Individual Teaching Assistant Report Spring 2023 for GRG 401C - THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (36800, 36805, 36810, 36815, 36820, 36825) (Sara Eshleman)

Project Title: **Instructor Course Evaluations Spring 2023**

Courses Audience: **84**
Responses Received: **19**
Response Ratio: **22.6%**

Report Comments

Results were collected during the implementation of a new course evaluation system.

Guide to the Interpretation of Course Evaluations at UT Austin
The goal of course evaluation process at UT Austin is to drive teaching excellence and to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning experiences. The two sets of scales used for core evaluation questions and the associated weights are:

Strongly Agree (5)
Agree (4)
Neutral (3)
Disagree (2)
Strongly Disagree (1)

Excellent (5)
Very Good (4)
Satisfactory (3)
Unsatisfactory (2)
Very Unsatisfactory (1)

The Mean is calculated by adding all of the weights for a single question and dividing by the number of respondents. The course workload question is not averaged.

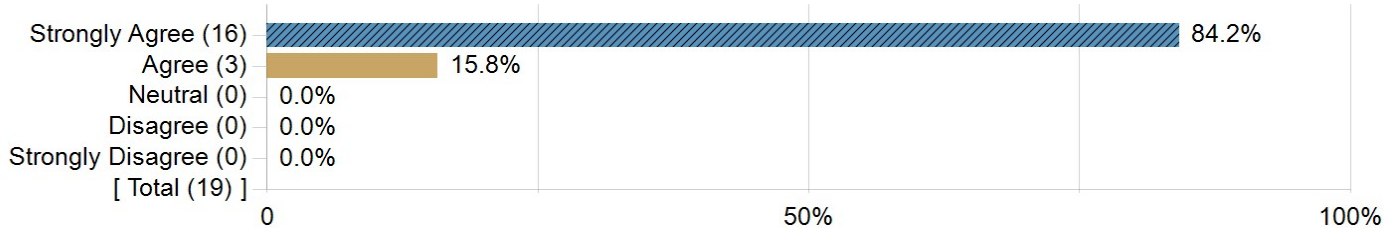
The number of students (e.g. Respondents) marking each option is reported for each of the items. These frequency distributions provide information about the level of student ratings and the spread and shape of the class distribution of responses. The distributions thus provide a picture of student perception of a course.

Course evaluations provide snapshots of student perspectives on their course-level learning experiences. Most experts on teaching evaluation advise that no one method gives the complete picture of an instructor's teaching effectiveness; multiple and diverse measures, on multiple occasions, are advised to give a full picture of the teaching effectiveness of a particular instructor. Moreover, other factors, such as size of class, level of the class, and content of the course, can cause small variations in the ratings. Therefore, student perspectives for a particular instructor or course should be interpreted as a snapshot, and not as providing complete information on the teaching effectiveness of that instructor.

Creation Date: **Friday, June 16, 2023**

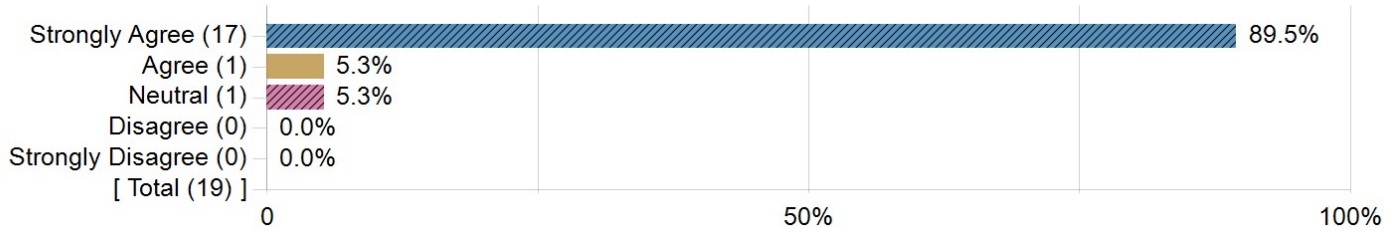
Teaching Assistant Questions

The TA was available to help me as needed.



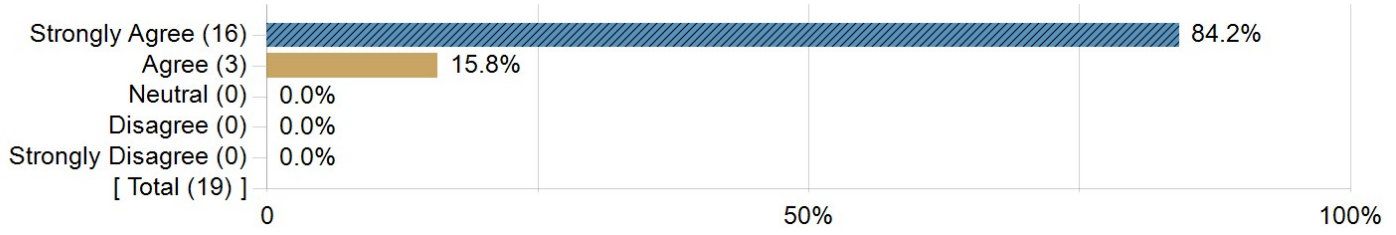
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.84

I felt the TA was approachable.



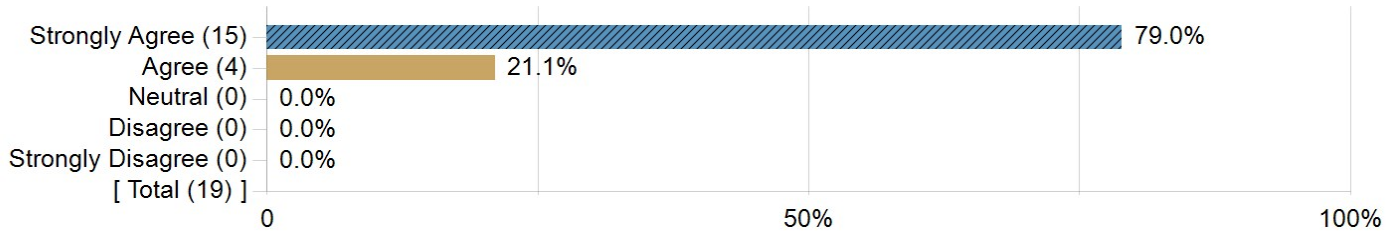
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.84

The TA explained course concepts, subject matter, or other course-related topics in a way that helped me learn.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.84

The TA was able to address most of my questions related to the course concepts, subject -matter, or topics.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.79

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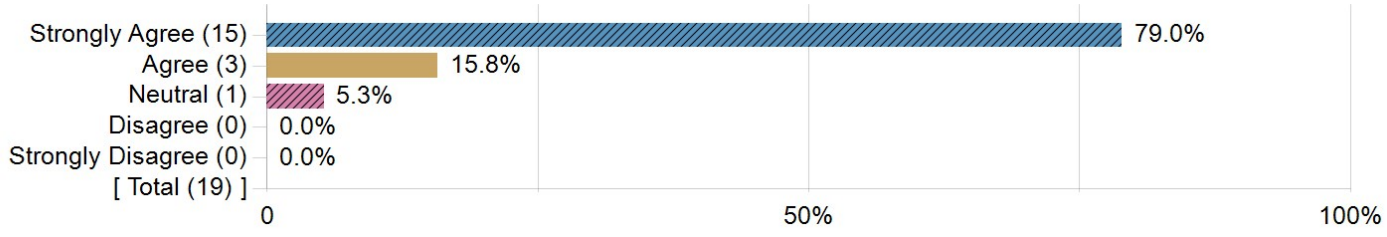
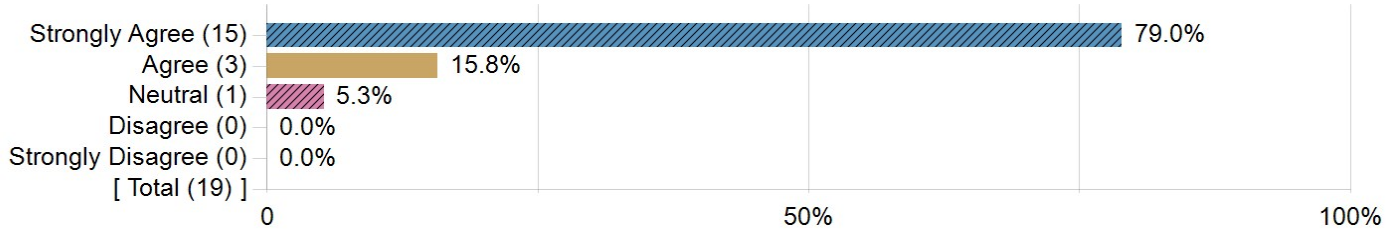
The TA communicated course content and subject matter with accuracy.



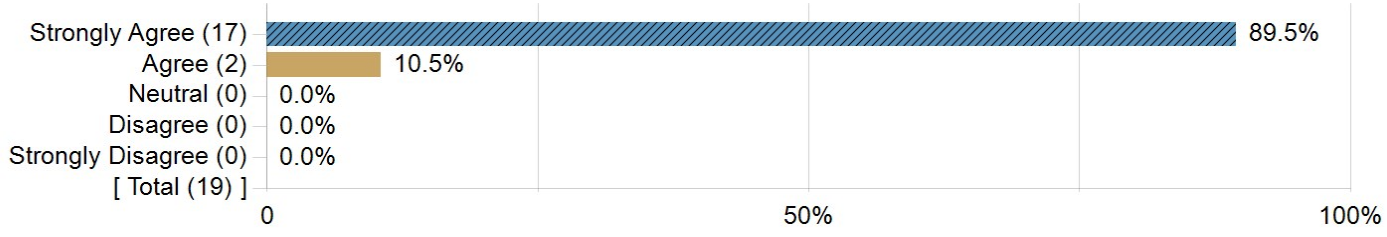
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.74

The TA communicated course expectations and instructions clearly.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.74

The TA appeared engaged throughout the course experience.



Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89

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Comment Questions

Identify aspects of your interactions with your teaching assistant that were most effective in helping your learning.

Comments
always super helpful and the videos in the lab helped me a lot and were very clear on directions
She was very helpful during labs and was very knowledgable and helpful with all aspects of the course, especially when I was out sick in the hospital. Sara and Dr. Beach were very understanding and helpful during that time.
Sara was extremely helpful in explaining concepts that were confusing during class or lab.
Sara was always available when i needed help, the way she would explain things were always clear when i was confused. Also what really helped is the videos that were included in lab assignments it gave me the chance to go over things slower that i didnt understand.
Very open to answering questions
Being able to ask her questions was easy and she always had an answer to my questions.
Sara's way of lecturing and presenting the labs is very effective and helped me better understand the concepts. I appreciated her quick overviews and ability to answer all of my questions regarding the lab and class and she created an environment in which people always felt comfortable asking questions. The labs themselves and the video recordings are very high quality and informational and they were also really useful in helping me play back concepts and understand how to use Google Earth and Excel, since I have not really used those programs before.
the interactions I had with my TA was always helpful
the labs were always helpful
She is very enthusiastic about the material, and she is great at answering questions. Both of these qualities were effective in helping me learn.
Sara is always willing and available to answer questions and clarify any subject matter discussed in class.
She gave very through explanations of the labs that made them more engaging and was able to answer questions very easily.
she was very knowledgable and helpful in answering any questions in a timely manner
The lab sections and the lab themselves were really helpful they were simple and straightforward so I was never truly confused about what I had to do. The way she thought the course was really helpful and made it easier to understand the topics and the labs that were set up were helpful because they made my brain active and actually learn something instead of just reading something and then not remembering anything from it.
She explained the labs really well and was always helpful with any questions that might have come up during the labs. She provided ample clarification in lab and also had the information explained in depth in videos that were extremely important.
Sara was extremely helpful as a teaching assistant, she explained the course content extremely well and made it easy to reach her.
Incredible, across the board. Cannot recommend Sara highly enough. She was super available, engaged, ready to help, and communicated concepts well. She helped break down concepts that were not super clear in lecture and made lab section a breeze.
I thought Sara was awesome! The labs were the perfect length – they helped me learn the material but I could usually finish them during lab time. Her lab lectures were great and she is really knowledgeable on all the topics. She gave our main lecture in class one day and it was so engaging and we got through a lot of material. I think Sara would be a FANTASTIC main professor for this course.

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What is one thing the teaching assistant could do differently to help improve future students' learning in this course?

Comments
Nothing, she was fantastic.
N/A
I wouldnt change anything but i would add maybe helping students review for the exam just because i had trouble reviewing for the exam with the study sheet that was provided by the Dr.Beach.
Trying to slow down during lectures would be super helpful just so that we can take notes and make sure we understand the info
I felt that Sara held really efficient and information lab sessions and I enjoyed attending them.
nothing
There was nothing she did wrong
I can't think of anything.
I think it would be helpful to include more class participation and involvement of students during lab lectures to increase engagement.
Talk a little slower.
Nothing, she was great! The most dedicated TA I've had so far!
Sara was overall a great TA but one thing that could improve is maybe having a day to study before each exam so that she would help cover more about what the test would be over because that was never really clear to us, we were just given sections to go over but we never knew specifically what the test was going to cover.
I think she did a great job and I was happy with what she provided in this course.
One thing the teaching assistant could do to improve in the future would be to give more feedback on the lab assignments, but overall she was amazing.
Nothing! She was awesome, no notes from me.
I thought she was perfect!

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