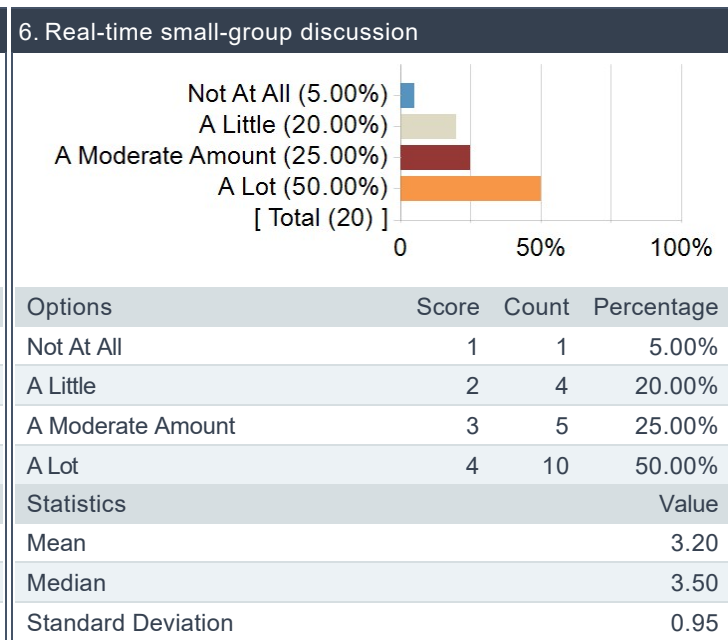
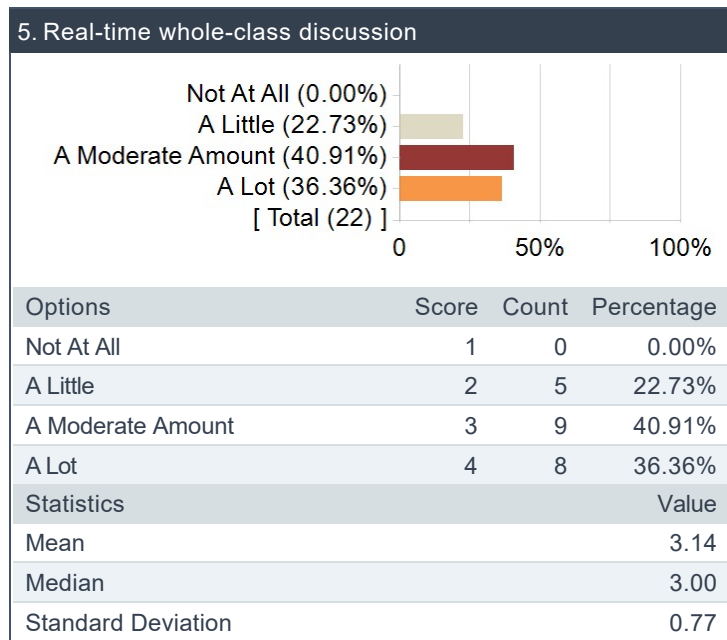


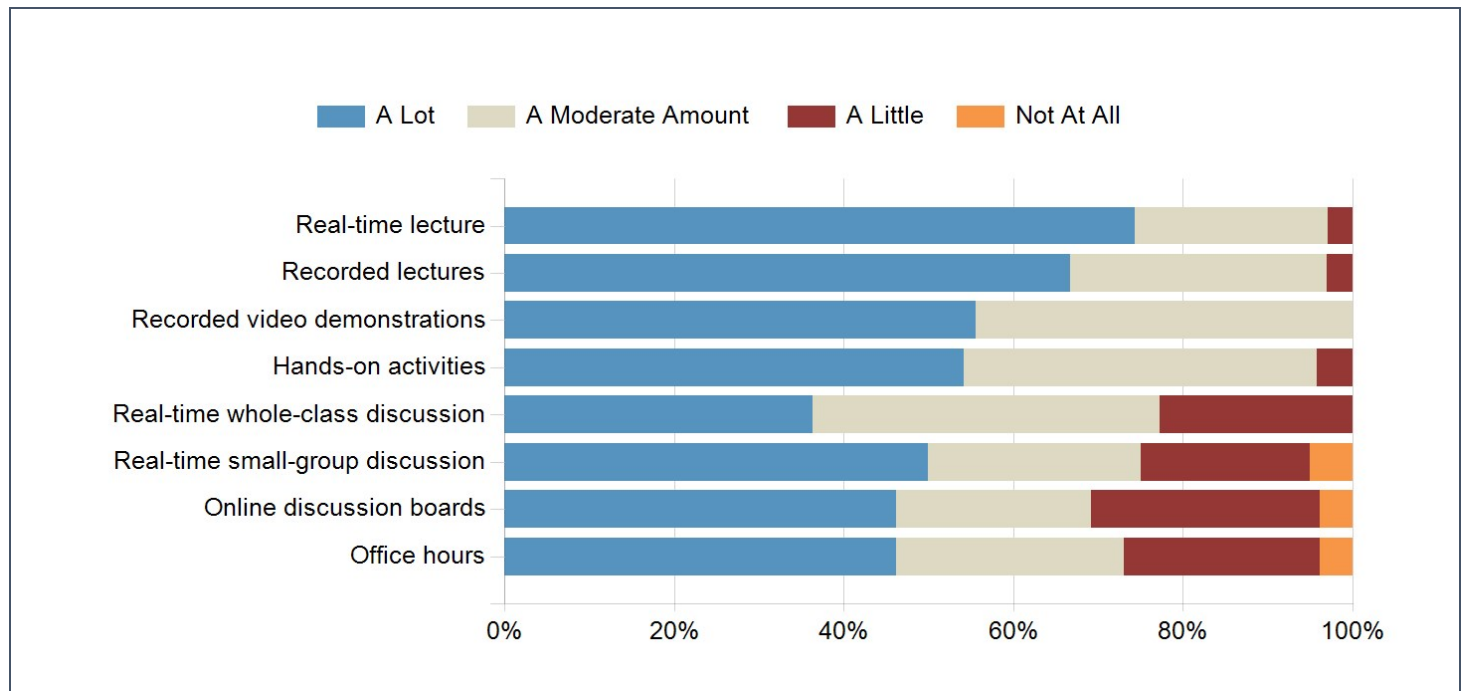




**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**

1. Real-time lecture					2. Recorded lectures				
									
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Not At All	1	0	0.00%		Not At All	1	0	0.00%	
A Little	2	1	2.86%		A Little	2	1	3.03%	
A Moderate Amount	3	8	22.86%		A Moderate Amount	3	10	30.30%	
A Lot	4	26	74.29%		A Lot	4	22	66.67%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Mean				3.71	Mean				3.64
Median				4.00	Median				4.00
Standard Deviation				0.52	Standard Deviation				0.55
3. Recorded video demonstrations					4. Hands-on activities				
									
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Not At All	1	0	0.00%		Not At All	1	0	0.00%	
A Little	2	0	0.00%		A Little	2	1	4.17%	
A Moderate Amount	3	4	44.44%		A Moderate Amount	3	10	41.67%	
A Lot	4	5	55.56%		A Lot	4	13	54.17%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Mean				3.56	Mean				3.50
Median				4.00	Median				4.00
Standard Deviation				0.53	Standard Deviation				0.59



**Learning Activities: To what extent did the following learning activities contribute to your learning?**

**Please tell us briefly how any of the above learning activities (or other activities not included above) contributed to your learning in this course.**

Comments
The lectures were well-structured and interesting, making the subject more appealing to learn.
The lectures and their recorded version were among the best lectures I've ever had in a course. The labs and homework assignments were thoughtfully designed and thoroughly enjoyable to work on; I felt like I gained a much deeper understanding of the material by working on the labs and homeworks.
The labs really solidified the content in my head. Doing it and implementing it definitely made it a lot easier for me to understand the content.
How he introduces topics in the lectures are very helpful.
We had to cover a variety of topics in class, and important information that was vital for either the homeworks, the labs, or the quizzes was sometimes only mentioned in passing during the lecture. So the recorded lectures were very helpful for figuring out the homeworks and labs.
It was very necessary to rewatch the day's lecture after attending a couple times to fully grasp everything the professor had spoken about although it would take much more to actually understand everything.
standard cs course that had a good teacher and decent lab
Office hours was extremely helpful with my learning, as were the recorded lectures because I could go back and watch anything I was confused about in class, which happened quite often.
I had to go back and watch recorded lectures sometimes one or two times, so it helped having those.
Lectures were good. Also recorded, which was helpful for review. Small discussion didn't work for me, but it did for other people. Online discussion boards were helpful. I only went to office hours once and it was pretty helpful.
TA office hours were helpful
I thought the homeworks were relevant and helpful for solidifying material learned in lecture
Lab-time contributed the most to my learning this semester.
Professor Tychonovich is a great orator and it is clear that he is passionate about the subject matter. However, his teaching style this semester was not effective in helping all students understand the content. Instead of preparing slide sets, the professor would essentially freehand draw whatever he wanted to explain, with confusing diagrams and frequent mistakes, all of which could be easily fixed by using slides, even from past semesters. I often found myself having to watch old lectures to actually understand the content.
I did not think the lectures were all that useful. I learned more from the homeworks, labs, and textbook readings.



## Course Comments

What would you like the instructor and university administrators to know about your experience in this course?

Comments
Some of the labs take much longer than the 1.25 hour class period.
I came into this course dreading it and left wanting to take more courses on these topics in the future. This course completely turned me around on the study of low-level computing. Bravo.
I loved Professor Tychonevich. He was an amazing professor who explained the content so well and showed he really cared for his students and their success.
This is a very difficult class with a lot of deadlines in a week, every week to keep track of and none I would say was easy. I think any kind of adjustment or more concise content for the syllabus could be helpful.
RIP
Computer architecture was a difficult course but I think it helped me understand how processors work with memory together in a computer
The lab TA's were the most helpful aspect of this class
good course
One of the best professors I've ever had. We need more professors like Tychonievich who care about making challenging, fair, and exciting courses.
Overall I enjoyed this course. I learned more about computers and the professor was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the topic. It was the most stressful course I took this semester and took up most of my time as a lot of the time I was spending extra hours simply trying to understand what it is we were talking about in class, and that got quite stressful.
Tychonievich is great.
I think this class was way too difficult for such a niche subject. I studied for days and weeks for the exams only to end up failing them. Nothing against Tycho himself but I think the entire class needs to be a little more realistic because it was the hardest CS class I've ever taken and I don't feel like I learned anything at all.
I was scared of this class going into it based on reviews and overall difficulty, but I was pleasantly surprised. It is a very hard class that moves quickly, and expects a LOT out of you, but most of the assignments and quizzes were mostly fair. Tychonievich is very good at his job, it's a real shame he's leaving.
I thought that this class moved way too fast at times and that a lot of the homeworks were way too hard. The cache lab and homework specifically were virtually impossible, and I think that almost every student thought so. In terms of Professor Tyconeovich's teaching style, I thought that he was good at asking if we had questions, but it felt like he almost thought we should know the answers already and that just because he knew the answer meant that we should too. When explaining things, it was clear that he thought that they were obvious, but they were not obvious at all and he often sounded a little condescending.
I really enjoyed this course! The lectures were usually interesting, and it felt like what we learned in class was directly applicable to labs/homework.
More fun than I thought it would be! I also felt like feedback (e.g. on making changes to assignments) was well-received and taken seriously, and like course staff really cared about making the class fair
We're gonna miss you Professor Tychonievich!
Best course I have taken so far in the CS department
I think it's good that they're changing the graduation requirements
I think it could have been taught in a way better manner. There is a clear distinction between the learning abilities of the students and professor Tychonovich's expectations of our learning abilities. Please use slides!!!
It was an alright course. It felt difficult to succeed in and I did not feel like we were given all we needed to succeed. I felt like I learned a lot from the homework, lab, and textbook readings, but lectures were hard to follow and Professor Tychonevich talked very fast. I also felt like the exams and quizzes were much more difficult than I expected them to be, and it made it hard to succeed.

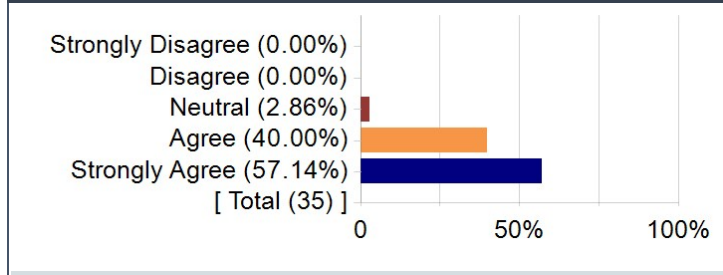
## Instructor Questions

Mean values are displayed below.

Scale 1 = Strongly Disagree 2 = Disagree 3 = Neutral 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly Agree

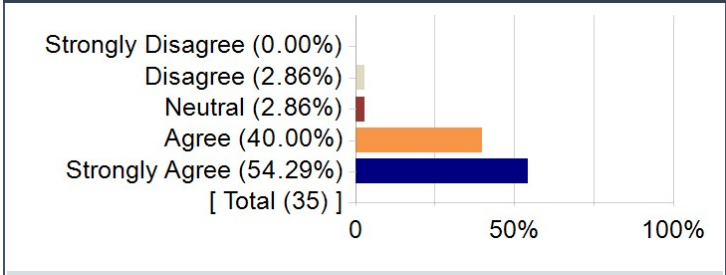
Question	Instructor Average - this course		Instructor Average - all courses (1st7h Luther Tychonievich)		Department (CS)		School (ENGR)	
	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean	Response Count	Mean
The instructor clearly communicated the course schedule and expectations for participation (e.g., readings, discussions).	35	4.54	160	4.46	3604	4.35	10330	4.33
The instructor clearly communicated the course learning objectives.	35	4.46	159	4.36	3604	4.31	10329	4.31
The instructor implemented learning activities and assignments that allowed me to demonstrate understanding of the course material.	35	4.31	161	4.28	3610	4.20	10349	4.22
The instructor provided me prompt and useful feedback on my learning.	35	4.31	161	4.20	3619	3.85	10370	3.91
The instructor provided opportunities for my active participation.	34	4.24	160	4.21	3616	4.00	10361	4.14
The instructor was available to help support my learning.	35	4.26	160	4.23	3600	4.09	10330	4.20
The instructor fostered an environment where I felt valued as an individual and that I belonged in the class.	35	3.94	160	4.11	3608	4.07	10346	4.17
Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.	35	4.37	160	4.36	3602	4.14	10344	4.16
The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.	35	3.97	159	4.09	3613	4.01	10344	4.08

**1. The instructor clearly communicated the course schedule and expectations for participation (e.g., readings, discussions).**



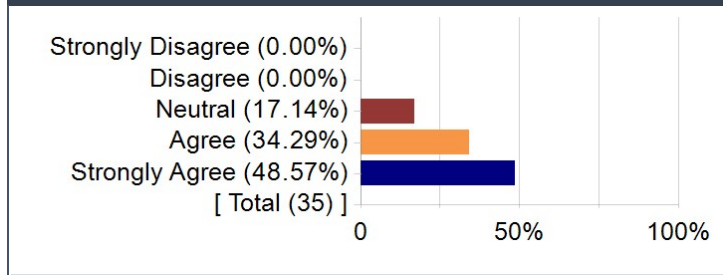
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	1	2.86%
Agree	4	14	40.00%
Strongly Agree	5	20	57.14%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.54
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.56

**2. The instructor clearly communicated the course learning objectives.**



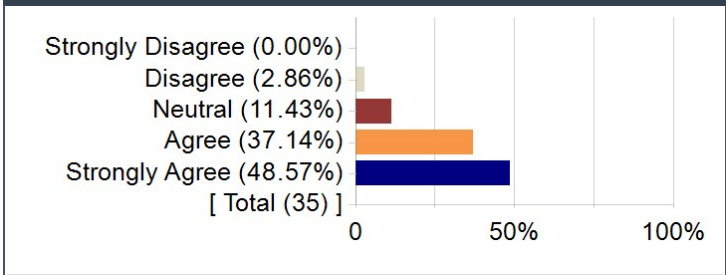
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	2.86%
Neutral	3	1	2.86%
Agree	4	14	40.00%
Strongly Agree	5	19	54.29%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.46
Median			5.00
Standard Deviation			0.70

**3. The instructor implemented learning activities and assignments that allowed me to demonstrate understanding of the course material.**



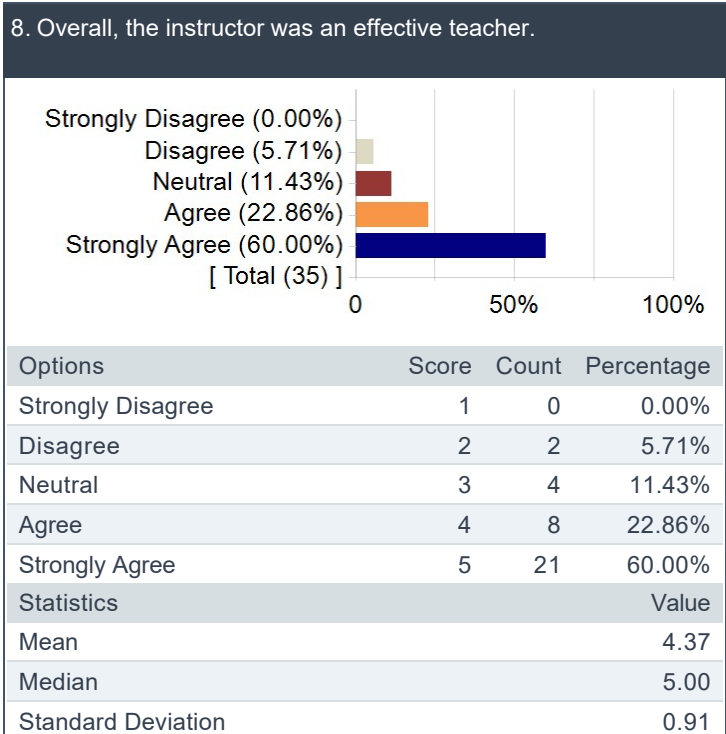
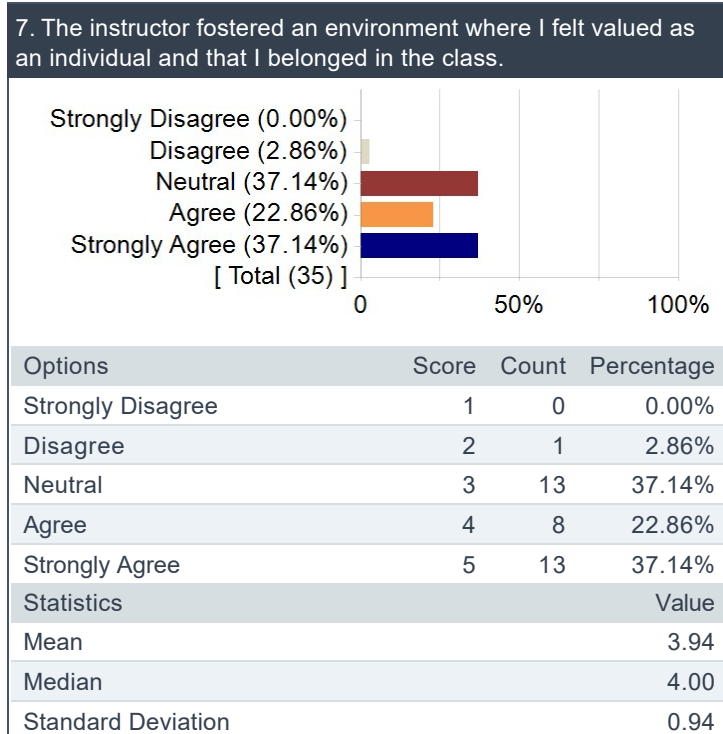
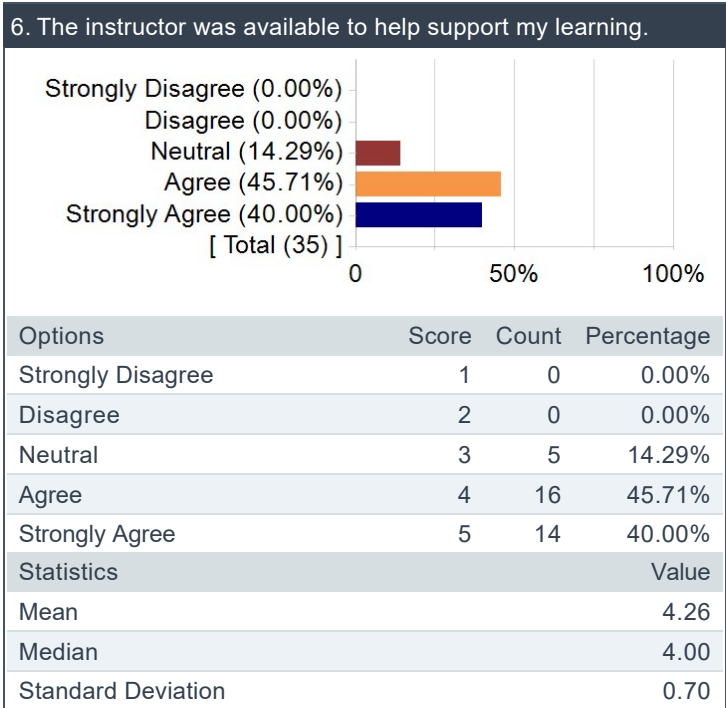
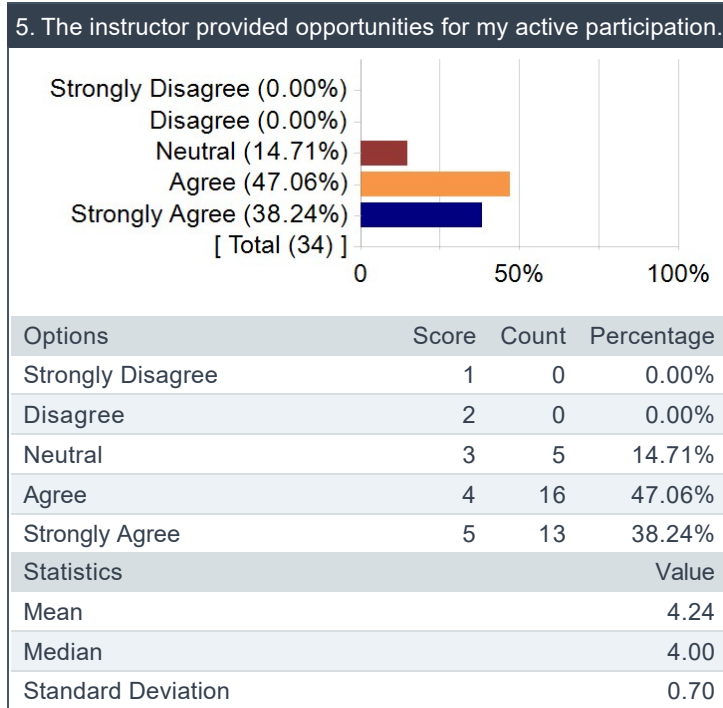
Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	0	0.00%
Neutral	3	6	17.14%
Agree	4	12	34.29%
Strongly Agree	5	17	48.57%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.31
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			0.76

**4. The instructor provided me prompt and useful feedback on my learning.**

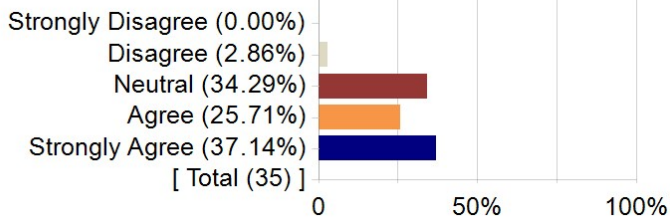


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	2.86%
Neutral	3	4	11.43%
Agree	4	13	37.14%
Strongly Agree	5	17	48.57%
Statistics			Value
Mean			4.31
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			0.80



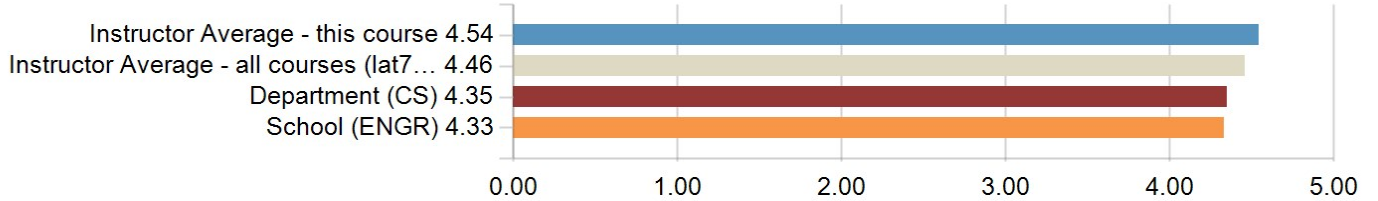


9. The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.

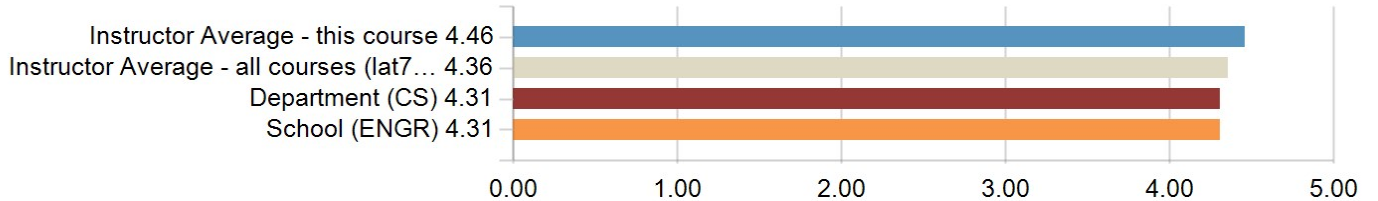


Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Strongly Disagree	1	0	0.00%
Disagree	2	1	2.86%
Neutral	3	12	34.29%
Agree	4	9	25.71%
Strongly Agree	5	13	37.14%
Statistics			Value
Mean			3.97
Median			4.00
Standard Deviation			0.92

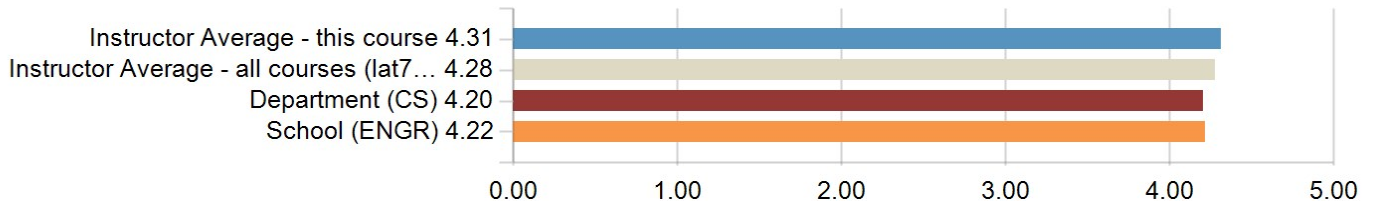
1. The instructor clearly communicated the course schedule and expectations for participation (e.g., readings, discussions).



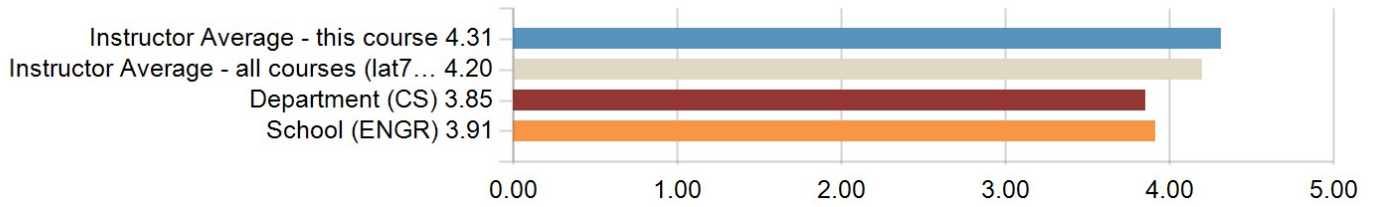
2. The instructor clearly communicated the course learning objectives.



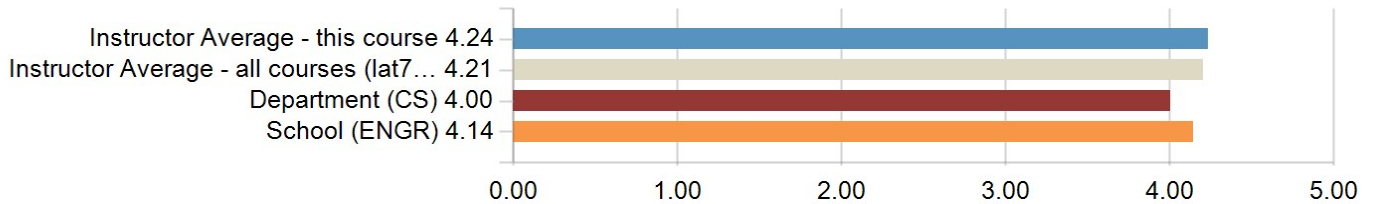
3. The instructor implemented learning activities and assignments that allowed me to demonstrate understanding of the course material.



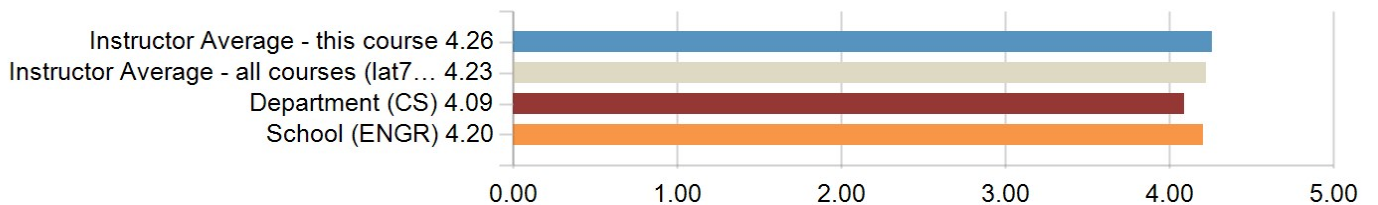
4. The instructor provided me prompt and useful feedback on my learning.



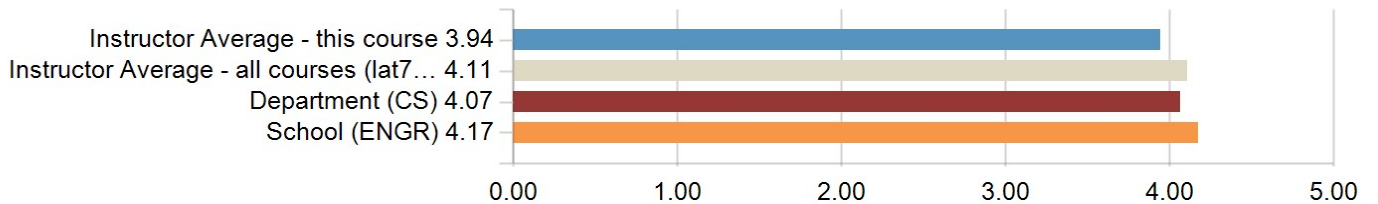
5. The instructor provided opportunities for my active participation.



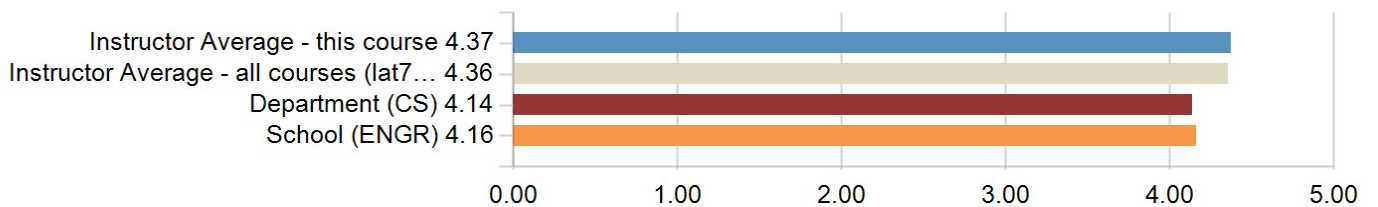
6. The instructor was available to help support my learning.



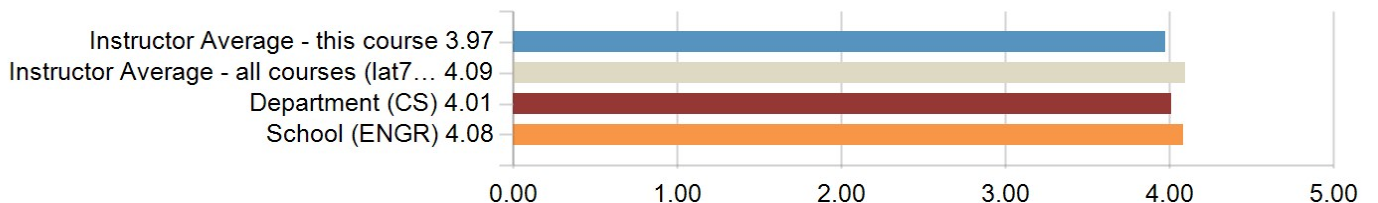
7. The instructor fostered an environment where I felt valued as an individual and that I belonged in the class.

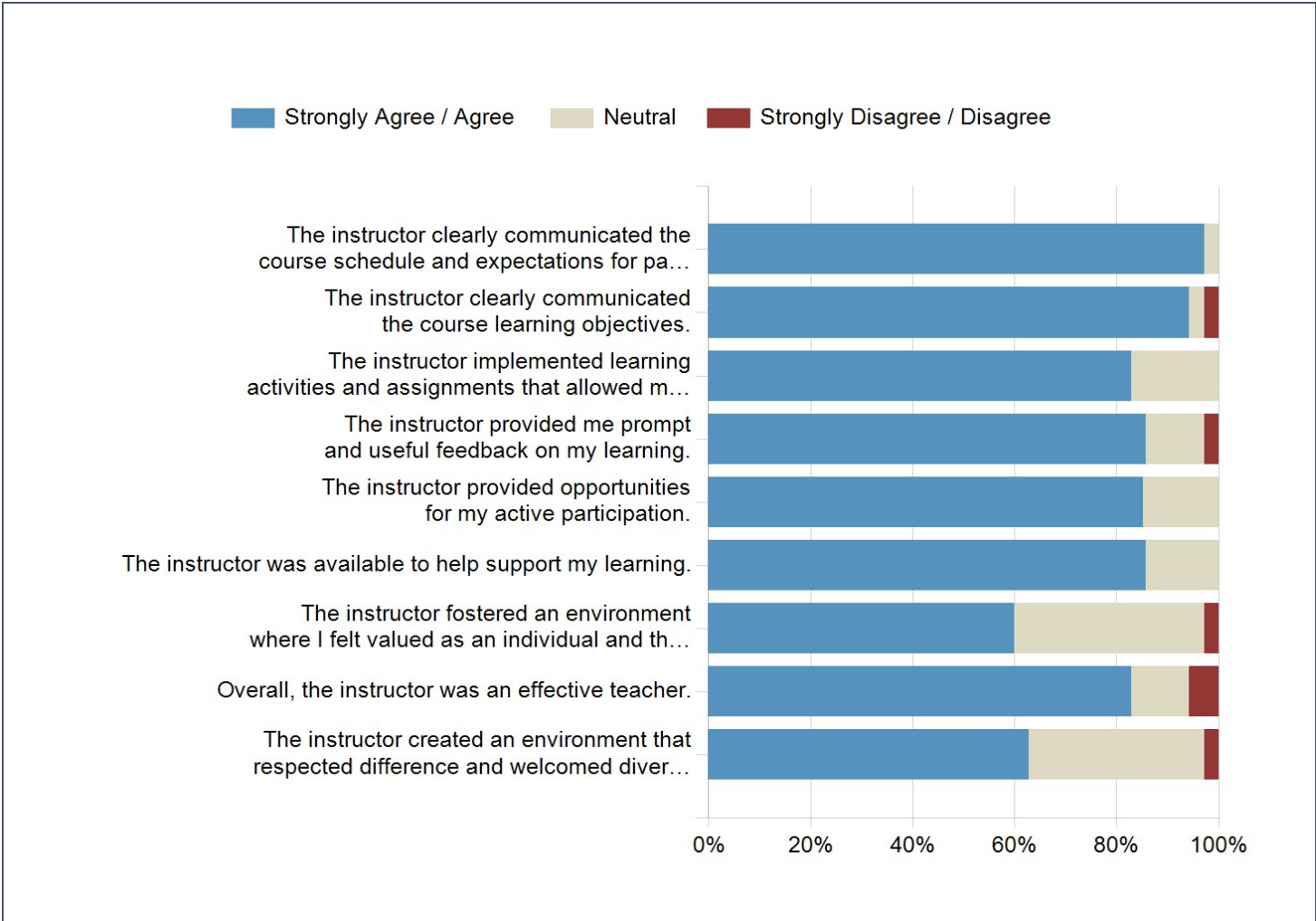


8. Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.



9. The instructor created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.





**You selected "AGREE or STRONGLY AGREE" on the previous question: Please give specific examples as to how Luther Tychonievich created an environment that respected difference and welcomed diverse perspectives.**

Comments
Professor Tychonievich had various times throughout every lecture where he would pause his instruction to give students time to discuss amongst themselves what questions they might have or what might be confusing. He then would be open to receiving any and all questions from students.
When the professor finishes a knowledge point, he always asks whether anyone in the class has a question. If there is, he will answer each of them patiently.
Prof Tychonievich took time to answer any question, no matter how basic, and went out of his way to make sure everybody in the class understood lecture topics.
In class, he would pause often to answer questions and take comments. He was also very open to new understandings of the questions on quizzes and homework assignments. He also did anonymous feedback every Wednesday where he addressed student concerns, which I thought was a rare practice between professors that was also incredibly helpful.
When introducing any topic he would ask the class how many people were familiar with the topic and go over it if many were not.
he made people that asked stupid questions feel as though they were not stupid
Always helped out when you needed it.
The professor was always open to answering questions and encouraged them. If anyone had a different opinion or perspective he was open to hearing it.
Professor Tychonievich welcomes every student in the class.

## Instructor Comments

### What constructive suggestions do you have to help Luther Tychonievich improve this course for future students?

Comments
I think the instruction for homework could be more detailed for several difficult ones.
n/a
I can't really think of anything. We're all sad to see him leave next year. Thank you for everything Professor Tychonevich!!
Sometimes when you talk about grades and how low they are and that is typical for your classes it previously caused me a lot of stress and anxiety, although I ended up doing better than I thought it felt like you would not be lenient in any way with grading. However throughout the course I came to realize that in reality you are quite understanding and grade fairly, but at first I was very stressed since it felt like it did not bother you if your students did poorly.
Why is this topic so hard :'(
Prof. Tychonievich is great.
We'll all miss you dearly Professor Tychonievich. Best of luck wherever you teach next.
Overall this class was one of the best structured classes I have taken at this university. The course load was extensive, however, the prompt feedback and the help from TA's were useful. The one critique I would give is to provide more information in the lab writeups and possibly go through example problems in class as a majority of the difficult aspect of this class was beginning the assignments.
Keep it up
Amazing course, wish I could take more classes with you
This course was worthwhile and I learned a lot. It was probably the hardest course I've taken at UVA, but I will walk away with a deeper understanding of computers. Sometimes it got overwhelming in class when we would be talking about a topic and I would seemingly understand then suddenly we would take a turn and I would be confused. I would recommend going into deeper detail when explaining concepts and not skipping steps because for a lot of us this is the first time we have seen these concepts and our knowledge does not run as deep. I would recommend remembering that we are still early in our careers and taking the time to explain concepts from the beginning and remembering that we do not know as much.
I know you don't think grades matter, but to most UVA students they really do affect a lot and I just don't think any class on computer architecture should single-handedly ruin someone's semester and overall GPA. Those who took it online in previous semesters were able to take it pass/fail and we were stuck with taking it graded. I can't count how many nights I spent on this class only to end up barely passing it. I would not wish it upon my worst enemy.
Not sure if you're going to be reading these, but thanks for everything. If you're reading these for feedback, then I might offer that sometimes having tests and quizzes with easier questions is encouraging for students. I feel like I learn so much from you're course, but then the quizzes and tests ask only the hardest questions... I know it was a part of you're grading/testing philosophy at the beginning of the class, but all I can say is that it doesn't feel very good from my perspective (What I mean is that I have no evidence or anything saying the method is bad or anything like that, but just that it made me feel... bad? and I'm saying this as someone who got A's on most of the quizzes). Anyways, if you did read all of this, then I think you'll do fine regardless. Good luck! ~
It is very difficult and sometimes hard to grasp the concepts. If there was another way to explain things, that would help
I never thought I'd enjoy comp arch, but it's been my favorite comp sci class so far! Good luck at wherever you're going next!
I thought this term's schedule (like the ordering of the material) went well/progressed pretty naturally. (I think there were changes from previous classes)
In the future, I would use a different textbook. This one is hard to use online and isn't very digestible for a one-semester course.
Please use slides. Scribbles and random doodles do not help with content learning for students.
Lectures were hard to follow. I think it would be better if there were slides to structure a lecture (because sometimes the tangents made things confusing) and also if he talked slower. I liked the homeworks and labs, but the quizzes and exams were much more difficult than I felt was fair.