

Virginia Tech

Spring 2022 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ME5824: Human-Robot Interaction-ME_5824_21881_202201
Instructor: Dylan Losey *
Response Rate: 20/21 (95.24%)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Dylan Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.70	5.24	5.10	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	6	30.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	14	70.00%										
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/21 (95.24%)	5.70	0.47	6.00	19839	5.24	1.08	6.00	2095	5.10	1.13	5.00		

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1B - The instructor presented the subject matter clearly.

Dylan Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.70	5.01	4.84	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	6	30.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	14	70.00%										
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/21 (95.24%)	5.70	0.47	6.00	19709	5.01	1.25	5.00	2078	4.84	1.28	5.00		

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1C - The instructor provided feedback intended to improve my course performance.

Dylan Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.50	4.97	4.88	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	10.00%										
Agree	(5)	6	30.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	12	60.00%										
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/21 (95.24%)	5.50	0.69	6.00	19676	4.97	1.28	5.00	2073	4.88	1.28	5.00		

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1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:													
1D - The instructor fostered an atmosphere of mutual respect.													
Dylan Losey													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.70	5.35	5.29						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	6	30.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	14	70.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/21 (95.24%)	5.70	0.47	6.00	19693	5.35	1.03	6.00	2075	5.29	1.01	6.00		

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:													
1E - Overall, the instructor's teaching was effective.													
Dylan Losey													
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.47	5.00	4.87						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	5.26%										
Agree	(5)	8	42.11%										
Strongly agree	(6)	10	52.63%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
19/21 (90.48%)	5.47	0.61	6.00	19556	5.00	1.28	5.00	2071	4.87	1.30	5.00		

2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?	
Dylan Losey	
Response Rate	12/21 (57.14%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He helped me understand better how the human and robot can interact in a real life. I was not accustomed to learning strategies for robots, but after I took this class, I found it helpful for both my studying and my research idea. • The concepts were very clear, the presentations were very explanatory, and the in-class participation helped a lot. • Walking through code examples was especially helpful, probably the most helpful part. As someone who has very little experience in AI, seeing how an implementations of examples helped me learn, and I will use and explore the code in the future more. I also appreciate the high level explanations that did not initially delve to deep into the math. • Office Hours was very helpful. Online discussion (and timely reply to the discussions) also helped to facilitate learning especially during off hours. Access to the codes were very helpful. 90% of the learning I did was through parsing the code (its set up and execution). While not all aspects of lecture were covered, I believe the key items were reinforced. • Going through code in lecture really helps my understanding of it. Going through examples with numbers for equations like Bayes Theorem is very helpful. • Clear motivations for each lecture was very helpful • He showed examples, came up with concise explanations, encouraged bidirectional communications, and put up with stupid questions. The best I have had at Tech since undergrad. • I found the instructor's course design and lectures very unique. • Provided helpful answers for questions about course content, homework, and project • Excellent presentation. Covered many topics of HRI. Demonstrated the big picture of the domain. • The slides were very simple and well designed and the discussion questions helped to keep the class engaging. • Since I am a visual learner, it was were very helpful in learning the material when Dr. Losey provided multiple real life examples throughout the course. 	

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3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3A - I have a deeper understanding of the subject matter as a result of this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	12	60.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	8	40.00%								
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	5.40	0.50	5.00	18115	5.11	1.12	5.00	2066	5.00	1.11	5.00

3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

3B - My interest in the subject matter was stimulated by this course.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	5.00%								
Agree	(5)	8	40.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	11	55.00%								
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	5.50	0.61	6.00	18025	4.85	1.35	5.00	2059	4.71	1.35	5.00

4 - 4A - What could you have done to be a better learner?

Response Rate 13/21 (61.9%)

- So far, most lectures and assignments are good.
- I could have tried to read some of the papers that he suggested prior to classes, to get a better understanding or a full picture view of the concept.
- Doing more practice examples/trying to implement/research some of the high level stuff would have been more beneficial. I also feel like I should have showed up to office hours more to ask questions, etc.
- The course was heavy on the recommended reading of papers, but certain topics were not of any significant interest for me hence I mostly skimmed through those papers. I would have probably paid more attention to the key details of the paper and have a good summary sheet of what was done for future reference. Another aspect is the mathematical theory behind some of the concepts. While the course does simplify how certain concepts are used, why they are used (how did they get here, what preceded before, etc.) are not as clear, and I would probably need to go back and read/understand in more depth. Good example is pretty much most of the applications seen involve using a Neural Net. I have to now go back and did deeper on why such a neural net is used and how to set one up.
- N/A
- Read the papers
- Time management
- To drop by his office more.
- Read more of the papers
- Reading the recommended papers before class would have helped me to prepare questions on the material to ask during class but I struggled to keep up with the sheer volume of information presented in the papers and fell behind within the first couple weeks of the course.
- To me. The professor tried to cover a lot of topics. I think this is a problem. Bottom line, I have a high-level understanding of the topics. Not much more profound understanding. This course can easily be divided into two classes to provide in-depth knowledge. The research papers were not helpful as we didn't get time to read those.
- I could have read the recommended papers before class.
- I could have done a better job at learning had I implemented a bit more of the course material in coding.

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5 - 5A - Please add any additional comments regarding the course and/or instructor here:

Dylan Losey

Response Rate 11/21 (52.38%)

- Thanks for the course instruction. It was really great and honor to take this class.
- Nil
- Dr.Losey should teach more courses on pathing, AI, etc. Compared to the other robotics courses offered at Virginia Tech, Dr.Losey is a breath of fresh air - the topics are cutting edge, relevant, and future focused. I am always excited to hear Dr.Losey teach.
- The papers referenced are heavy on the information. If it interests me, I will take time to read it, but if not, more often I would just skim or not even go through the whole paper. On presentation, my general comment is that there is a lot of information usually to present on a paper, and 25 minutes are usually not sufficient in my opinion. I would recommend that if this format does continue, have a presentation example for the students to use as a benchmark, and have a quick tips/tricks mention maybe in the discussions/or some video of a past presentation that went well. On lectures, my main comment is that there are no recorded lectures for reference later. Other classrooms have some kind of recording equipment which prove to be a valuable reference especially with remembering key points/discussions mentioned during lecture.
- Too many journal papers is overwhelming, also one doesn't NEED to read them so its hard to motivate oneself to read them.
- Thank you very much for a very productive series of lectures. Couldn't have asked for more.
- I really enjoyed this class. I enjoyed the fact that we covered a variety of topics and that they were all related back to real life examples and research papers. I also really enjoyed the discussion aspect of the class.
- I understand that the students have different coding experience and the instructor had to design the course in a way that helps everyone. But I wish this course had more coding and hands-on assignments so we could delve deeper into each of the topics.
- The discussion-based format of the class did not fit with my personal learning style. I found the strict participation policy (a minimum of 15 meaningful contributions throughout the semester) to be extremely stressful. The pressure of knowing I had to come up with questions on the spot during class otherwise my grade would suffer became a vicious cycle of social anxiety from worrying about things such as "what question should I ask?" or "is my question 'meaningful' enough to count as participation?" or "when is the best time to raise my hand?" which prevented me from truly focusing and absorbing the material which led to me being unable to come up with questions, and ultimately creating more anxiety. I would prefer to be able to reflect on the material during class without the pressure of forced participation then discuss any questions I may have with my peers or the professor outside of lecture. I appreciate Dr. Losey's efforts to encourage participation, but having a more flexible policy that included other forms of engaging with the material (going to office hours, asking questions via the discussion boards, etc.) for people with social anxiety that struggle with raising their hand in class would have been much more conducive to my personal learning style.
- Dr. Losey is an exceptional teacher. He should take more courses in the ME department. I would be thrilled if he took a course on reinforcement learning. VT Me department has a lot of robotics labs. But not many robotics courses are offered. We need more class from Dr. Losey
- Dr. Losey did a very good job at providing an elaborate insight into the field of Human - Robot Interaction. Every class was very interesting as it would make me think from a perspective I haven't before, and thus have fruitful discussions with my classmates. The course structure was also different from what I am used to. Overall it was a fruitful experience taking the HRI class.

6 - 6A - How would you rate the physical environment in which you took this class based upon your ability to see, hear, concentrate, and participate?

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Very Bad	(1)	0	0.00%			4.85	5.16	5.12			
Bad	(2)	1	5.00%	█							
Poor	(3)	1	5.00%	█							
Fair	(4)	3	15.00%	██							
Good	(5)	10	50.00%	██████							
Very Good	(6)	5	25.00%	███							
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	4.85	1.04	5.00	17956	5.16	0.97	5.00	2048	5.12	0.97	5.00

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

Response Rate 9/21 (42.86%)

- Good.
- Nil
- Chairs and desk are too small. Especially for someone over 6ft tall, I always felt cramped. Additionally, the desks did not have enough table space for taking notes. Overall cramped.
- The class location felt small compared to the size of the class. Lack of an online recording system for lecture is another critique.
- McBird sucks ass. Who the fuck designs a classroom building without windows?!
- The class was a little cramped, but the atmosphere was great. Dr. Losey encouraged discussions in class and I found that to be encouraging.
- The classroom was small and had too many chairs so I found very uncomfortable. The projector screen was not at the center of the classroom so not all the students are able to see the screen clearly.
- Uncomfortable seats, small tables, and poor lighting.
- The classroom could have been set in a bigger space.

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8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

I improved my ability to problem solve.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.15	5.06	4.96				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	10.00%								
Agree	(5)	13	65.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	5	25.00%								
0 25 50 100					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	5.15	0.59	5.00	18068	5.06	1.08	5.00	2067	4.96	1.10	5.00

8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The textbook or course readings made a valuable contribution to my learning.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	5.00%		4.50	4.56	4.44				
Disagree	(2)	1	5.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	5.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	15.00%								
Agree	(5)	12	60.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	2	10.00%								
0 25 50 100					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	4.50	1.24	5.00	17968	4.56	1.44	5.00	2055	4.44	1.43	5.00

8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The objectives of the course were clearly explained.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.35	5.07	4.91				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	2	10.00%								
Agree	(5)	9	45.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	9	45.00%								
0 25 50 100					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	5.35	0.67	5.00	18003	5.07	1.15	5.00	2055	4.91	1.19	5.00

8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

The out-of-class assignments were educationally valuable.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.55	5.01	4.90				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	5.00%								
Agree	(5)	7	35.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	12	60.00%								
0 25 50 100					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/21 (95.24%)	5.55	0.60	6.00	17908	5.01	1.20	5.00	2050	4.90	1.23	5.00

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9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.												
Dylan Losey												
Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means							
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.80	5.26	5.18	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	4	20.00%									
Strongly agree	(6)	16	80.00%									
				0	25	50	100					
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
20/21 (95.24%)	5.80	0.41	6.00	19417	5.26	1.02	6.00	2036	5.18	1.05	5.00	