

Project Title: **Vanderbilt University Course and Teaching Evaluations**

Course Audience: **23**
Responses Received: **6**
Response Ratio: **26.09%**

Report Comments

The following is a report for an individual section of a class. Please do not distribute, print, or share this report except for administrative purposes.

Project Audience - Total number of students enrolled
Responses Received - Number of evaluations submitted by students
Response Ratio - Percent of enrolled students who submitted evaluations

If you have any questions about the evaluation system please contact courseevaluations@vanderbilt.edu.

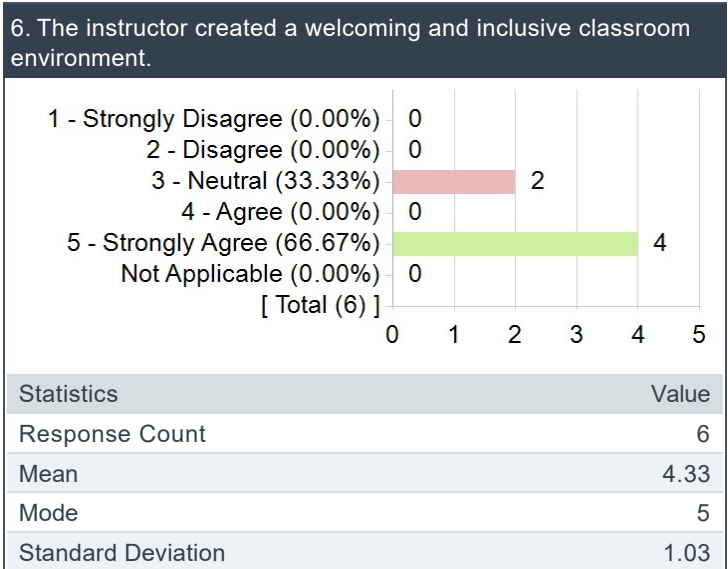
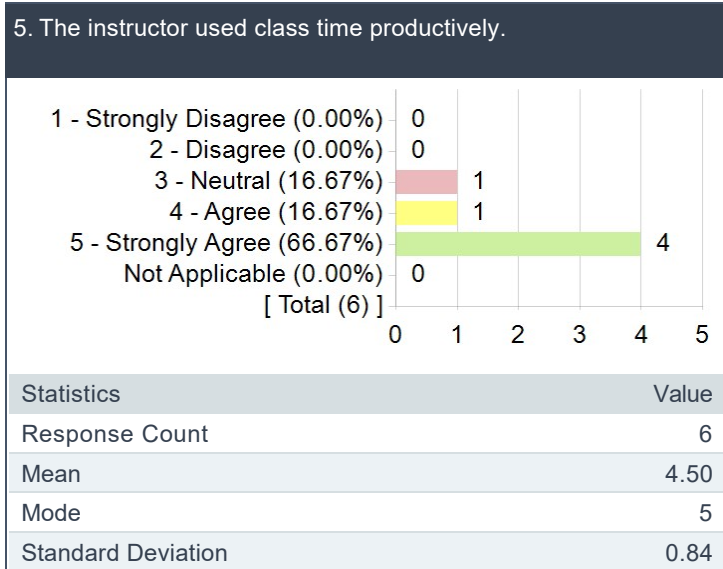
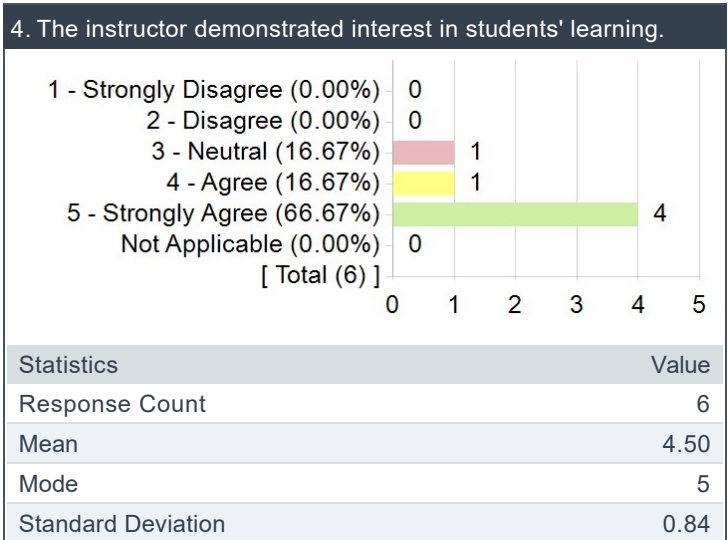
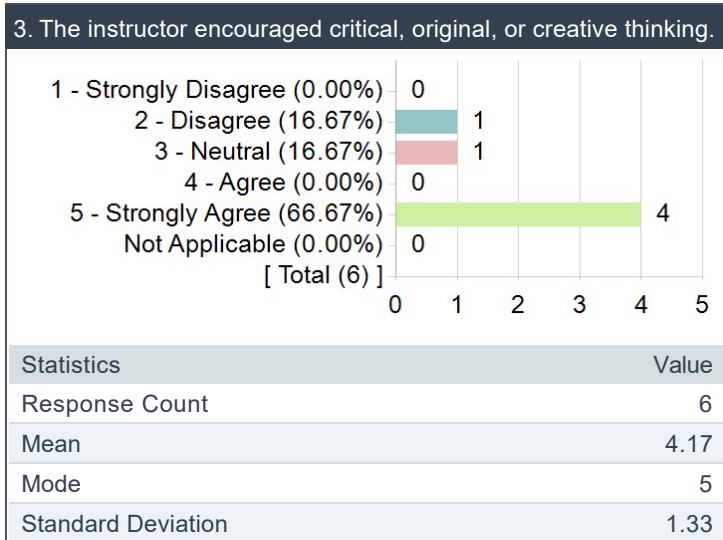
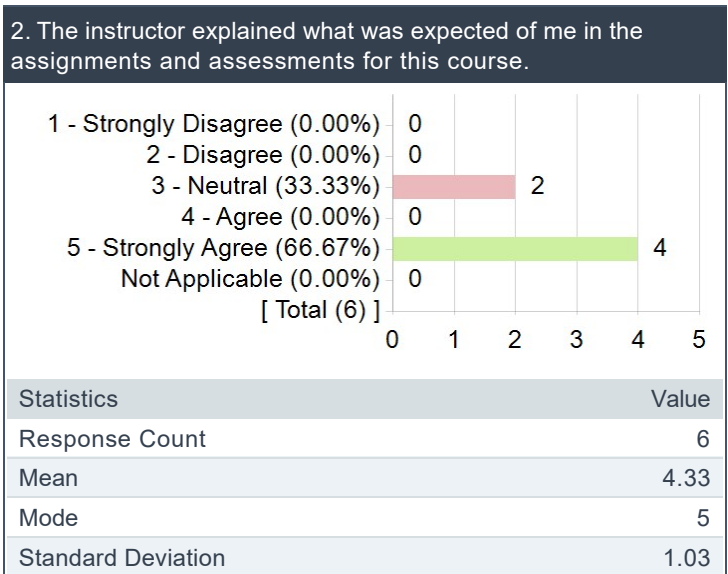
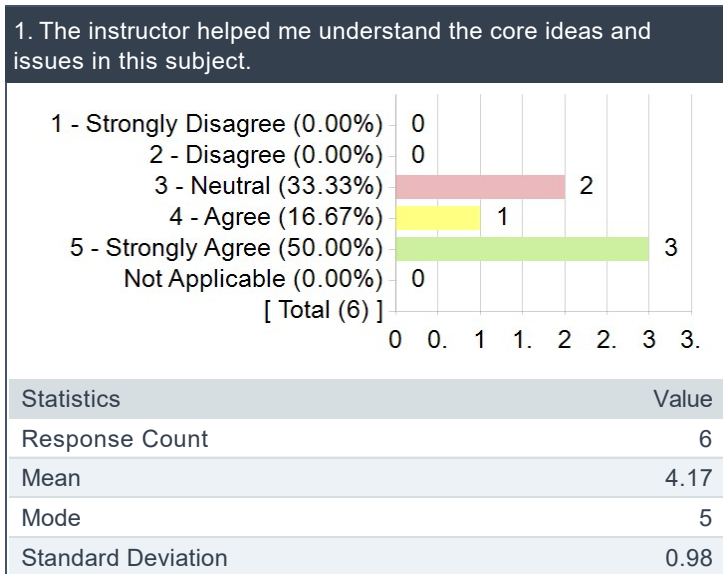
Questions about the Instructor (Kevin Leach):

Question	This Class Section		Department (CS)		School (ENGIN)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
The instructor helped me understand the core ideas and issues in this subject.	4.17	0.98	4.29	0.98	4.35	0.91
The instructor explained what was expected of me in the assignments and assessments for this course.	4.33	1.03	4.38	0.91	4.42	0.88
The instructor encouraged critical, original, or creative thinking.	4.17	1.33	4.30	0.96	4.40	0.88
The instructor demonstrated interest in students' learning.	4.50	0.84	4.39	0.91	4.47	0.84
The instructor used class time productively.	4.50	0.84	4.36	0.93	4.36	0.91
The instructor created a welcoming and inclusive classroom environment.	4.33	1.03	4.43	0.87	4.51	0.82
Overall, the instructor (Kevin Leach) was:	4.17	0.98	4.20	1.00	4.28	0.94

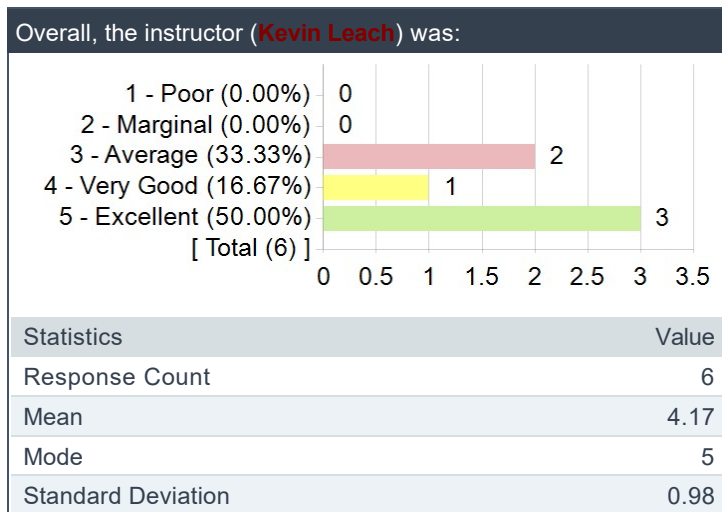
Questions about this Course (CS 3276, 5276 01):

Question	This Class Section		Department (CS)		School (ENGIN)	
	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation	Mean	Standard Deviation
This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.	4.33	0.82	4.26	1.00	4.31	0.94
The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.	4.50	0.84	4.36	0.89	4.41	0.86
The feedback I received during the course was helpful.	4.00	1.55	4.07	1.08	4.16	1.02
I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.	4.50	0.55	4.26	0.98	4.37	0.92
This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.	4.17	0.98	4.20	1.03	4.30	0.96
Overall, the course (CS 3276, 5276 01) was:	4.00	1.10	3.92	1.05	3.98	1.03
Compared to other classes, the amount I learned in this course was:	4.00	0.63	3.63	1.05	3.52	1.06
Compared to requirements in other classes, the workload assigned in this class was:	4.50	0.84	3.59	1.00	3.27	1.09

Please respond to the following questions about the instructor (**Kevin Leach**).

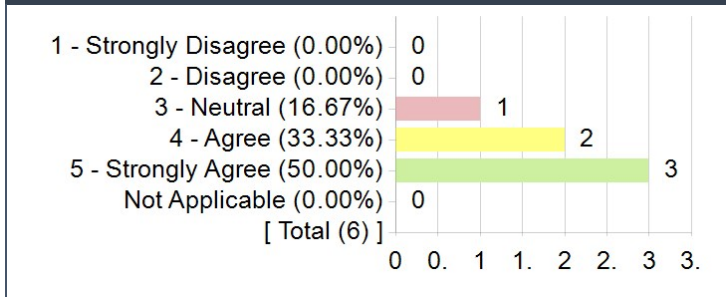


Overall, the instructor (Kevin Leach) was:



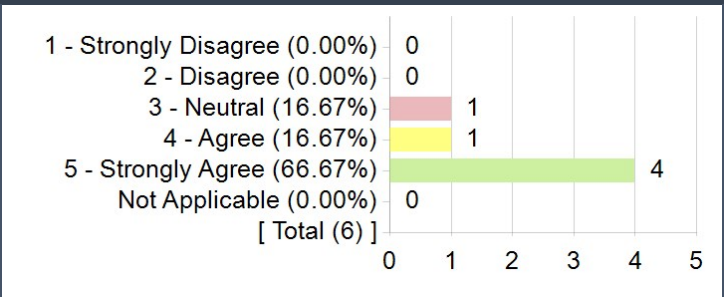
Questions About This Course (CS 3276, 5276 01):

1. This course helped me appreciate the significance of the subject matter.



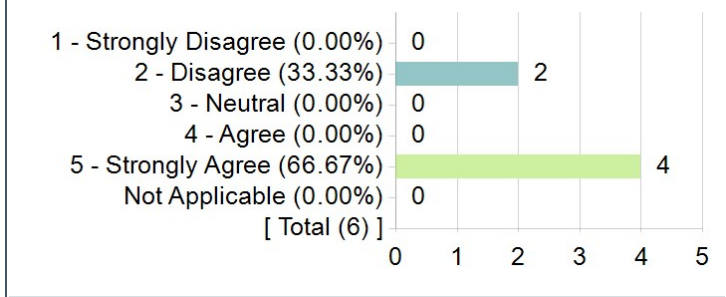
Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.33
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.82

2. The components of the course, such as class activities, assessments, and assignments, were consistent with the course goals.



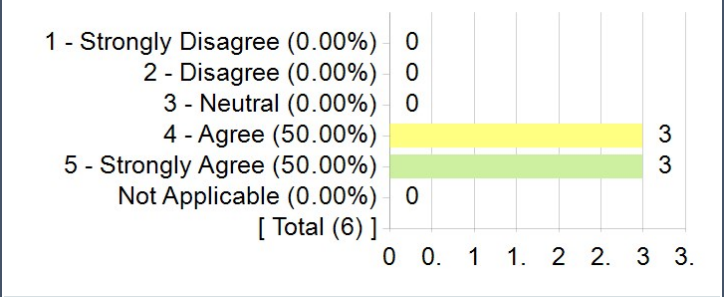
Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.50
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.84

3. The feedback I received during the course was helpful.



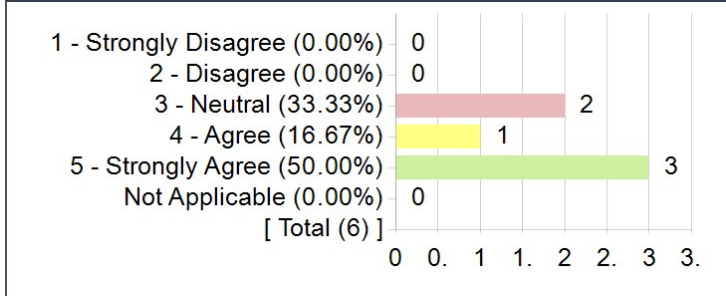
Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.00
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	1.55

4. I felt comfortable asking questions in this course.



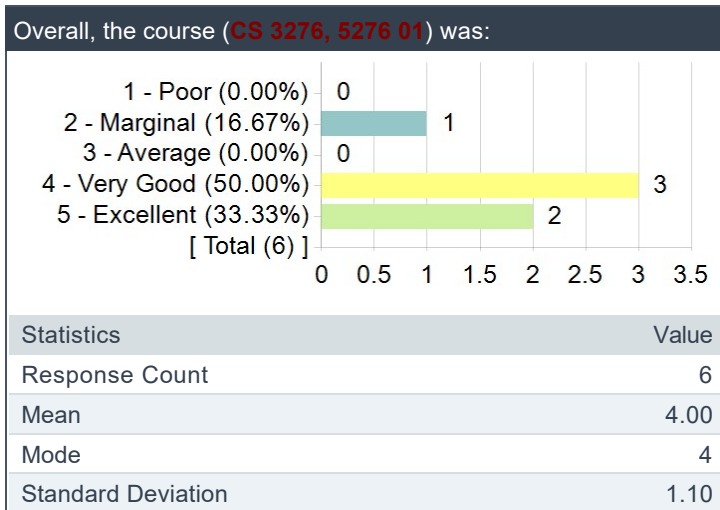
Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.50
Mode	4, 5
Standard Deviation	0.55

5. This course helped me consider connections between course material and other areas of my personal, academic, or professional life.

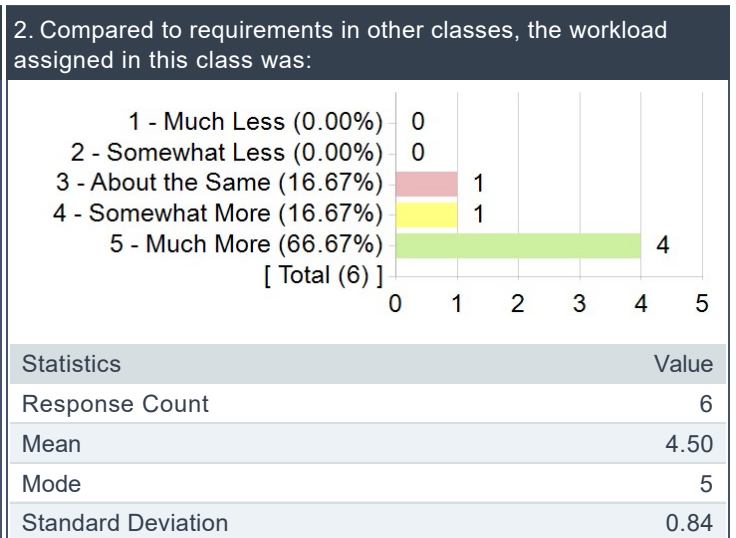
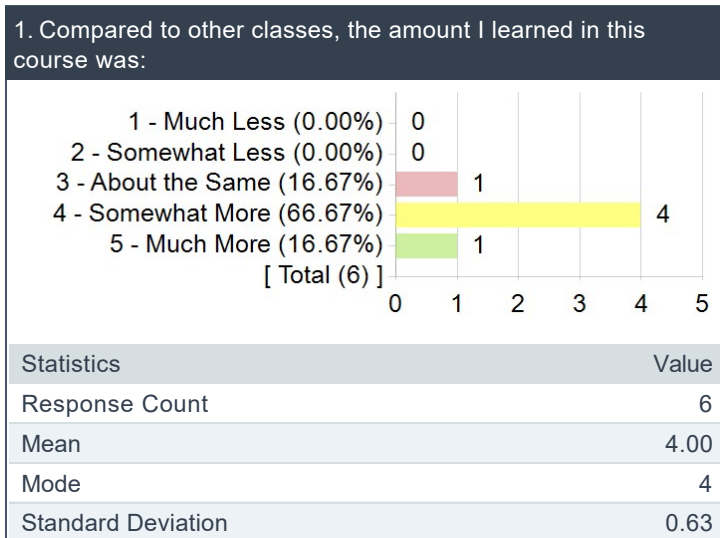


Statistics	Value
Response Count	6
Mean	4.17
Mode	5
Standard Deviation	0.98

Overall the course was:



Questions About This Course (CS 3276, 5276 01):



What elements of the course (CS 3276, 5276 01) most contributed to your learning?

Comments
The class presentations are where a majority of the actual learning occurs, at least for me. It feels like a lot of the assignments are just busy work.
I really enjoyed the projects. Hardest CS projects I've ever had in my life, but I thought working on these were very rewarding, especially PA5. Having 4 late days was indispensable to getting the projects done. Exams were tough but very fair.
Learned a lot from doing PA It is nice having candies in the course for asking questions. I need that sugar boost especially that late in the afternoon The little bonus slides where we talk about some other topics as a break is really good. I wish you can do it more. The lecture is quite dry and dense so I find it really hard to stay focused the whole time and having a fun break really helps
I think the fact the you are clearly passionate about this subject is really good and is infectious.
The organization of the course was great. I love when a professor actually has all of the course materials, assignments, and schedule available from the outset. Going from frontend to backend with the assignments lining up with lectures worked very well. The PA4 checkpoint was very useful.
The programming assignments.

What improvements to the course (CS 3276, 5276 01) would you recommend?

Comments
Sometimes, when answering student questions, instructor is too verbose: The passivity of the speech and the length of the response makes it difficult to decipher the answer to questions. Information about office hours should be more clearly communicated/updated. Needs to pay more attention to the class sometimes, had to watch people slowly lower their hands, realising their question will not be answered.
On Lecture Slides: I wish there was a summary page to each slides that summarize the core ideas of the lecture. I hope there is more overview. I got lost a lot during the lecture as we dive into the technical details and it will be helpful to recap what we are discussing and why we are discussing it every now and then.
On lecture: I think the lecture can be better if instead of merely going off the lecture slides, you start by explaining the concepts in the way you understand them, particularly their logical connections and how they work together. (like an intuitive overview). During the lectures, I often feel that different concepts are just thrown out here and there and I have no idea how those concepts relate to what are talking about.
It will be great if you can also pay more attention to whether students understand the lecture. Sometimes, this class just feels like you are going off a big monologue, and most of us(at least me and a few friends) are just completely lost. The lecture is also a bit dry. Perhaps, incorporating more real-life stories or personal experiences with the compiler will help
I think allowing students to target other ISAs like Arm or Risc-V for PA5 and PA6 would be a nice expansion since students interested in embedded systems may want to work with Arm and the architecture/systems courses here work with Risc-V already. More importantly, I think the PA4 checkpoint concept should be leveraged more. There should be a PA5 checkpoint (i.e. get Hello-World.cl and a subset of expressions implemented) and the checkpoints should be required in a low-stakes way. This could be like "5% of the PA(4/5) grade comes from passing 75% of the checkpoint tests by the checkpoint due date" so that it's not a huge deal if a student misses the checkpoint, but there is real incentive to have the startup work of the assignment done early.
1. It would have been better if the exams are easier and the programming assignments are more difficult (use more difficult and faster language than Python but easier language than C/C++ like Java). 2. The extra credit questions could be easier than the current ones. Currently, it is not easy to get full scores in extra credit questions. 3. The homework grading rubric for adding detailed comments should be removed, because Hyperscale AI can generate comments very easily. I think this is somewhat unfair. 4. Split 3000-level and 5000-level as separate courses. Thus, for graduate section, use ANTLR v4 and Xtext to build a COOL compiler, because this will help some students to conduct research in domain specific languages. 5. You can delete all the videos made by UMich videos as they are outdated and not really helpful for this course. I think just showing your videos is better because it makes the course to look more original as well. Thus, I think you can add more videos to demonstrate how to debug our code using COOL reference compiler. 6. The lecture slides could be perhaps redesigned in Professor Huang's style. I personally like her lecture slides' design. (Just a minor thing. Don't spend time doing this of course as this is not productive way to improve the course)

Do you have any other comments?

Comments

Could not ask questions as I was afraid of having candy thrown at me: 10/10 class

There should be an another professor teaching the compiler course to allow students to have more options.