

Virginia Tech
Fall 2023 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ME_5704_87419_202309: Robotics and Automation-ME_5704_87419_202309
 Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *
 Response Rate: 20/20 (100.00 %)

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

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.90	5.23	5.20						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	2	10.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	18	90.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/20 (100.00%)	5.90	0.31	6.00	25753	5.23	1.09	6.00	1877	5.20	1.12	6.00		

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 Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.84	5.06	5.02						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	3	15.79%										
Strongly agree	(6)	16	84.21%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
19/20 (95.00%)	5.84	0.37	6.00	25573	5.06	1.23	5.00	1861	5.02	1.21	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 Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.45	5.03	4.94						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	15.00%										
Agree	(5)	5	25.00%										
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		
20/20 (100.00%)	5.45	0.76	6.00	25560	5.03	1.25	5.00	1865	4.94	1.24	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 Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.90	5.35	5.38	6.00	1858	5.38	0.94	6.00	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	2	10.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	18	90.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/20 (100.00%)	5.90	0.31	6.00	25533	5.35	1.03	6.00	1858	5.38	0.94	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 Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.75	5.04	5.03	5.00	1856	5.03	1.23	5.00	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	5	25.00%										
Strongly agree	(6)	15	75.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
20/20 (100.00%)	5.75	0.44	6.00	25412	5.04	1.27	5.00	1856	5.03	1.23	5.00		

2 - 2A - What did the instructor do that most helped in your learning?

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate 13/20 (65%)

- I liked the way that the course material was laid out in the slides and I also appreciated that the practice material done in class was similar to the homework. Simulating some of the concepts done in class can be a difficult task, but I think that the provided code did a great job at easing students into the task.
- Dr. Losey provided multiple ways for us to have access to the course content including recorded videos. He was available to answer questions regarding lecture and assignment contents.
- Lecture slides weren't too crowded and generally made the important concepts and formulas easy to find and understand.
- Very clear lectures, slides, and videos along with practice examples
- The course was very well paced and the lecture videos were available in case some revision was required. The assignments were were linked to what was taught in class. The level was challenging, but I really appreciated how the course material and resources that the professor provided covered up for that level of difficulty. It was ensured that the difficulty level was stepped up just enough for students to be able to learn and apply concepts taught in class as well as new concepts.
- Uploading lecture recordings to Canvas and solving practical problems in classes contributed to my learning.
- Posting everything we needed, hw solutions, recorded zoom lectures, and slide decks before they are used was super helpful.
- The presentations and tips by Dr. Losey are really good and self-explanatory enough when combined with the course videos provided on Canvas. The explanations and intuitions during the class and the time dedicated to examples turned out to be helpful.
- The provided lecture slides are well structured in a way that it is easy to take notes and review the material. The addition of pre-recorded videos on each of the lecture topics makes it better for content review in case I missed something during lecture.
- Dr. Losey provided many real word examples of the concepts we were learning being applied to robotics. This both made the concepts clearer and made the material more engaging.
- The posted online lectures and slide allowed me to review parts of the in-person lectures that I needed more help on for the homework and during studying. The practice problem sets for the modules were also very helpful as a jumping off point for the homework.
- Very well develop course with recorded lectures and pdf notes. Very well taught in class with clear explanations of topics and solutions to problems
- I found that the way the information was presented in the slides was very helpful. Instead of adding all the information at once, the problem complexity was increased, and additional things were added as the slides went on.

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Response Rate: 20/20 (100.00 %)

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%		5.63	5.14	5.12				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	7	36.84%								
Strongly agree	(6)	12	63.16%								
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
19/20 (95.00%)	5.63	0.50	6.00	21974	5.14	1.09	5.00	1860	5.12	1.08	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%		5.53	4.92	4.86				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	5.26%								
Agree	(5)	7	36.84%								
Strongly agree	(6)	11	57.89%								
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
19/20 (95.00%)	5.53	0.61	6.00	21856	4.92	1.31	5.00	1859	4.86	1.31	5.00

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

Response Rate 11/20 (55%)

- Although I usually started the assignments early, I could have dedicated more time to them and dug into the course material more. I've also seen a lot of the material presented in the class before, but I also feel that I got a better understanding of the material that was covered.
- I would like to read the textbooks to understand the subject matter better. Because of the great lectures and recorded versions, I did not need to refer to the textbook much :)
- I could have planned further ahead on homeworks to match my work schedule to the lecture and office hours schedule so that I could ask more questions about topics that were challenging in class and office hours
- A few things that I could have done to be a better learner are: 1) Thought more about the assignments and how the concepts and code I developed in class could be deployed to a real-life robot. 2) Asked more questions about current advancements in robotics and automation technology. 3) Asked for feedback about how concepts taught in class relate to my research.
- I could have started doing homeworks earlier.
- I believe doing some sort of test review, even if its an asynchronous sheet posted with example test problems would be helpful. Other than that, Dr. Losey did a fantastic job teaching us and ensuring that we knew the content very well.
- TA sessions could be a better improvement to the course. Sometimes when we had a little challenging assignment I found it hard to reach someone (as it didn't seem appropriate to disturb the professor for small things.), also even when contacted the TAs used to be unavailable or virtually available making it hard to coupe up. On the other hand, the discussion forum was good but something like Piazza would be even better where no one would hesitate since the messages could also be sent anonymously.
- I could have watched the pre-recorded videos before the lecture to ensure I had clear questions in class.
- I could have gone back over homework problems that I got wrong more regularly.
- I could have interacted in class more.
- Possibly reading over the slides for the day before coming to class would be helpful. Additionally, I could have done additional homework problems from the book.

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate 9/20 (45%)

- Overall I think the course was laid out well and that the material was presented clearly. Most of the issues I have come with the grading style that the GTAs have. My experience with my GTA would be that the grading would be rather harsh without any comment on what was seen in my work versus what was in the rubric. Some short comments on what the discrepancies found were would be helpful in determining how I could improve.
- One of the best professors that I have ever had. He is very knowledgeable; he made the content to be exciting and relevant. The link between theory and practical application was very clear in each lecture.
- the lecture notes and posted material in my opinion were often "too good". I say this because it has become not worth my time to spend the time to drive to campus, walk to class and sit through class. I have not attended a class since the middle of September. The empty lecture notes and recorded recaps were more than enough for me to fully understand what was asked of me on the homework and exams by simply reviewing everything a few days before something is due. I think that the class could have had a bit more rigor. Additionally, I think that some opportunities for a deeper understanding of the material were left out because code was provided to us. I think that it became much too easy to complete the homework without actually understanding what the code is doing by simply changing a few lines and seeing what happens. If the goal is to understand the concepts fully (which I'm assuming it is) then I think that students should have been expected to write the majority of code themselves.
- While I greatly appreciated the posted homework solutions, I would have also appreciated more explanations in canvas on problems I missed. I often missed points on homework without any explanation as to what I did wrong. I also felt that the homework assignments took too long to complete. The assignments at the beginning of the semester seemed to be a little repetitive with easier concepts, while I felt that the later assignments, even though shorter in many cases, jumped in difficulty without enough basic problems to grasp the fundamentals.
- The communication was really great and the course has overall been a really great experience. The professor shared the learning goal/objective for each lecture which helped understand the lecture better.
- Thank you to Dr. Losey for teaching this important course.
- It would've been great if the simulation taught in the course was on ROS using other programming languages like python/C++ instead of MATLAB which could've been even more practical-based learning.
- Dr. Losey made this a great introductory course to robotics.
- This was one of my favorite courses I have taken at Tech.

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%		5.50	5.23	5.15				
Bad	(2)	0	0.00%								
Poor	(3)	0	0.00%								
Fair	(4)	1	5.00%								
Good	(5)	8	40.00%								
Very Good	(6)	11	55.00%								
					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/20 (100.00%)	5.50	0.61	6.00	21701	5.23	0.94	5.00	1854	5.15	0.96	5.00

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

Response Rate 7/20 (35%)

- I like that the classroom was more wide rather than more deep. I think the 3 projector setup helped with that as well so that all students in the room weren't too far away from the material on the screen.
- Physical environment: The classroom was great except for the cleanliness of the desks. I do not think they were being cleaned often.
- Was a very good learning environment without distractions.
- The class was big, which turned out to be great because that just meant that there were more students to share ideas and learnings related to the course with.
- The physical environment was generally good, but the only problem was that we took the exam in the classroom (NCB 160) and the clock was not in a visible place in the classroom and it was not even possible to see the clock in the back rows. Therefore, I could not manage time during the exam. It would be better if the clock is in a place where everyone can see it.
- The physical environment in the classroom was interactive and seemed really great!
- NCB has a good set up for the seats, the screen are a bit uncomfortable to look at when sitting towards the front row of the class.

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 Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *
 Response Rate: 20/20 (100.00 %)

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%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	15.00%								
Agree	(5)	6	30.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	11	55.00%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/20 (100.00%)	5.40	0.75	6.00	21863	5.08	1.07	5.00	1857	5.08	1.03	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)	0	0.00%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	10.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	15.00%								
Agree	(5)	8	40.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	7	35.00%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/20 (100.00%)	5.00	0.97	5.00	21725	4.66	1.41	5.00	1849	4.56	1.40	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%								
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	7	35.00%								
Strongly agree	(6)	13	65.00%								
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
20/20 (100.00%)	5.65	0.49	6.00	21804	5.13	1.11	5.00	1855	5.03	1.15	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%								
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
20/20 (100.00%)	5.35	0.67	5.00	21677	5.05	1.17	5.00	1843	5.00	1.19	5.00

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Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *

Response Rate: 20/20 (100.00 %)

9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.84	5.24	5.32			
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	3	15.79%	█							
Strongly agree	(6)	16	84.21%	██████████							
				0 25 50 100	Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
19/20 (95.00%)	5.84	0.37	6.00	25104	5.24	1.04	6.00	1837	5.32	0.96	6.00