

Virginia Tech  
Fall 2024 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ME\_5704\_87431\_202409: Robotics and Automation-ME\_5704\_87431\_202409  
 Instructor: Dylan Patrick Losey \*  
 Response Rate: 14/16 (87.50%)

**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%		5.93	5.31	5.24					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		Question	College	Department					
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%		14/16 (87.50%)	5.93	0.27	6.00	24647	5.31	1.01	6.00
Agree	(5)	1	7.14%		6.00	2625	5.24	1.08	6.00			
Strongly agree	(6)	13	92.86%									

**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%		5.79	5.14	5.02					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		Question	College	Department					
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%		14/16 (87.50%)	5.79	0.43	6.00	24466	5.14	1.15	5.00
Agree	(5)	3	21.43%		5.00	2611	5.02	1.24	5.00			
Strongly agree	(6)	11	78.57%									

**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%		5.64	5.10	4.97					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%		Question	College	Department					
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%		Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	7.14%		14/16 (87.50%)	5.64	0.63	6.00	24446	5.10	1.17	5.00
Agree	(5)	3	21.43%		5.00	2603	4.97	1.23	5.00			
Strongly agree	(6)	10	71.43%									

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**Instructor:** Dylan Patrick Losey \*  
**Response Rate:** 14/16 (87.50%)

### 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%		5.86	5.41	5.33						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	2	14.29%										
Strongly agree	(6)	12	85.71%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
14/16 (87.50%)	5.86	0.36	6.00	24424	5.41	0.95	6.00	2605	5.33	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 Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%		5.86	5.13	5.00						
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%										
Agree	(5)	2	14.29%										
Strongly agree	(6)	12	85.71%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>		
14/16 (87.50%)	5.86	0.36	6.00	24242	5.13	1.18	5.00	2587	5.00	1.27	5.00		

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

**Response Rate** 10/16 (62.5%)

- He breaks down the Math very well and uses examples to explain concepts very well. In addition, he excels at answering questions and using practise problems at the end of the lecture to test and enhance student's understanding. His recoded video lectures that compress the content further, are extremely well made and are of terribly helpful in doing the homework studying or revisiting past topics.
- Offline pre-recorded lectures available if you couldn't attend that day's class.
- Professor Losey has a good speaking pace and is very clear when answering questions.
- He communicates concepts excellently
- Dr. Losey provided great resources for individual learning using his slide decks and lecture videos. He also made in person lectures better by providing more examples and answering all class questions.
- His explanations were very clear and concise. He managed to present complex topics and break them down in such a way that made it easier to understand and more engaging.
- He was very clear in his lecturing style to help me understand new concepts
- Having the in class code examples was very helpful. I also liked the practice sets.
- The course is pretty well organised and is makes it easier to understand the subject.
- The instructor related concepts taught in class with practical problems and their solutions in a very useful manner. In-class examples and problem solving was very helpful in understanding the course material. The instructor was also available to provide feedback on a student's work and was easy to reach.

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**Response Rate:** 14/16 (87.50 %)

### 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%		5.57	5.19	5.13					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	6	42.86%									
Strongly agree	(6)	8	57.14%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
14/16 (87.50%)	5.57	0.51	6.00	22731	5.19	1.04	5.00	2603	5.13	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%		5.57	4.98	4.86					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	6	42.86%									
Strongly agree	(6)	8	57.14%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
14/16 (87.50%)	5.57	0.51	6.00	22595	4.98	1.24	5.00	2590	4.86	1.30	5.00	

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

Response Rate	9/16 (56.25%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start Homework earlier.</li> <li>• Prioritized getting feedback about graded homework.</li> <li>• Be more proactive</li> <li>• attend more classes, paid more attention</li> <li>• I could have been a more active participant in lectures and wrote down example code when provided in class.</li> <li>• I could have probably used the textbook more prior to each class to try to get a better understanding of the topics and concepts, and be able to participate more during class.</li> <li>• I could have started homework assignments earlier and gone to office hours</li> <li>• Start work sooner to be able to attend office hours.</li> <li>• I believe actively going to lectures would've helped.</li> </ul>	

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

Dylan Patrick Losey	
Response Rate	6/16 (37.5%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More office, possibly with the TAs would be appreciated as the Homeworks can be very challenging and chunky.</li> <li>• Great preparation and build up of concepts to more complex ones.</li> <li>• I think Dr. Losey did a great job presenting the difficult course content of this subject. His willingness to answer questions and help in the discussion section of canvas was very helpful.</li> <li>• As someone who has never taken a course in controls (and has had little experience with them), it would be helpful to have some resources (like videos, etc.) to learn more going into that section of the class.</li> <li>• There were at least three labs where we had not been taught the material beforehand. This made it difficult to complete the lab on time with any accuracy. The TAs tried to help explain but it was difficult without having the lecture first. My lab time was Tuesday so we may have talked on Mondays lecture about learning this concept later in the week so other lab times received the instruction beforehand when I did not. I would say either wait to have the lab until the material has been covered or have labs run Wed-Fri instead of Tue-Thu, that way there's more class time to cover content before labs start. Unrelated to the labs but the TA's graded the HW assignments very harshly. Many times the averages were in the 70's. I feel like the homework were very long, took a lot of effort, and from using Matlab, have multiple different ways to get to the same answer. For these reasons, I think the hw should be graded on completion. I appreciate the graded assign sent that forces a good effort be put in but since the hw is hard enough, I think putting in five plus hours of work is worthy of a good grade on the assignment.</li> <li>• Only suggestion I have is include working with ROS platform and not just MATLAB.</li> </ul>	

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**Response Rate:** 14/16 (87.50 %)

**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	5.30	5.21					
Bad	(2)	0	0.00%									
Poor	(3)	0	0.00%									
Fair	(4)	0	0.00%									
Good	(5)	7	50.00%									
Very Good	(6)	7	50.00%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
14/16 (87.50%)	5.50	0.52	5.50	22489	5.30	0.87	5.00	2586	5.21	0.91	5.00	

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

<b>Response Rate</b>	1/16 (6.25%)
• The room had plenty of space and suited the class size well.	

**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%		5.43	5.13	5.14					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%									
Agree	(5)	8	57.14%									
Strongly agree	(6)	6	42.86%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
14/16 (87.50%)	5.43	0.51	5.00	22628	5.13	1.01	5.00	2589	5.14	0.97	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%		4.79	4.70	4.48					
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	7.14%									
Somewhat agree	(4)	5	35.71%									
Agree	(5)	4	28.57%									
Strongly agree	(6)	4	28.57%									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>STD</b>	<b>Median</b>	
14/16 (87.50%)	4.79	0.97	5.00	22524	4.70	1.38	5.00	2583	4.48	1.45	5.00	

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**Instructor:** Dylan Patrick Losey \*

**Response Rate:** 14/16 (87.50 %)

**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%		5.71	5.17	5.09				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	4	28.57%								
Strongly agree	(6)	10	71.43%								
					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)	5.71	0.47	6.00	22588	5.17	1.06	5.00	2592	5.09	1.09	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%		5.57	5.11	5.02				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	6	42.86%								
Strongly agree	(6)	8	57.14%								
					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)	5.57	0.51	6.00	22393	5.11	1.11	5.00	2564	5.02	1.15	5.00

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

Dylan Patrick Losey

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means						
Strongly disagree	(1)	1	7.14%		5.50	5.31	5.29				
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%								
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%								
Agree	(5)	2	14.29%								
Strongly agree	(6)	11	78.57%								
					Question	College	Department				
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median
14/16 (87.50%)	5.50	1.34	6.00	24062	5.31	0.97	6.00	2581	5.29	0.99	6.00