Spring 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ME3534: Controls Engineering I-ME_3534_17482_202401

Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *
Response Rate: 73/75 (97.33 %)

1 - Please indicate the exter	nt to which	you agree	or disag	ree with	each of the	foll	owing sta	temen	nts:					
1A - The instructor was wel	l prepared.													
Dylan Patrick Losey														
Response Option		Weig	ght Fred	luency	Percent	P	ercent Re	spons	ses		Me	ans		
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%	1				5.83	5.30	5.20		
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree		(4)	0	0.00%	1								
Agree		(5)	12	16.67%									
Strongly agree		(6)	60	83.33%				1					
		•				0	25	50	100	Question	College	Departme	nt	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median		College		Mean	ST	D D	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Media
72/75 (96.00%)	5.83	0.38	6.00		20951		5.30	1.0	03	6.00	1959	5.20	1.08	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** Frequency Percent Responses Means **Response Option** Weight Percent 0 0.00% Strongly disagree (1) 5.12 5.02 0 0.00% Disagree (2) 0 Somewhat disagree (3) 0.00% Somewhat agree (4) 2 2.82% (5) 17 23.94% Agree Strongly agree (6) 52 73.24% 25 100 Question College Department Response Rate Median STD Median Mean STD Median College Mean STD Department Mean 71/75 (94.67%) 5.70 0.52 6.00 20794 5.12 1.19 6.00 1943 5.02 1.18 5.00

1 - Please indicate the ex	tent to which	you agree	or disagre	e with	each of the	foll	owing st	ateme	nts:						
1C - The instructor provid	ded feedback	intended t	o improve	ту сог	ırse perforr	nan	ice.								
Dylan Patrick Losey															
Response Option		Weig	ıht Frequ	iency	Percent	P	ercent R	espor	ises			Me	ans		
Strongly disagree		(1)	1	1	1.41%	1				5.39		5.09	4.94		
Disagree		(2)	1	1	1.41%	1							4.04		
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1	1.41%	1									
Somewhat agree		(4)	9	9	12.68%										
Agree		(5)	1:	3	18.31%										
Strongly agree		(6)	4	6	64.79%										
			·	·		0	25	50	100	Question	1	College	Departmen	ıt	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median		College		Mean	S	TD	Median	D	epartment	Mean	STD	Median
71/75 (94.67%)	5.39	1.02	6.00		20801		5.09	1	.20	5.00		1944	4.94	1.22	5.00

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1D - The instructor foster	red an atmos	phere of mu	tual respec	t.											
Dylan Patrick Losey															
Response Option		Weig	ht Freque	ncy Percent	Р	ercent Re	esponse	s			Me	ans			
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%	1				5.69		5.38	5.28			
Disagree		(2)	1	1.41%	ı										
Somewhat disagree		(3)	0	0.00%	1										
Somewhat agree		(4)	0	0.00%	1										
Agree		(5)	18	25.35%											
Strongly agree		(6)	52	73.24%											
				'	0	25	50 1	00	Question		College	Departme	nt		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean	STD		Median	D	epartment	Mean	STI	Me	ediar
71/75 (94.67%)	5.69	0.62	6.00	20781		5.38	0.99		6.00		1943	5.28	1.02	2 6	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** Weight Frequency Percent Responses Means **Response Option** Percent 0 0.00% Strongly disagree (1) 5.11 5.00 0 0.00% Disagree (2) Somewhat disagree (3) 1 1.41% Somewhat agree (4) 2 2.82% (5) 13 18.31% Agree Strongly agree (6) 55 77.46% 25 100 Question College Department Response Rate Mean STD STD Median Median College Mean STD Median Department Mean 71/75 (94.67%) 5.72 0.59 6.00 20662 5.11 1.22 5.00 5.00 1.21 5.00 1932

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Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey *
Response Rate: 73/75 (97.33 %)

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate 62/75 (82.67%)

- Slides were great
- He was very clear, one of the best professors I've ever had. I understood more Vibrations material in a week than I did the entierty of last semester
- · Took time to address confusion
- · Lots of examples
- Dr. Losey's lectures were very helpful in explaining topics. They were clear, concise, and demonstrated how to approach and solve problems.
- · The way that the lectures were structured was very effective
- · Provided very well organized lecture notes as well as practice sections to apply what was learned during lectures.
- The lectures are very well-planned and contain amazing content. I was able to recover all information missed during the lecture by reviewing all the materials posted on Canvas.
- He was insane. He broke down all the concepts in an insanely easy to understand way, provided real-world examples that kept people interested. Homeworks were directly related to the lectures, very helpful when it came to questions. He also highlighted important things for understanding instead of delvingdeep and focusing on concepts that aren't as helpful.
- Dr. Losey is a great professor! He posts notes and follows them well, which allows me to check my learning outside of class.
- na
- The lecture slides were very well prepared and Dr. Losey was passionate about the material. Homework was also excellent at "forcing" students to have a true understanding of the material.
- I liked that he walked through multiple example problems to explain the concepts and then would show simulations using Simulink to further relate the theory to the numbers
- every lecture he made a practice set that we worked through as a class this was very extremely helpful not many professors do this.
- · great examples, videos, explanations
- Provide problem sets that were worked through in class, show demonstrations of real applications
- · How to use matlat
- He went into incredibly descriptive detail about all subject and constantly asked if anyone had questions to make sure no one fell behind. I also liked that he would explain simpler concepts that we should've already known, it just really helped me understand every step of working through problems
- · Very beneficial slides
- He broke down each section into parts that made it easier to understand and learn.
- The lectures were very well organized and the time set aside for practice problems was very helpful. Also, the videos at the beginning of each class were enjoyable and informative.
- Provided example problems after each lecture that related to the new material that was just taught.
- I really liked how he had us do practice problems on our own in class, and then went over them together. It really helped to reinforce the material we had just learned.
- · explained concepts well
- The homework assignments well represents test probelms.
- The instructor had some of the best lectures i have ever had, including practice into the lectures and making sure the material was understood.
- I liked the practice sets that we do in class, they are not easy problems but he walks through them well and I understand the ideas of the problems afterwards.
- Dr. Losey was able to help in my learning of the course by his preparation and helpful resources to students. He posted lecture notes and helpful homework solutions that allowed me to do well in his class.
- Professor Losey lays out the material in lecture slides that are very easy to follow and provides a practice set for each lecture that allows us to directly apply what we just learned. He also stops a regular intervals throughout the lectures to answer any questions students might have.
- The lectures were structured perfectly, and the content of the class was conveyed in the clearest manner I've seen at Virginia Tech. Dr Losey made the class applicable and accessible in the structure of the class. Not only did we gain the content necessary to succeed but we also spent time doing problems that helped teach us how to approach solutions and provided us experience for future problems.
- Explained everything to us as if we didn't know anything. Made sure everything was oversimplified which was helpful.
- Simple examples during lecture and in depth problems that made you think a bit in the practice sets
- His passion for controls really comes through in his lectures. He does a great job breaking down complex topics into manageable and clearly understood lectures that build effectively onto the next topic. He was also always very willing and good at answering questions as they arose from his students. He can clearly and effectively communicate concepts and calculations to his students.
- We in real life examples in each class and did practice problems.
- I think the slides were well put together and he did a good job explaining complex topics. He gave lots of clear example problems that helped me a lot.
- · Was always willing to re-explain topics that were unclear. He also had great slides that simplified the topics, so we could learn better.
- He had problem sets and lectures. So it gave us a time to practice the material learned that day
- \bullet The perfect professor. Everything was super clear. Nicest guy Ever
- Went through the lectures thoroughly with in-depth explanations about topics.
- I liked that all the slides were posted so I did not have to focus on writing notes the entire time, it was also useful to reference them when doing homework or studying.
- The instructor provided useful examples often in class that related to the class material, and addressed every question fully until the matter was understood by a student.
- \bullet The Slides that are shared on Canvas are super helpful and straightforward.
- Very descriptive when instructing, plenty of practice problems.
- Professor Losey came to class prepared Tuesday and Thursday. He did not miss a single lecture, and had one guest speaker in the semester that was interactive with the class.
- He provided lots of examples to help better understand the concepts...

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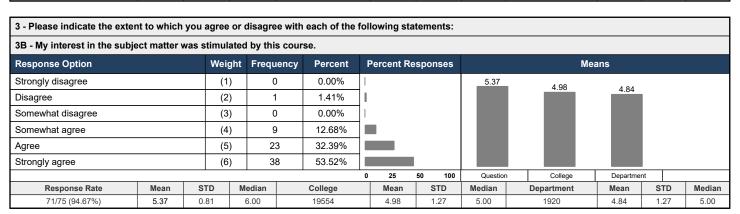
Course: ME3534: Controls Engineering I-ME_3534_17482_202401

- · Very clearly explained everything.
- · He really helped me learn the material from this class
- I thought that Professor Losey was a very good professor, provided good materials in class and had available and helpful office hours.
- The professor had plenty of examples called Practice Sets that helped me with the homework and the tests. The professor also ran through the examples at the end of almost every class to make sure the class understood what to do.
- · In class examples were extremely useful and similar to homework problems.
- · Good question answere
- Prof. Losey seemed to actually care about both teaching us and the content. Having a professor who is actually interested in helping us learn was a great help because he could see our questions and confusions from "our perspective" and was able to answer our questions in a way that deepened understanding.
- The examples provided in class and the explanations for homework answers helped me understand the controls design process alot.
- · His slides related to the in-class practice, which then related fairly well to the homework, and they all helped when preparing for his tests which were in a great format.
- · Notes and practice problems in class were very helpful.
- I think that the lecture slides were very well organized and effective at communicating the main point of the topics. I also think that the practice problems each class after the lecture were very helpful in showing how to do examples of what we learned.
- · Very good lectures slides and went over everything in great detail multiple times to make sure we knew the information well.
- He posted all notes and provided examples in class that were helpful as to what is expected on exams.
- Provided numerous amounts of practice examples
- My favorite thing that Dr. Losey did that helped me learn in this course was the practice sets he did in class. This is something that not a lot of professors do and really helps students get a better understanding of the content. You can tell he took the time to make these practice sets match the lecture and had lots of explanations on them. His lecture in general were really excellent probably one of the bests lecturers I've had at VT. Everything he did in class you could tell he put so much time into it and the lecture slides always matched up well with the practice sets.
- · Gave practical examples regarding content being presented. Typically most examples were relevant to the questions being posed in the class.

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3 - Please indicate the exter	nt to which	you agree	or disagre	ee with	each of the	foll	owing st	ater	ments:						
3A - I have a deeper unders	tanding of	the subject	matter as	s a resu	ılt of this co	urse	е.								
Response Option		Weig	ht Frequ	uency	Percent	Р	ercent R	esp	onses			Ме	ans		
Strongly disagree		(1)	(0	0.00%	1				5.47		5.18	5.09		
Disagree		(2)		1	1.39%	1									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	(0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)		5	6.94%										
Agree		(5)	2	.4	33.33%										
Strongly agree		(6)	4	-2	58.33%									l	
						0	25	50	100	Questio	n	College	Departme	nt	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median		College		Mean		STD	Median		Department	Mean	STD	Median
72/75 (96.00%)	5.47	0.75	6.00		19651		5.18		1.06	5.00		1928	5.09	1.04	5.00



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

Response Rate

59/75 (78.67%)

- The lab felt like a completely different course.
- · Study longer
- · Spent more time practicing
- I came to most of the office hours sessions, but I could have attended more to ask detailed questions.
- · Started the homework assignments earlier
- · Attend office hours more often to clarify any confusion with the material.
- · Come to all lectures
- · Not sleep in.
- I could have paid better attention in class
- na
- I could have taken better notes rather than relying on the lecture slides to study
- I could of been more diligent with my homework's.
- · doing more practice and reading more the book
- · Work through all problem sets on my own after class
- · Nah he was good.
- I probably could have attended office hours more often to clear up some of the questions I had
- · I feel like I could have understood unit 2 better
- In the beginning of the year, I could have done better about reviewing my class notes.
- I could have completed homework throughout the week as we learned the material, instead of waiting until the day it was due.
- I could of took better notes in order to study more effectively.
- I could have put more effort into the in class practice and paid more attention during lectures
- study more
- · Go to office hours.
- I was ill prepared for the first two tests.
- I think I could have used office hours more to get help rather than wasting time reading the same slide over and over again.
- I wish I would've participated in every single MATLAB exercise in class and spend more time reviewing the lecture slides after class.
- I would recommend the class is structured the exact same going forward.
- N/A
- Not rushed some of the homeworks
- I feel as though I have truly learned a lot about controls and will be able to implement the knowledge gained from this course in other future courses and my career beyond graduation. I also feel as though I have been intrigued and hooked on controls engineering. I wish to pursue further learning of the topic and maybe explore opportunities post graduation that are in that field.
- I could have more attention in class
- N/A
- Understanding the simulink and how to properly set up the systems
- Go to office hours more
- Nothing
- I think sometimes I found myself on my phone or not fully paying attention, which probably slightly hindered my understanding of the material.
- Started some of the homework problem sets, which generally were very good questions relating well to the lecture material, earlier in order to be able to ask questions at office hours and deepen my understanding of the material.
- I made it to most lectures but did not prioritize making it to lectures. Also, I could have utilized officer hours better.
- -
- Came to office hours more often for homework help and questions.
- I do not have any comments on how this class could have been taught better at the moment.
- I could have taken better notes in class.
- I could have gone to more office hours
- Could've came to class better prepared
- I could have gone to office hours more
- I could have attended more office hours.
- I could've done the Homework more timely or attend office hours.
- I could have attended lectures more consistently
- gone to more classes :/
- I am perfect

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- I wish I went to office hours more often to get clarification for certain topics I struggled with.
- Spent more time exploring the different ways that we can use controls and how you can change different parts of a system to give you the result you want.
- Practice the problems provided in class more.
- I could have asked more questions in the lectures.
- · Gone to class more.
- I could have been more focused during class.
- · I could have participated more within class lectures.
- I should've spent more time studying for the exams, I didn't put as much time preparing for those as I did other courses.
- Payed more attention to the derivations of the content so if necessary I could rederive it myself.

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Rate 51/75 (68%)

- · Great professor. One of the best I've had.
- · He knew the course material well and could teach it effectively
- Amazing professor
- Dr. Losey was a great professor. His lectures and ability to teach are amazing, and I enjoyed my time in the class.
- · I hope he accepts questions regarding homework and reads emails
- Overall, professor Losey is one of the best professors in the ME department at Virginia Tech. He explained the topics very well and gave intuition on how to apply to material in the real world.
- N/A
- Really great teacher. Very impressed with his first time teaching the course.11/10
- Dr. Losey is an excellent professor!
- na
- If there were more office hours the course would've been perfect.
- · We could look into book once in a while but obviously it is just a comment
- N/A
- · I think he's pretty good.
- · Just an amazing professor overall and Im excited to take a class with him next semester
- NA
- · He is a great instructor and a fair grader.
- Losey was a great professor and I would gladly take another class by him again!
- n/a
- He did a great job.
- Fantastic instructor. If given the option i would gladly take his course again.
- He is a good professor and presents the subject matter well and clearly. Sometimes he can come across as a bit robotic but he is very nice and does his best to answer every question even if it does not seem relevant.
- Thanks for a great semester Professor! I really enjoyed your class.
- You were by far one of the best professors I have ever had. Thank you for the semester. I actually enjoy controls now.
- N/A
- Great professor who really is able to capture and keep my attention for the most part. Presents each topic clearly and always open for clarifying questions. I could sense how much he wanted us to succeed.
- I really appreciate how friendly and passionate this instructor was. He was easy to approach with questions and to ask for help to in his office hours. He was a great lecturer with clear and effective lecture slides prepared for every lecture. His organization of the material covered in this class has helped me truly develop an understanding for control theory and implementation and tuning of controllers.
- I felt like I knew what I was doing in the lecture, but I felt very underprepared for the lab portion of the class.
- I think he did a really good job teaching the course. Overall I did not know anything related to controls before this class and feel like now have a strong understanding of controls concepts. I do wish the lab was worth less of our grade as we only ended up doing like 3 full labs and with the weighting of the labs our final lab was worth the same amount of the final exam which I do not think is fair. However I don't think this is his fault because it seems like all controls sections the lab was 40%.
- I feel like he should include more practical and real-world problems that help us apply our knowledge of controls.
- · Great slides with transitions and interactive material
- This man needs a 200% raise. He was an amazing professor. Everything was super clear. He posted the best notes every and did a ton of example problems. He needs to be the top paid professor at this whole school with how good he is. He made controls my favorite class here by a ton
- Overall pretty good class, I think the real world example videos at the start of each class were interesting too. I feel like all the content was explained well and in a way that made it easy to understand.
- Though the concepts were largely easy to understand, there were some concepts the lab section explicitly stated would be available in the lecture notes and were either not available or taught after the lab was over. Namely, steady-state error constants.
- Professor Losey was extremely organized, but the difficulty and rigor of his tests and grading surpassed anything shown in class or on homeworks.
- Very good job!
- He made the course very interesting
- Great Energy
- Sometimes felt like the class was a little fast
- I would be nice to have more office hour availablty
- The professor did really well. He started every class with showing the real-world examples of the class, such as controls in Robots and Drones. When presenting the material, he made sure people understood and had small to big examples to run through. He didn't overload the information on the slides and while speaking, made it well enough that if you missed class, you wouldn't be far behind.
- $\bullet \ \, \text{The inclass examples and homework problems were lightlyears easier than test questions}$
- · Have a good summer:)

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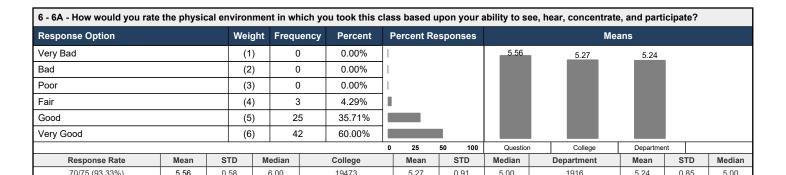
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- I would recommend this professor to future engineering students that will take controls
- · Great instructor, would highly recommend future students to take his class.
- The contents of the course is definitely interesting to me, however the main issue I had was regarding the homework, I often found myself struggling on Saturdays to get the homework done, and I believe this is not the most efficient way of learning the material. This could be alleviated by having more office hours throughout the week.
- Frustrating that we had to go to office hours for questions regarding grades received on exams. Being able to see the exam solution would have been very helpful.
- Great professor overall, gave generous curves on tests, made me interested in material, had great lecture slides, knew the material very well, and engaging homeworks.
- · Very good instructor. I would definitely take another one of his classes.
- The only thing I would say could be improved in this course for the students has to do with the actual content of the lecture. I really learned a lot and felt that I was taught everything I needed to know for the exams however the material that was being covered in some of the labs was really tricky because we were not taught it in lecture. Specifically on the last lab we needed to know about "type numbers" and "velocity error" which were not covered in lecture. The GTA's were helpful with this but the other sections had been taught this material and I used notes from another class to help with the lab. Alignment with the lecture and lab could be improved.
- Sometimes the questions asked in class were not answered in a clear manner. I know the questions from students can be incredibly stupid and not make sense, but sometimes very valid questions were answered in a bit of a confusing way so maybe noting down questions and getting back to them the next lecture would be useful. Otherwise Prof. Losey did a good job

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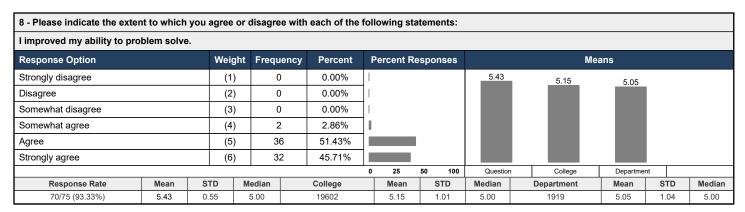
7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:

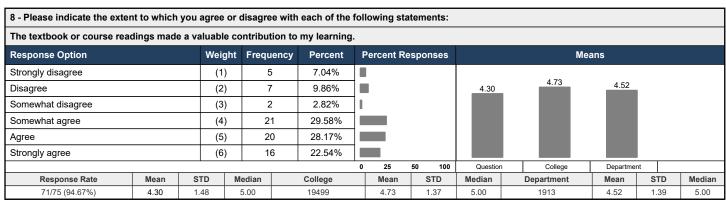
Response Rate 33/75 (44%)

- · In a classroom.
- · standard classroom
- Small classroom
- N/A
- · GOOD.
- n/a
- na
- he was very engaging in class always energetic and interactive in the class.
- N/A
- No comment.
- N/a
- The environment was positive.
- \bullet The desk outlets were all working by the end of the year, which was very convenient
- N/A
- Goodwin is a great building.
- Easy to focus on lecture with the double projectors/screens.
- Goodwin lecture halls are more than adequate for class
- No one felt pressured or embarrassed to ask questions.
- table need to be plugged in
- Good classroom, but one of the sliding whiteboards was broken the entire semester and made it difficult for the professors to move the boards.
- Great for learning and feeling included
- Good screens and lighting
- Amazing super funny nice guy.
- Physical environment was good.
- .
- · Loved the learning environment.
- The environment was good
- If I had a nickel for every lecture where more than 3 emergency vehicles sped past us, I would have 2 nickels. That's not a lot but it's odd that it happened twice.
- The classroom was clean and adequately sized.
- N/A
- There were students that often spoke while the teacher was speaking, but that wasn't his fault.
- The chairs in Goodwin suck for my back. Sometimes the AC was not on during hot days.

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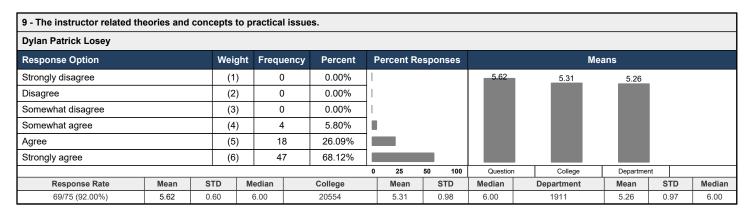


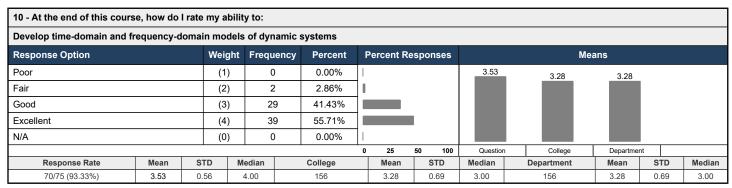
The objectives of the cou	rse were clea	rly explain	ed.												
Response Option		Weig	ht Freq	uency	Percent	Р	ercent R	esp	onses			Me	ans		
Strongly disagree		(1)		0	0.00%	1				5.42	1	5.16	5.07		
Disagree		(2)		0	0.00%	1									
Somewhat disagree		(3)		0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree		(4)		4	5.63%										
Agree		(5)	;	33	46.48%										
Strongly agree		(6)	;	34	47.89%										
						0	25	50	100	Question		College	Departmer	t	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median		College		Mean		STD	Median		Department	Mean	STD	Mediar
71/75 (94.67%)	5.42	0.60	5.00		19538		5.16		1.08	5.00		1919	5.07	1.04	5.00

8 - Please indicate the ex	tent to which	you agree o	r disagree wi	th each of the	foll	owing sta	iten	nents:						
The out-of-class assignm	ents were ed	ducationally	valuable.											
Response Option		Weigh	nt Frequenc	Percent	F	ercent R	esp	onses			Mea	ıns		
Strongly disagree		(1)	0	0.00%	1				5.56	5.11		5.05		
Disagree		(2)	0	0.00%	1									
Somewhat disagree		(3)	1	1.43%	1									
Somewhat agree		(4)	2	2.86%	ı									
Agree		(5)	24	34.29%										
Strongly agree		(6)	43	61.43%										
		•	•		0	25	50	100	Question	Colleg	е	Departmer	nt	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean		STD	Median	Departme	nt	Mean	STD	Median
70/75 (93.33%)	5.56	0.63	6.00	19377		5.11		1.12	5.00	1903		5.05	1.08	5.00

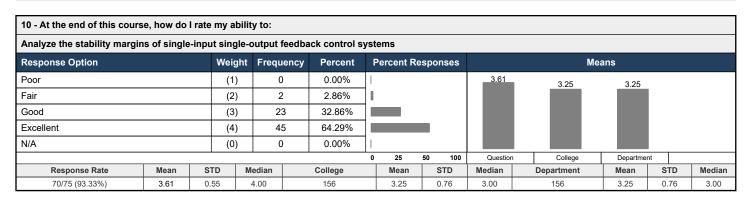
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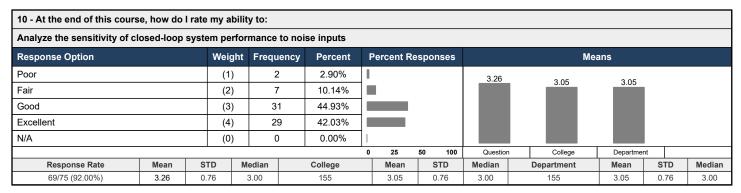


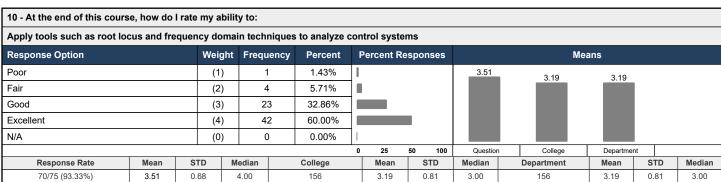
10 - At the end of this cou	ırse, how do	I rate my at	ility to:											
Analyze the open-loop ar	d closed-loo	p performa	nce of sin	gle-input single-o	utpı	ut system	s							
Response Option		Weig	ht Frequ	ency Percent	ı	Percent R	es	ponses			Mea	ans		
Poor		(1)	0	0.00%	1				3.64		3.30	3.30		
Fair		(2)	1	1.43%	ı									
Good		(3)	23	3 32.86%	1									
Excellent		(4)	46	65.71%				ı						
N/A		(0)	0	0.00%	1									
		•		•	0	25	50	100	Question	1	College	Departmer	nt	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College		Mean		STD	Median		Department	Mean	STD	Median
70/75 (93.33%)	3.64	0.51	4.00	156		3.30	Т	0.71	3.00		156	3.30	0.71	3.00



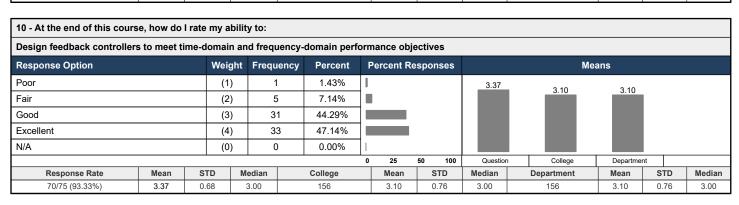
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10 - At the end of this cou	ırse, how do	I rate my a	bility to:												
Synthesize lead, lag, and	PID feedbac	k controlle	rs for reg	ulation	and tracking	of a	variety	of refer	enc	e inputs					
Response Option		Weig	ght Freq	uency	Percent	Per	rcent Re	esponse	es			Me	ans		
Poor		(1)	0	0.00%	1				3.37		3.07	3.07		
Fair		(2)	8	11.43%							3.07	3.07		
Good		(3) :	28	40.00%										
Excellent		(4) :	34	48.57%										
N/A		(0)	0	0.00%						l				
			•			0	25	50	100	Question	1	College	Departme	nt	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median		College		Mean	STD		Median		Department	Mean	STD	Median
70/75 (93.33%)	3.37	0.68	3.00		156		3.07	0.79		3.00		156	3.07	0.79	3.00



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