

# 2018W1 Student Evaluation of Teaching Report for GEOG 250 101/URST 200 101(URST 200 101 - CITIES,GEOG 250 101 - CITIES) (Elvin Wyly)

Project Title: **University of British Columbia Course Evaluation 2018 Winter**

Course Audience: **188**

Responses Received: **63**

Response Ratio: **33.51%**

## Report Comments

### Percent Favourable Rating

This is the percentage of respondents who rated the instructor a 4 or 5 (Agree or Strongly Agree).

### Interpolated Median

The data collected for Student Evaluations of Teaching (SEoT) are ordinal in nature, with a natural order (from 1 to 5). While the mean may be used as a measure of central tendency for such data, it is not an appropriate or accurate representation of SEoT data (cf. Stark & Freishtat, 2014). The usual measure of central tendency for ordinal data is the median. As a result, we have been reporting the mean and the median for the last several years. Because students more often provide higher ratings (4 or 5), the median is consistently higher than the mean. After considerable thought and data modeling, we now believe that the interpolated median is the best representation of the data, since it takes the frequency distribution into account. Consider the following example:

Frequency Distribution		
Response for UMI	Class 1	Class 2
5 = Strongly agree	13	4
4 = Agree	26	43
3 = Neither agree nor disagree	35	32
2 = Disagree	20	11
1 = Strongly disagree	6	10
Mean	3.2	3.2
Median	3.0	3.0
Interpolated Median	3.2	3.4
Percent Favourable Rating	39%	47%

In this example, the two classes have identical mean (3.2) and median (3.0). However, the instructor in class 2 received 47% favourable (4-5) ratings, compared to 39% for the instructor in class 1. While both have a Median of 3, the Interpolated median values of (3.2 and 3.4), much better reflects the distribution of the scores above and below the median. Furthermore, the interpolated median is better correlated with percent favourable rating; such that an interpolated median of 3.5 on a Likert scale of 1 to 5, corresponds to 50% favourable rating.

Creation Date: **Monday, February 11, 2019**

## Dispersion Index

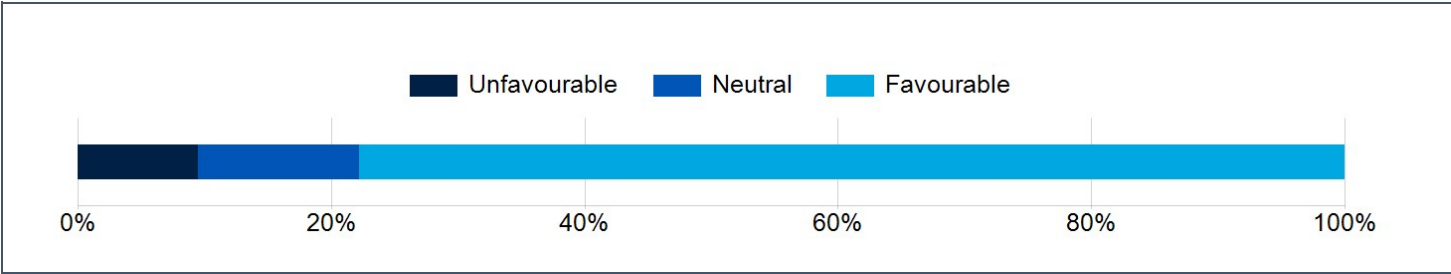
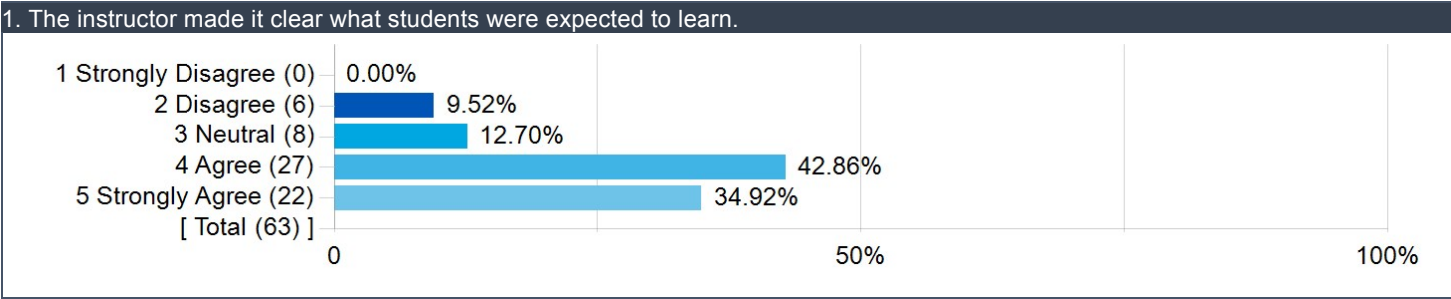
The dispersion Index is a measure of variability suitable for ordinal data (Rampichini, Grilli & Petrucci 2004). This dispersion index has values between zero and 1. A zero dispersion index indicates that all students in the section gave the same rating to the instructor. An index value of 1.0 is obtained when the class splits evenly between the two extreme values (Strongly Disagree & Strongly Agree), a very rare occurrence. In SEoT data at UBC, the index rarely exceeds 0.85, and mostly for evaluations not meeting the minimum recommended response rate.

## Recommended minimum response rates

<b>Class Size</b>	<b>Recommended Minimum Response Rates based on 80% confidence &amp; <math>\pm 10\%</math> margin</b>
< 10	75%
11 - 19	65%
20 - 34	55%
35 - 49	40%
50 - 74	35%
75 - 99	25%
100 - 149	20%
150 - 299	15%
300 - 499	10%
> 500	5%

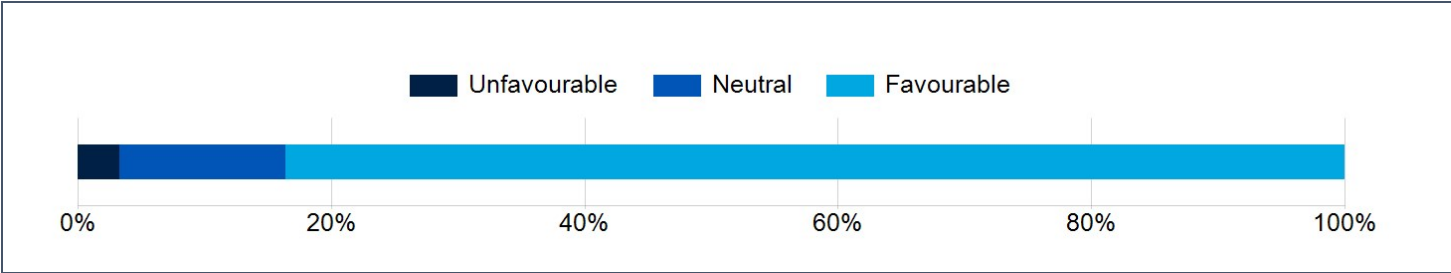
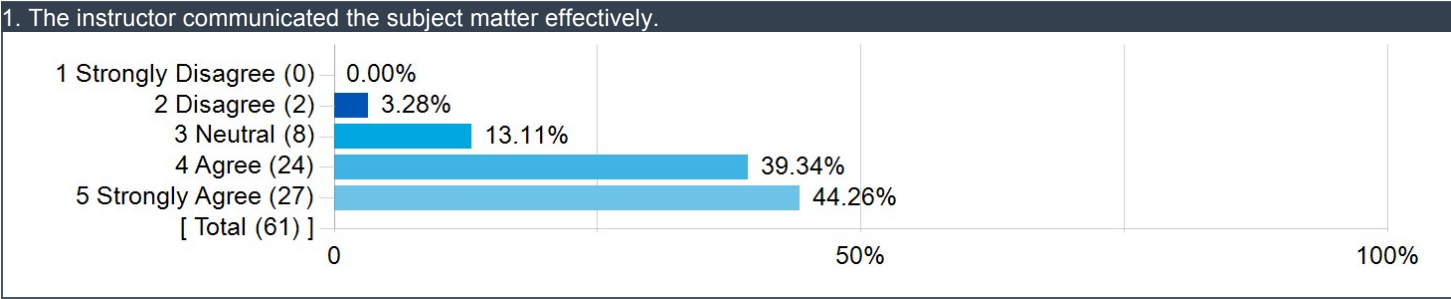
UBC-Wide Questions

The instructor made it clear what students were expected to learn.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
188	63	33.51%	77.78%	4.15	0.49

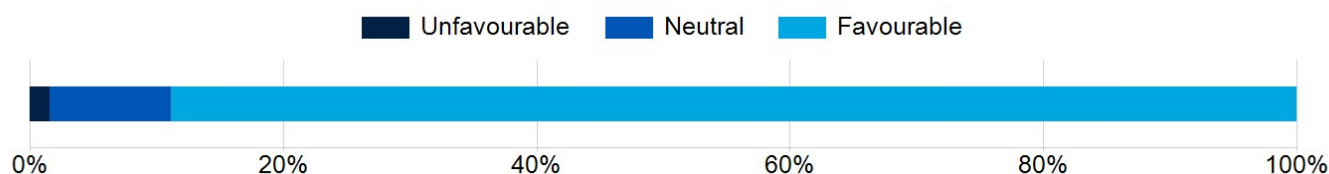
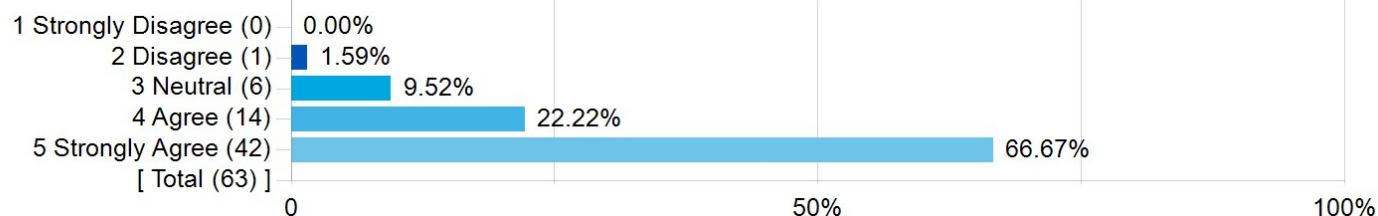
The instructor communicated the subject matter effectively.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
188	61	32.45%	83.61%	4.35	0.42

# The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.

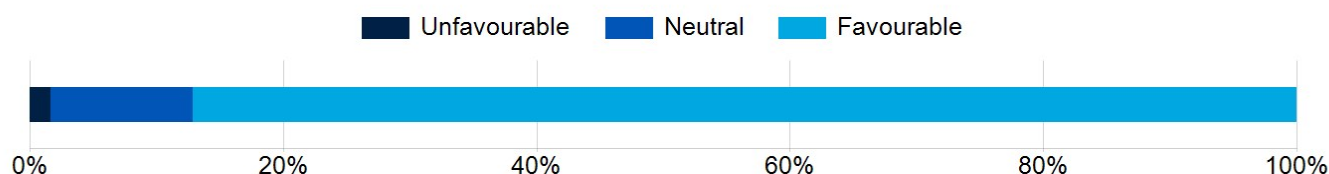
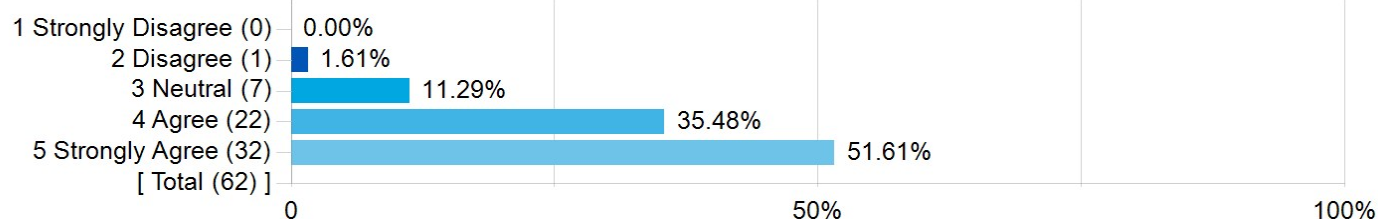
## 1. The instructor helped inspire interest in learning the subject matter.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
188	63	33.51%	88.89%	4.75	0.34

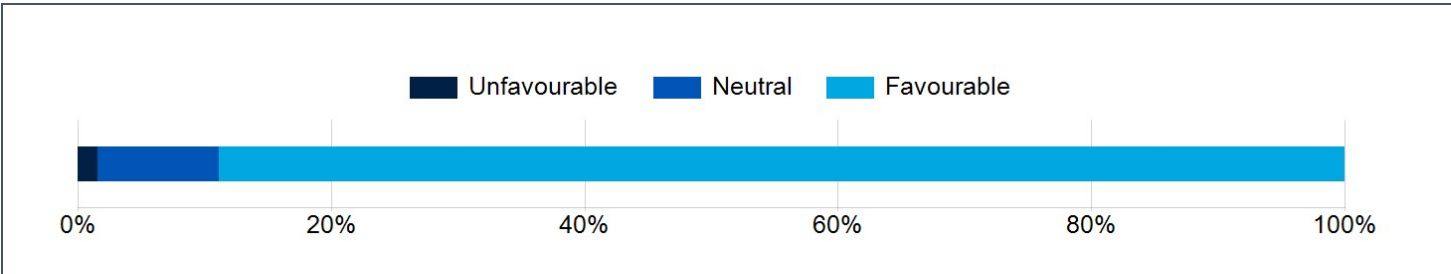
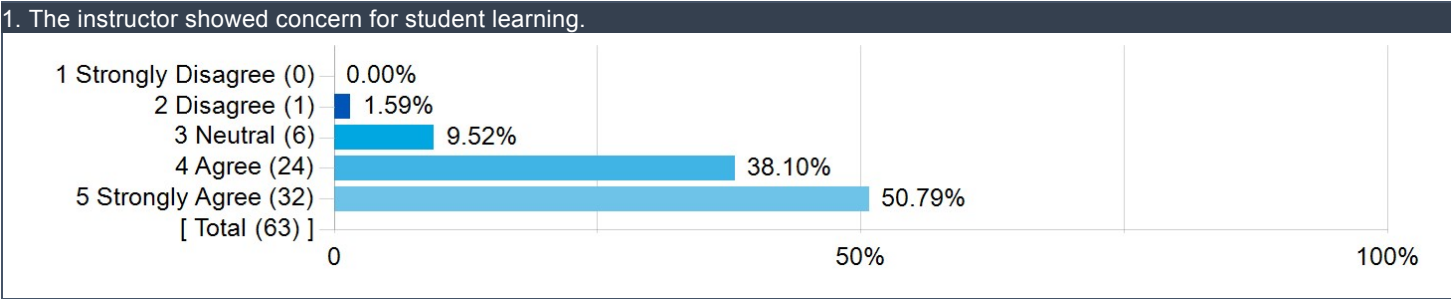
# Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.

## 1. Overall, evaluation of student learning (through exams, essays, presentations, etc.) was fair.



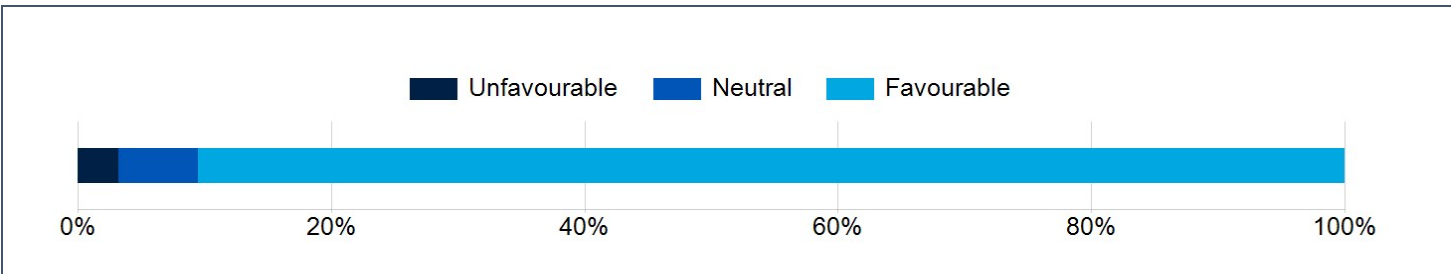
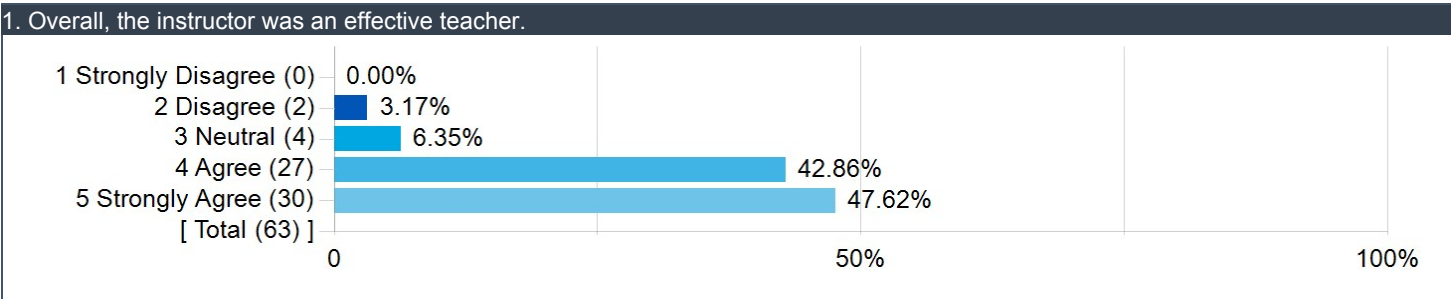
Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
188	62	32.98%	87.10%	4.53	0.38

The instructor showed concern for student learning.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
188	63	33.51%	88.89%	4.52	0.36

Overall, the instructor was an effective teacher.

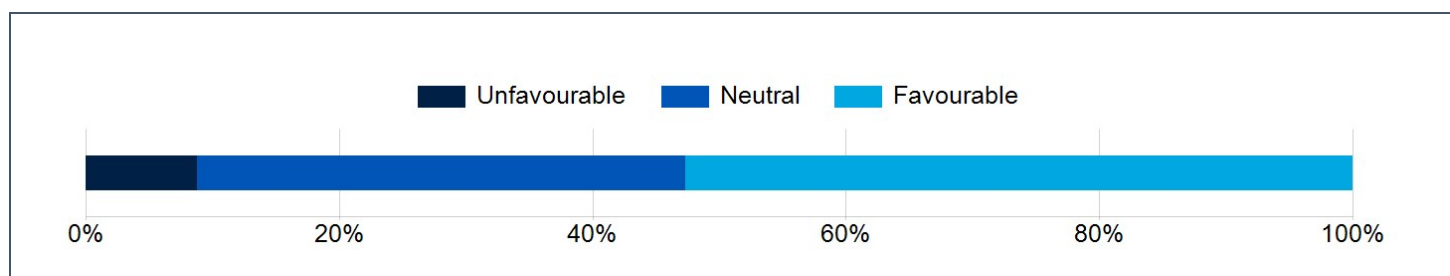
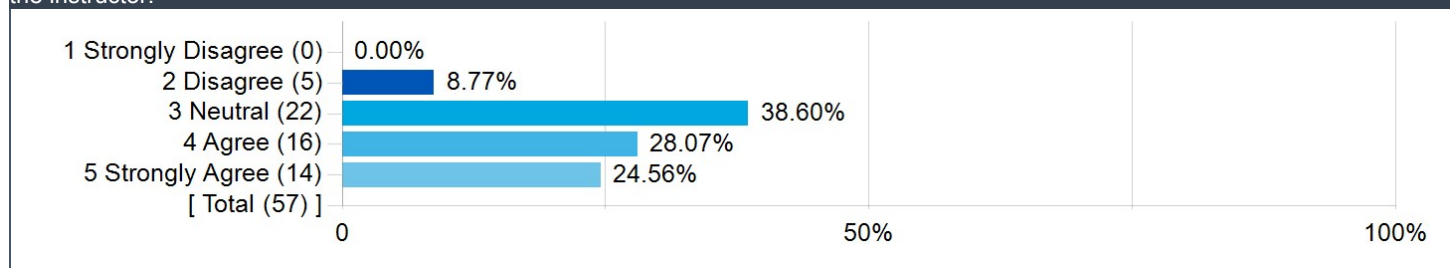


Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
188	63	33.51%	90.48%	4.44	0.37

## Faculty of Arts

**In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.**

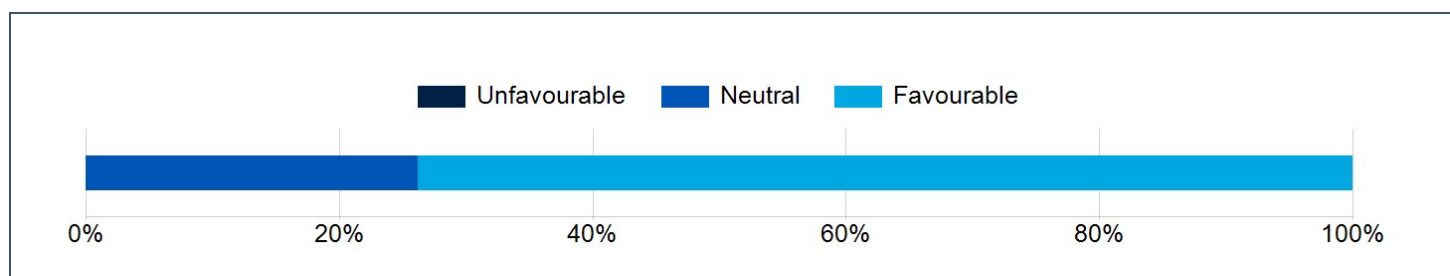
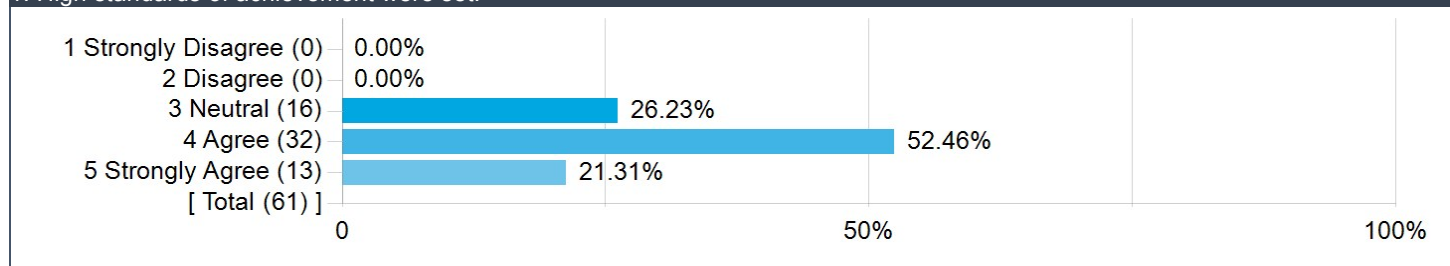
1. In classes where the size of the class and content of the course were appropriate, student participation in class was encouraged by the instructor.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	57	0.00%	52.63%	3.59	0.51

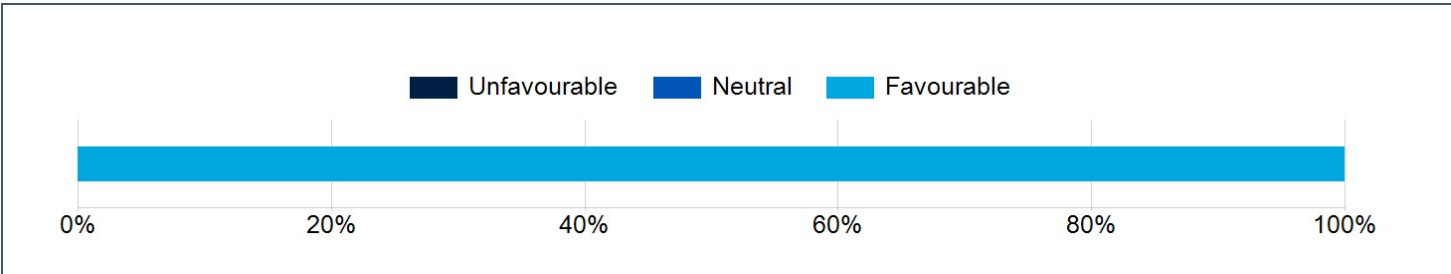
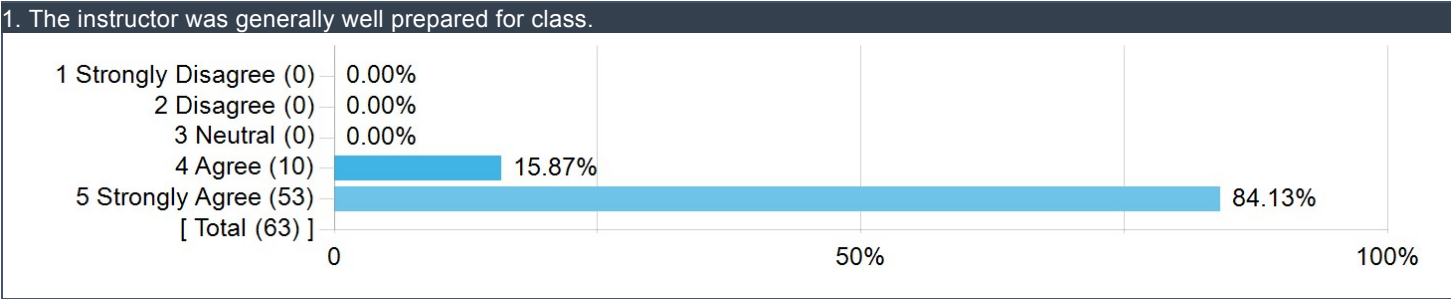
**High standards of achievement were set.**

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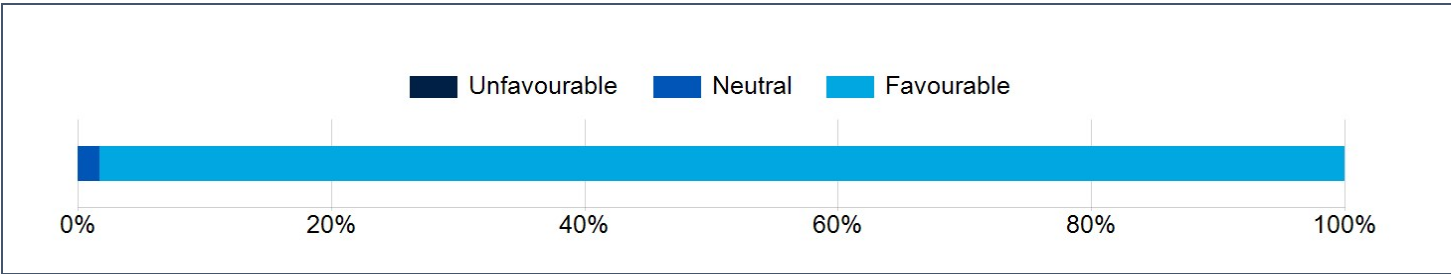
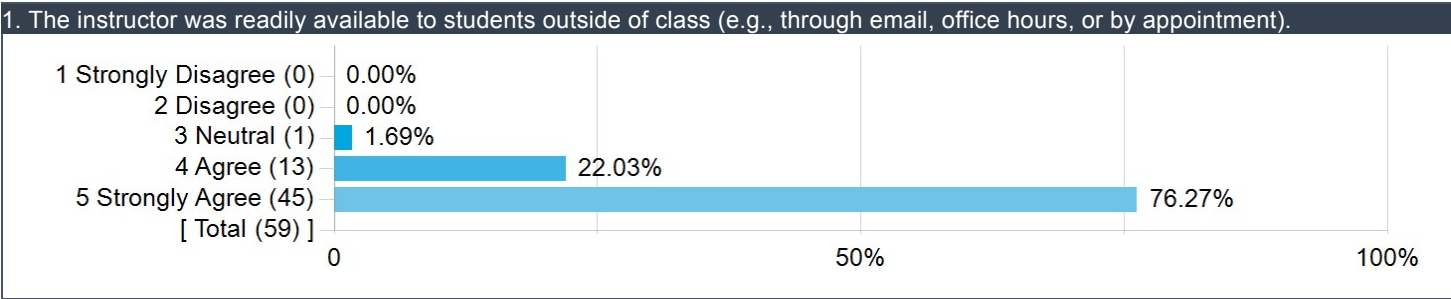
Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	61	0.00%	73.77%	3.95	0.36

The instructor was generally well prepared for class.



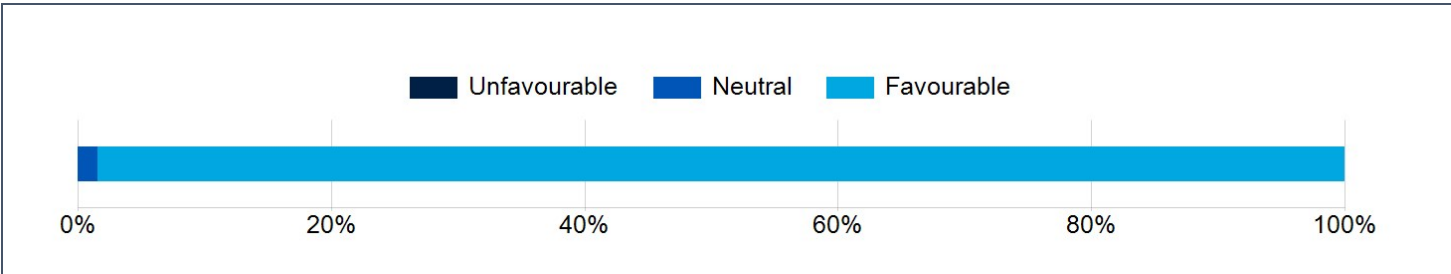
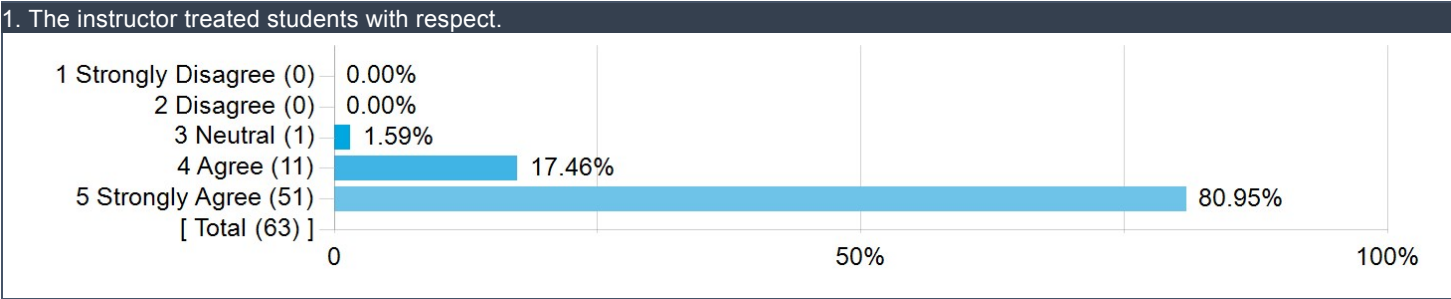
Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	63	0.00%	100.00%	4.91	0.13

The instructor was readily available to students outside of class (e.g., through email, office hours, or by appointment).



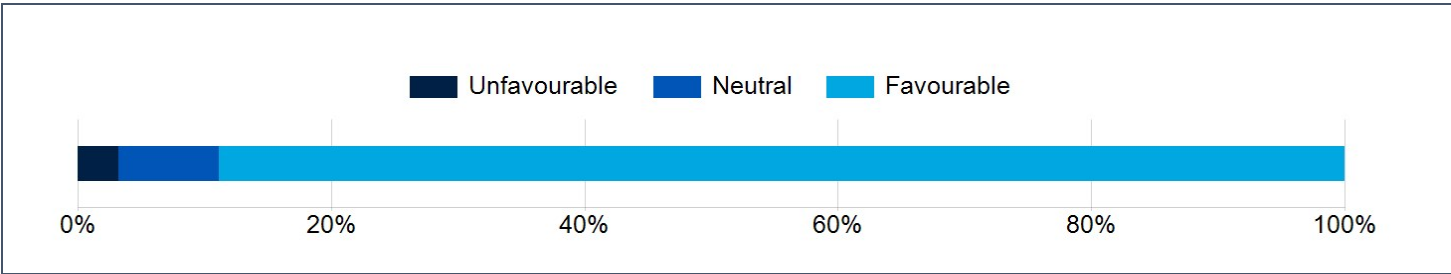
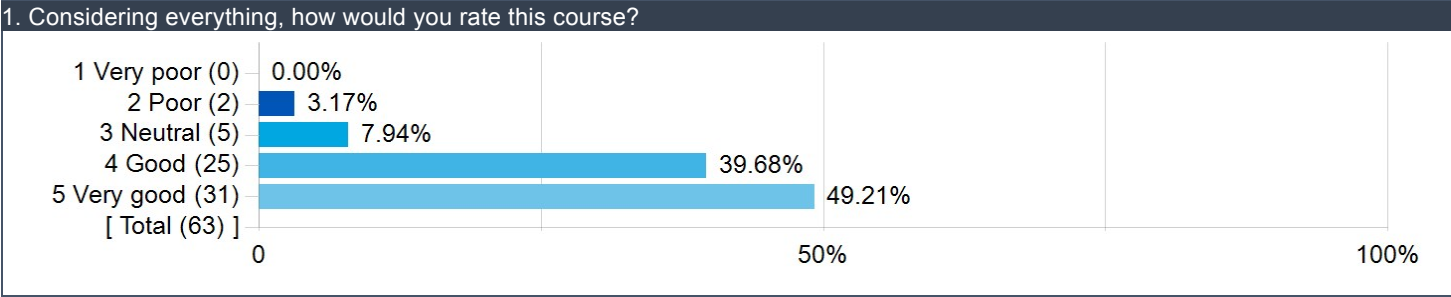
Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	59	0.00%	98.31%	4.84	0.20

The instructor treated students with respect.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	63	0.00%	98.41%	4.88	0.17

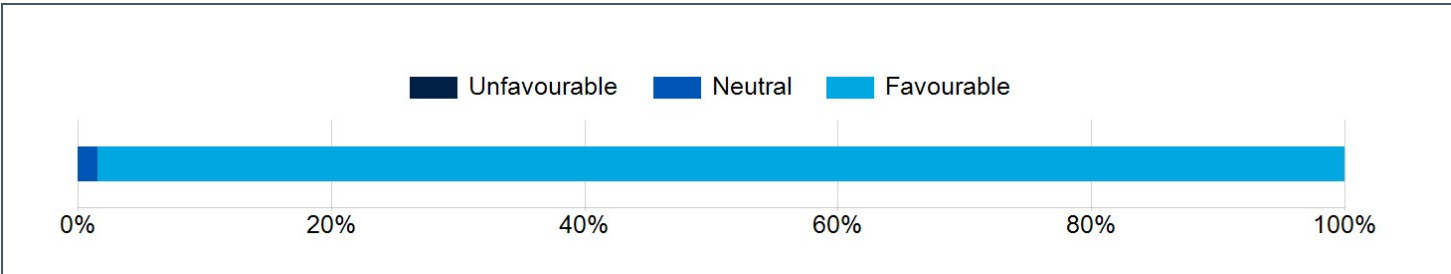
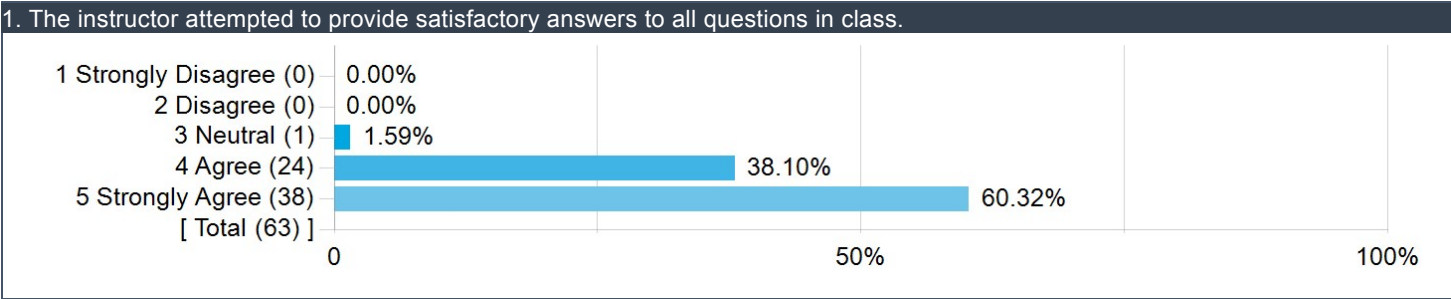
Considering everything, how would you rate this course?



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	63	0.00%	88.89%	4.48	0.38

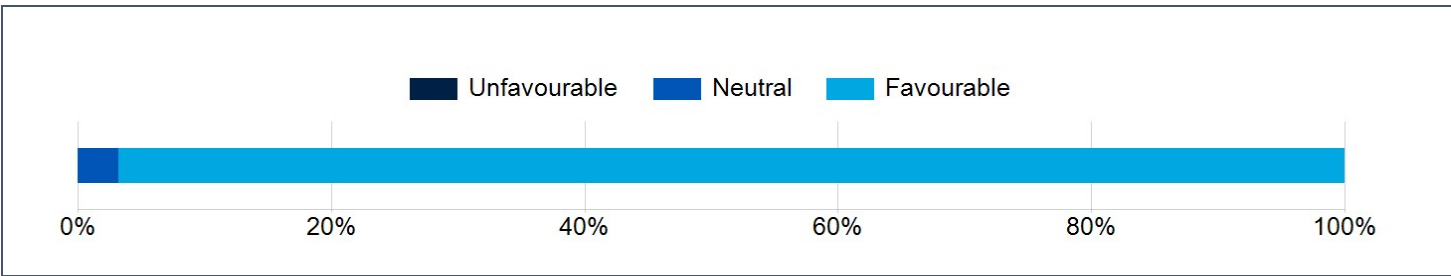
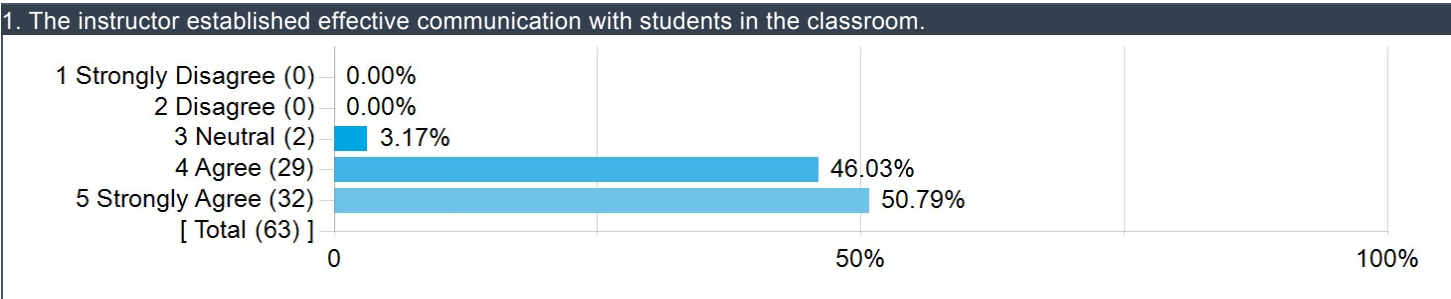


The instructor attempted to provide satisfactory answers to all questions in class.



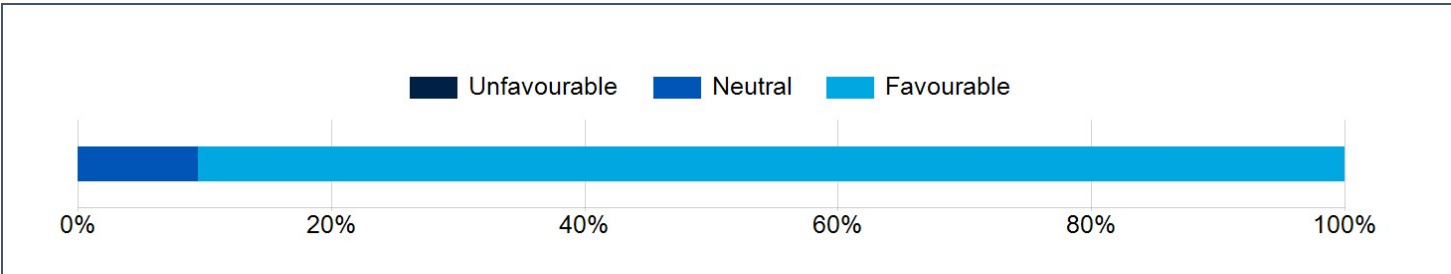
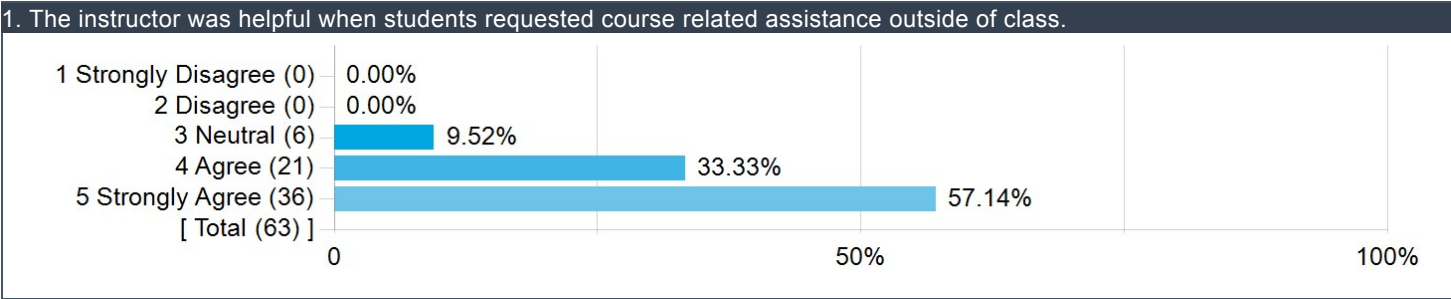
Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	63	0.00%	98.41%	4.67	0.25

The instructor established effective communication with students in the classroom.



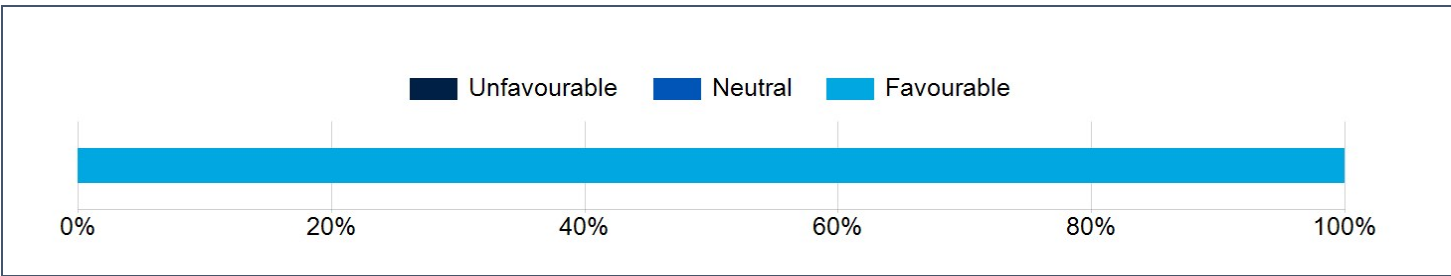
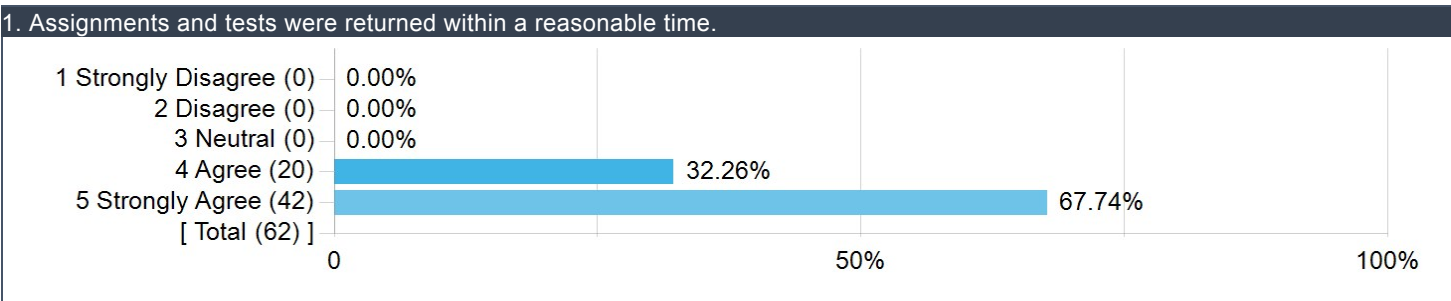
Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	63	0.00%	96.83%	4.52	0.28

The instructor was helpful when students requested course related assistance outside of class.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	63	0.00%	90.48%	4.63	0.33

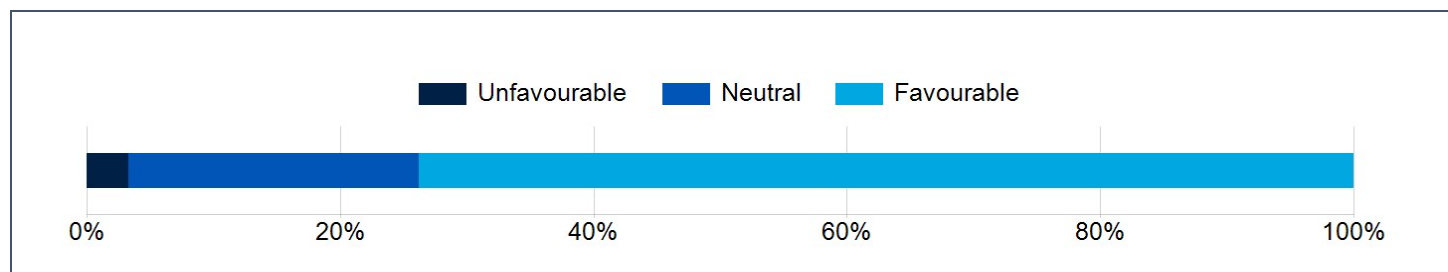
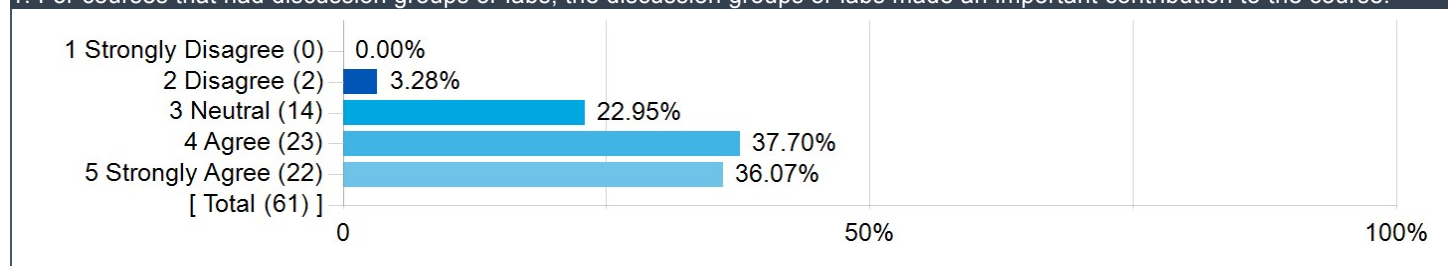
Assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time.



Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	62	0.00%	100.00%	4.76	0.22

## For courses that had discussion groups or labs, the discussion groups or labs made an important contribution to the course.

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Invited Count	Response Count	Response Rate	Favourable	Interpolated Median	Dispersion Index - Ordinal
0	61	0.00%	73.77%	4.13	0.46

## Open Ended Feedback

Please comment on course content, or any aspects, positive or negative, of your instructor's teaching, attitudes to students, class atmosphere, or any other matters affecting the quality of instruction that you consider worthy of note.

Comments
I wish that his website was more clear and easy to use or to use Canvas instead. Overall, I loved the course material and it inspired me. I wish there were more courses like this because I would love to continue studying cities.
Dr. Wyly is an engaging professor who taught course material well. I really enjoyed his class but I also liked how he was very passionate about the topics and current events. I thought his lectures were effective and inspiring. I like how we also had 3 chances to turn in our paper!
I think that the discussion classes could be more fruitful if we talked more in-depth about the discussion readings themselves. Often, I felt that the discussion classes did not quite complement the readings and so it would be great if we could analyze the texts even more! Otherwise, I appreciated the class atmosphere as I felt that every student's opinion mattered.
Very good teacher, but the lectures were quite dry.
Professor Wyly mentioned at the start of the semester that he has received comments in the past about his emotional reactions to certain content during some of his lectures. However I feel that his expression of those emotions added to my experience in the class. Professor Wyly has a real and deep interest and passion for what he teaches and this was evident through his real life examples and stories, as well as his reactions to content covered in the course. Professor Wyly was very knowledgeable and friendly to everyone and especially those who went to visit him during office hours.
Thanks Elvin! I like the course content a lot !
Great prof and very interesting course but which his slides were clearer and with less quotes but more explicit explanations. Always responded to emails very rapidly and even very late at night ! Always there to help the students and does everything he can for them !
The discussion being held really helped expand thinking in a subject that requires many different viewpoints. The instructor showed no bias and clearly communicated ways of thinking about topics in new ways.
This class was incredible! Professor Wyly was an inspiring, enthusiastic, articulate, and passionate teacher who made every class super interesting. One of the best profs I've had at UBC so far, and despite the course content being so multidisciplinary and diverse, Prof. Wyly managed to easily tie it all together so it was never confusing. In addition, the content (case studies, historical

Comments
examples, books, documentaries, etc.) that Prof. Wyly chose to go with the lectures really enhanced the course content.
The topics in the course are interesting and relevant however, I think by all means, that it is unacceptable that the teacher shows his political opinions very clearly in the material. A course is supposed to be neutral, from the material, I can make up my own opinion, today the course is biased. Even though I agree with many of the opinions, it is not okay. Especially not when the majority of the class is 19–20 years old and very open for new opinions. I am here as an exchange student from Sweden, I am very chocked that this is happening in a top university in Canada. Fact is supposed to be fact!
The teacher also have a very pessimistic way of seeing different parts of the world, especially the poor parts such as Africa. I would recommend Professor Wyly to read Hans Rosling's book Factfulness, the world is not as bad as he thinks.
Professor Wyly had very extensive knowledge of the course material, almost to a point that it was tough to comprehend. Lecture slides were well created, but at times tough to follow due to the number of words on them. He did a very good job at answering questions in class and returned marks faster than any other teacher I have ever had.
I thought the midterm exam was difficult as I struggle with multiple choice, but he addressed that issue for the students in the final exam. Very nice prof.
The instructor was engaging, and showed a clear passion for the course content.
my discussion group sessions effectively helped me in several ways, not only by revising briefly what was said in the lectures but also introducing new ideas and theories of other urbanists, we learned in a very interactive and fun way, Zoe, my TA, offered me so much help, encouraged me and always gave me a lot of support and advice in my work.
Elvin's passion for cities was extremely evident and that was enjoyable. The lecture slides, while informative, made it difficult to tell what was a key concept, what was an important example, and what could be a more fluffy type of example. The readings were very hard to digest and because they were written at such a high level, it made it hard for me to understand it. The website was nice but like the lecture slides, there was just so much information. It was hard to distinguish what the key points were. It would be nice, for example, if the term paper had a downloadable PDF with all the guidelines, rubrics, and requirements in an easy to access place instead of strolling through paragraphs and paragraphs of text just to figure out what the font or spacing should be. I suppose it comes down to this—For most of the term, I didn't feel that I'm smart enough for the class. No matter how hard I tried, it felt like the majority of concepts went way over my head.
Elvin goes above and beyond to help students learn. His stories, experiences and theoretical knowledge contribute to course content, and he consistently demonstrates significant respect for his students and TA's. He encourages scholarly conversation and hard work, and allows everyone to pursue their interests via course projects. As a professor, he is exceptional.
At the beginning of th term, I was sceptical about the course and I was not sure if I would like it, I feared that it would remain superficial. But the more we went through the semester, the more I loved the class which acted like a revelation to me, as it convinced me that I wanted to continue my studies in the field of urban politics.
Elvin was extremely willing to go above and beyond for his students. He showed this in his great availability for office hours as well I reached out multiple times looking for guidance concerning projects and he was very helpful and showed a lot of concern for my success by gathering about 5 relevant articles each time I reached out. He is a very passionate instructor and clearly cares a lot about the course and his students. Overall a really great class! I learned a lot!
This course is definitely one of the best courses I have taken here in UBC. Not only is the course taught in a very creative manner which is very memorable, Dr. Wyly is also able to engage with the students constantly, making this course a very inspiring and fruitful experience.
One of the strengths of this class are Elvin's clear passion for the topic. Each class he comes in enthusiastic and genuinely caring for the topic that we are covering that day. Elvin also provides a lot of resources on his websites, which is very helpful. Two critiques I have for this class though, are that the lecture slides are a little overwhelming. All of the information on them is valuable, but it makes it hard to take notes in class and listen to Elvin speak. Additionally, it makes it difficult to know which information we should be internalizing, prioritizing, and learning. Additionally, I think more student engagement (like asking questions ,etc.) would improve the class a lot.
Slides and website were difficult to follow. Maybe Dr. Wyly could work with a student or two to design a more efficient system :)
This course was interesting and very thought-provoking. A bit strange at times but I enjoyed it.
Dr. Wyly was by far my favourite teacher of the semester. Actually, he's my favourite prof at UBC. Not only are his lectures engaging, they are inspiring. I leave each class feeling like I've gained actual insight about the world. It feels kind of like a philosophy class sometimes and I love this about it. Of all the classes I've taken at UBC, this has been the class that has most affected how I think about the world we live in and how humans treat one another. This class has really helped me grow as a person. Thank you Dr. Wyly!
Course is info-heavy. It would be interesting in future for it to focus on analysis rather than names and references throughout the course that is expected to be memorized for exams
Some of the lectures seemed not to be related to the actual course material; went off on a tangent a few times. However, the professor was very passionate throughout many of his lectures which made most of the topics interesting. His enthusiasm and

Comments
dedication for what he taught was what i consider the highlight of the course.
The number of readings was overwhelming. I enjoyed the subject matter, but would have appreciated if each of the lectures related to one another a little more, so that there was a more continuous arc to the course.
Great class overall.
I loved the course and Elvin sought to inspire all his students which is very refereshing at UBC. Went out of his way to make sure we were learning and inspired.
This course provided a interdisciplinary outlook on the complex systems that are cities. I was able to develop the ability to think critically about our contemporary urban world, drawing on past urban developments and phenomena, as well as on various theorists (which we were able to discuss and analyze in the discussion sessions).
As for the evalutions, I believe the two deadlines for the essays to be a very interesting system: it fosters discussion about our writings and gives us the opportunity to engage in further reflection about our subject matters. One note on the midterm exam however: I believe we would benefit from a short answer essay part in the exam, that would allow us to better engage with the course material than simply a MCQ exam.
Wonderful introduction to urban geography. The course was structured so that material was made relevant by using contemporary examples from Vancouver and other global cities. A great job was done in introducing the large variety of disciplines that are important when observing how a city and its people function— from the people and landscape to the economy and political structures.
it was a bit difficult to draw connections between each lectures because each lectures was so different
The teacher is very enthusiastic about the course and is a really nice person at heart. Loved the class and the course
Professor Wyly puts in a lot of effort into his course material. The slides always include photos he has taken himself and he scans newspaper articles that are related to the course. He also supplements the course material with videos which helps aid in keeping us attentive. I also really respect and appreciate the multiple essay submissions, I strongly feel that all courses should do this.
Elvin is extremely passionate about urban studies, and is very knowledgeable about everything relating to cities. I seriously don't know how he can remember so many things. The walking tour at the beginning of the year was a great start to the course. The course itself does not follow a clear line of topic. Every lecture is completely different, which some people may like, but I prefer some continuity. I am very grateful that he posts his lecture slides, but they are hard to read with all the colours and overlapping images/texts.
The slides of this course can be better. If Dr.Wyly can adjust the front size larger and divided things in different slides, it will be easier to read and make notes.
This course was extremely eye-opening and definitely help me engage in concepts within the metropolis that I was looking to learn more about. The content was very engaging and the instructor effectively communicated ideas in class, along with very helpful examples and opinions. I wish that the presentations and content online were more easy to understand, so that following up with class material wasn't so time consuming.
I found it really helpful that the instructor gave multiple dates for project submissions and insight into what content the final exam will be evaluating. I found the grading scheme a bit harsh on the projects, despite these resubmissions, and the feedback was not as helpful as anticipated. It was also very hard to know what to study for the midterm, as we learned a lot of material and could have easily been tested on anything, thus making it very overwhelming to study for.
I really admired the passion of the teacher. It inspires you to understand the subject matter and appreciate cities from other perspectives.
I enjoyed listening to Wyly lecture. His stories and teaching style was very good. I'm going to be honest though, I didn't expect the course to focus so heavily on theories, I was expecting more of a physical understanding of cities and the layout of future cities. I also found the tutorials a little useless but again this could be attributed to my lack of interest in the course. Overall I would say the course was alright, not really what I expected but the profs lectures made up for it.
Professor Elvin's class was fun and interesting. I like that he kept updating the class slides so that we get the most recent information as much as possible. I like the video example that he gave in the class and it would be wonderful that he can put up the link so that we can watch it again later.
We have a good class atmosphere by combining both short video clips and PPT.
Overall, I think it is an interesting course and Professor Wyly does a great job by sharing his passion towards the topic with the students. However, I believe there are many aspects that can be improved for the course to be better.
One of the aspects, and perhaps the most important from my point of view, that can be improved in this course has to do with a non-biased approach to the topics covered. I remember at the beginning of the term the instructor clearly pointed out to us that he "wouldn't tell us WHAT to think, but HOW to think". That was a good thing to know, especially because I strongly believe that is the correct approach for teaching. However, as the term went by and we started talking about some political aspects related to cities,

Comments
<p>the instructor wasn't able to maintain a neutral position with regard to these topics. Most of the lectures containing political topics were present to us with a clear bias towards leftist ideologies. It is important to mention that I am not judging the professor's political ideologies, but only that these shouldn't be mixed with the class material. Course material should be presented in a neutral way, with an emphasis on the facts, not on the instructor's interpretation of the facts. If personal political ideologies are to be included, it would be reasonable at least to present both sides of the argument, so students can actually decide which position to take. A clear example that was pushed through quite often was related to American politics. Important to mention as well that I am neither American nor a supporter of any political party in the United States. In different occasions, the instructor presented material that was clearly criticizing right-wing politicians or Republicans. Particularly, attacking Donald Trump, we even had to watch a long video that was a subjective critique to Donald Trump's politics. On the other hand, left-wing politicians or Democrats were praised. An example would be how that before and after the midterm elections, we got presented with material pro-Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Some of the discussion readings were also very left-skewed. There are many other examples that show how material was non-neutral and had a certain political bias. It would be better for students if teaching remained objective and based on facts.</p>
<p>Another aspect that can be improved is the website. This is clearly a very important one since it is the place in which students access all the important information that is relevant for the course throughout the term. I understand the instructor's opinion about why he doesn't switch to Canvas, but I believe that it is for the benefit of the students to do so. The website is highly ineffective and confusing. It is hard to find whatever you are looking for because you get bombarded with big chunks of text (in different sizes and colours) that have no logical structure. It is poorly designed and offers little value because students end up asking either the TA or the instructor for clarification. It is better to have a place in which information is organized and only the most relevant things are carefully selected rather than having information that serves no purpose.</p>
<p>Finally, the lecture slides are very hard to follow. It is a similar case than the one previously mentioned for the website. Information is just presented with no clear structure. Slides are full of text of different colours and sizes, with images and graphs appearing on top of it. I believe that a more efficient way of teaching is carefully selecting the most essential pieces of information and visuals, and to explain those in the lecture. Slides should have little text and more visuals, and they should only be there to compliment the teaching, not to be teachers themselves. This is relevant since the way they are built right now provides no incentive for students to attend the lecture. You learn exactly the same by going or not going to the lecture since all the material covered in the lecture is included in the slides anyways, with the exception of the videos presented. I believe this is a really important issue and should be something to take into consideration for future terms.</p>
<p>This course has been one of my favourite courses in my 3 years at UBC. The instructor was extremely passionate and it was contagious. He was even able to make some changes to the course to meet the needs of students. The multiple essay due dates really allowed me to succeed and it was very much appreciated. I have no negative comments.</p>
<p>Great class. All due to the instructor.</p>
<p>–Dr. Wyly is INCREDIBLY helpful during office hours. He doesn't just provide insightful feedback... he refers students to a wealth of books and resources to help them understand class concepts and improve their term projects!          –Well-organized and engaging lecture. While some topics are reiterated a little too often, Dr. Wyly brings forward a very integrated understanding of cities and theory. His discussion of the co-evolution of technology and humanity was particularly engaging.          –VERY enthusiastic about student learning. Seeing him smile while chatting with him during office hours really illustrates how invested he is in student growth.          –The slides were unique and very visual. Really cool and helpful that he used his own photos!</p>
<p>While I'm only a second year, I can confidently say that Dr. Wyly has been my favorite prof at UBC so far. His passion for student learning is unprecedented and inspiring! The only substantial suggestion I have is that there could be more collaborative projects in this course. Knowledge isn't only produced in a vacuum or by individuals... the convergence of experiences and perspectives is also incredibly valuable.</p>
<p>I really liked this class. It made me very interested in cities and everything related to it. I was however surprised at the amount of theory that was discussed in the class. Although my learning of the many theories was great, I was expecting and hoping for more case studies. I also feel that the class website was, while full of information, quite disorganized..</p>
<p>Big class made it harder to concentrate and interact with the professor and the material.</p>
<p>Generally enjoyed the lectures. Elvin is a capable instructor and it is clear that he is passionate about what he teaches, in turn inciting interest in the course subject for students. It was a bit difficult to understand how the required readings added to the course as the professor would, at times, pull significant portions of the reading into lecture. I appreciated how he made time to meet with students and offered options for evaluations.</p>