Virginia Tech
Fall 2025 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

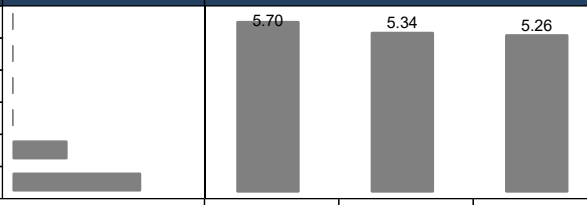
Course: ME_4584_87624_202509: Robotics Laboratory-ME_4584_87624_202509
Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *
Response Rate: 12/28 (42.86 %)

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
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)	3	30.00%
Strongly agree	(6)	7	70.00%



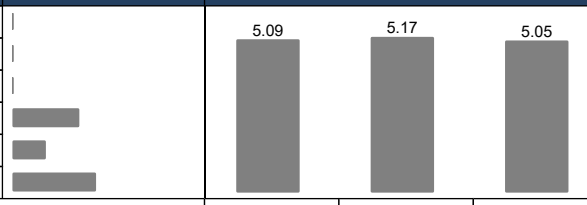
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
10/28 (35.71%)	5.70	0.48	6.00	23996	5.34	0.97	6.00	3215	5.26	1.03	6.00

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
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	36.36%
Agree	(5)	2	18.18%
Strongly agree	(6)	5	45.45%



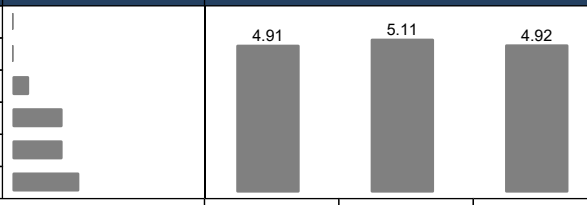
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	5.09	0.94	5.00	23792	5.17	1.13	6.00	3195	5.05	1.20	5.00

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
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	9.09%
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	27.27%
Agree	(5)	3	27.27%
Strongly agree	(6)	4	36.36%



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	4.91	1.04	5.00	23781	5.11	1.17	5.00	3196	4.92	1.26	5.00

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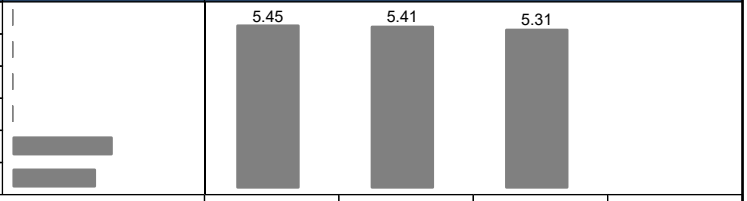
1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

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%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%		
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%		
Agree	(5)	6	54.55%		
Strongly agree	(6)	5	45.45%		



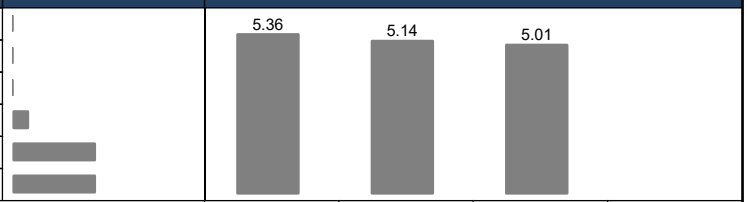
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	5.45	0.52	5.00	23758	5.41	0.96	6.00	3195	5.31	1.04	6.00

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%		
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%		
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	9.09%		
Agree	(5)	5	45.45%		
Strongly agree	(6)	5	45.45%		



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	5.36	0.67	5.00	23624	5.14	1.17	6.00	3185	5.01	1.26	5.00

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate	7/28 (25%)

- Although Losey is in charge of the lab, he doesn't appear to have any connection to it. All the interactions we have for them is with the TAs.
- The TAs present in the room were a big help.
- The lab manuals are very detailed and help with the lab tramendously.
- Clearly broke down complicated concepts. Each unit was very well structured.
- The labs helped me learn simulink, which I had never used before.
- N/A (?)
- The Lab is really interesting, and students can use the knowledge in class to solve problems

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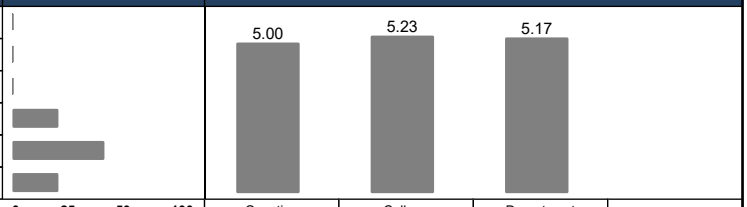
3 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

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)	3	25.00%		
Agree	(5)	6	50.00%		
Strongly agree	(6)	3	25.00%		

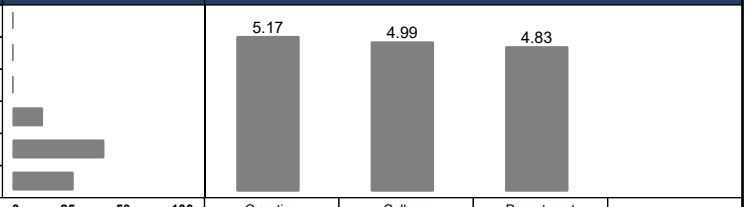


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
12/28 (42.86%)	5.00	0.74	5.00	21970	5.23	1.02	5.00	3147	5.17	1.07	5.00

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)	2	16.67%		
Agree	(5)	6	50.00%		
Strongly agree	(6)	4	33.33%		



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
12/28 (42.86%)	5.17	0.72	5.00	21988	4.99	1.25	5.00	3162	4.83	1.34	5.00

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

Response Rate	4/28 (14.29%)

- I could have tried to understand the lab content better than I did. Sometimes I would just try to get through it for the sake of time rather than get a deeper understanding of what was happening.
- Sometimes I would treat the lab manual as a pre-lab assignment and get as much as I can done before going into the lab. But sometimes this wasn't enough. I should have tried to do everything in the lab manual before going into labs.
- Read the textbook.
- Preview the Lab manual before going to it.

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Response Rate: 12/28 (42.86 %)

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate	7/28 (25%)

• I would have liked if Losey took some time during his lecture and/or made a video going over the lab and its content before we start it. It would have greatly improved my performance during the lab going into it with a better understanding. The lab was rarely talked about or mentioned during class. Additionally, the use of MATLAB Simulink was very difficult to get used to during the lab. I did not have Losey as an instructor for my Engineering Controls class. It is my understanding that he had his students for that class become familiar with Simulink during that time. For those who did not, figuring it all out DURING the allotted lab time was difficult and stressful. Perhaps including a Simulink prep module in the course page can improve this experience.

• I wish that SimuLink was covered during the main lecture. This was a roadblock for my group for the first few labs. It got better as the semester went on, but we were lost as to what we needed to do and it slowed our lab completion for a few weeks. The computers are also old by today's standards and they come with a lot of issues. I do understand that those computers are just meant for the lab and to be used with the given robots, but they have limitations that make them more difficult to work with. Without the TAs at some points, we would have been lost and the directions would not have helped us.

• If there was a non-graded pre lab to help all students get progress boost in the lab, it would allow more groups to reach the end of the lab. A lot of the final questions were not answered by groups that ran out of time.

• I think some of the labs need to be updated and/or be looked at again. Sometimes the instructions were unclear and didn't make any sense with the content we had learned. In particular, the last couple labs were too long for the time allotted, and I wish we had more time to do them. Overall a useful experience though.

• I think the lab is a good addition to the course; however, (1) the laptops were so slow that it inhibited our ability to complete the labs on time - we often spent minutes just waiting for SIMULINK to compile (even though we tried to work ahead while they compiled, it still slowed us down) and (2) the labs tried to stuff too much content in per lab period - I never felt like I really understood the content because I was always having to rush just to get something working without slowing down to comprehend it. It would have been fun if there was more time to play around with control parameters and see how the robot responded.

• Some people hadn't had experience with simulink prior to this lab, maybe provide a small crash course before so they can be more prepared? Also, lots of variance with the lab length / difficulty, some were really hard to complete in time (think the 5th and 7th specifically but I could be wrong on the 5th)

• I feel insulted that I paid $10k this semester to use an extremely slow Windows 7 computer in these labs. The laptops need to be replaced

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
Very Bad	(1)	0	0.00%	
Bad	(2)	1	8.33%	
Poor	(3)	1	8.33%	
Fair	(4)	4	33.33%	
Good	(5)	4	33.33%	
Very Good	(6)	2	16.67%	

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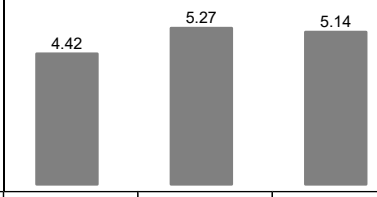
Means



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
12/28 (42.86%)	4.42	1.16	4.50	21636	5.27	0.90	5.00	3105	5.14	0.91	5.00

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

Response Rate	7/28 (25%)

• The equipment was old and slow.

• There was plenty of space to work with and the group configuration works. Although, the laptops that we were using were old and very slow. I often became frustrating running MATLAB Simulink at times.

• Not really enough space for everyone. I didn't mind standing during every lab, but a little more space to spread out would have been nice to have.

• The room is fine but the desk area is somewhat crowded for teams of more than three.

• This lab desperately needs modern computers and robots. The robots would crash constantly. This slowed learning and once, prevented us from being able to even finish the lab. The TA's tried multiple times to fix everyone's robots and eventually had to give up. Please get modern equipment that actually functions!

• My team had a middle bench, and it always felt crowded. We didn't have enough space on the bench for our papers and laptops.

• Tables were a bit cramped with how many people there were, but nothing too bad.

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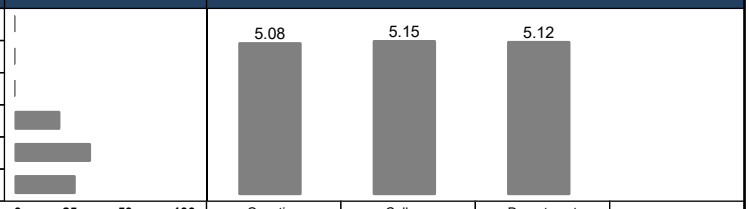
8 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

I improved my ability to problem solve.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	25.00%
Agree	(5)	5	41.67%
Strongly agree	(6)	4	33.33%

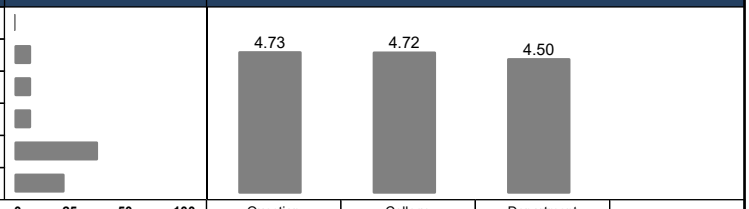


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
12/28 (42.86%)	5.08	0.79	5.00	22018	5.15	0.99	5.00	3164	5.12	1.01	5.00

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
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	1	9.09%
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	9.09%
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	9.09%
Agree	(5)	5	45.45%
Strongly agree	(6)	3	27.27%

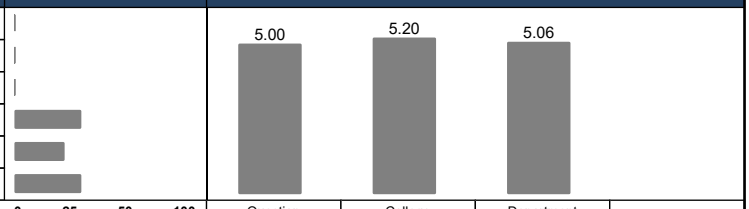


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	4.73	1.27	5.00	21913	4.72	1.37	5.00	3141	4.50	1.45	5.00

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
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%
Somewhat agree	(4)	4	36.36%
Agree	(5)	3	27.27%
Strongly agree	(6)	4	36.36%

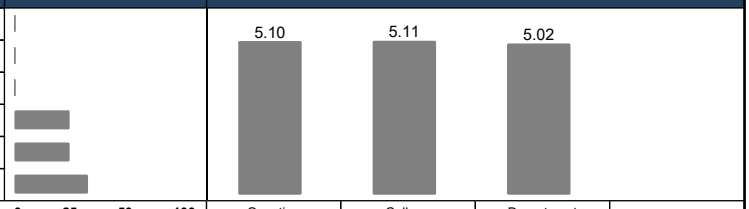


Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	5.00	0.89	5.00	21994	5.20	1.03	5.00	3157	5.06	1.12	5.00

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
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	30.00%
Agree	(5)	3	30.00%
Strongly agree	(6)	4	40.00%



Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
10/28 (35.71%)	5.10	0.88	5.00	21816	5.11	1.13	5.00	3136	5.02	1.20	5.00

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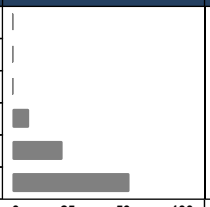
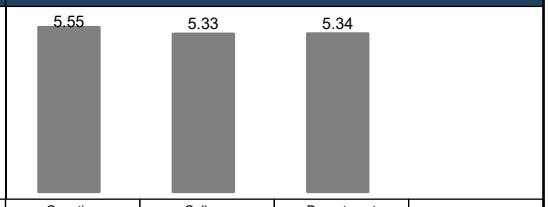
9 - The instructor related theories and concepts to practical issues.

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%	
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%	
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%	
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	9.09%	
Agree	(5)	3	27.27%	
Strongly agree	(6)	7	63.64%	





Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
11/28 (39.29%)	5.55	0.69	6.00	23345	5.33	0.94	6.00	3169	5.34	0.95	6.00