



Graduate Course Student Evaluation of Teaching for Jun-Kun Wang

Winter 2026 DSC 211 - Introduction to Optimization (Wang, Jun-Kun)
Section 4160 [A00]

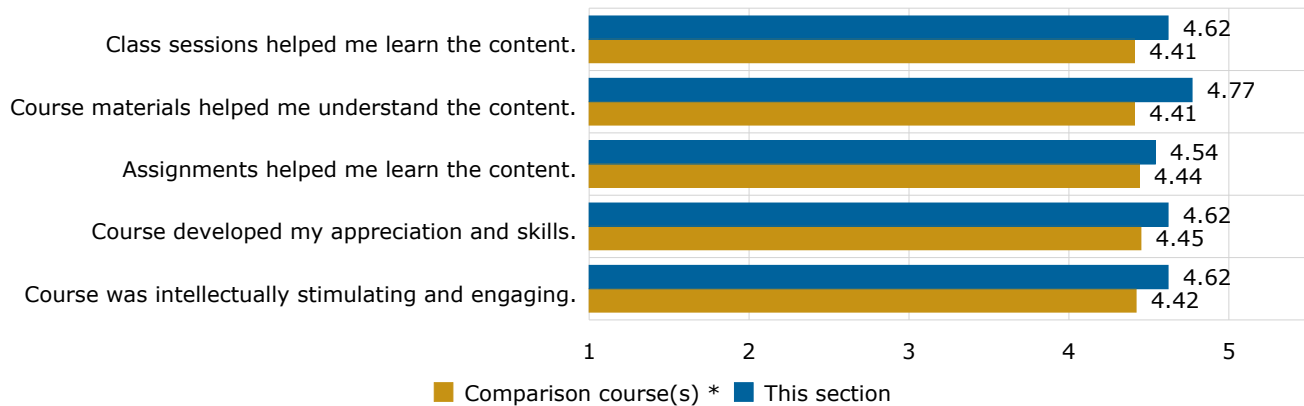
Enrollment: 31
Responses: 13 (41.94% response rate)

SUMMARY RESULTS

* Comparison courses used: All Data Science Winter 2026 GR courses

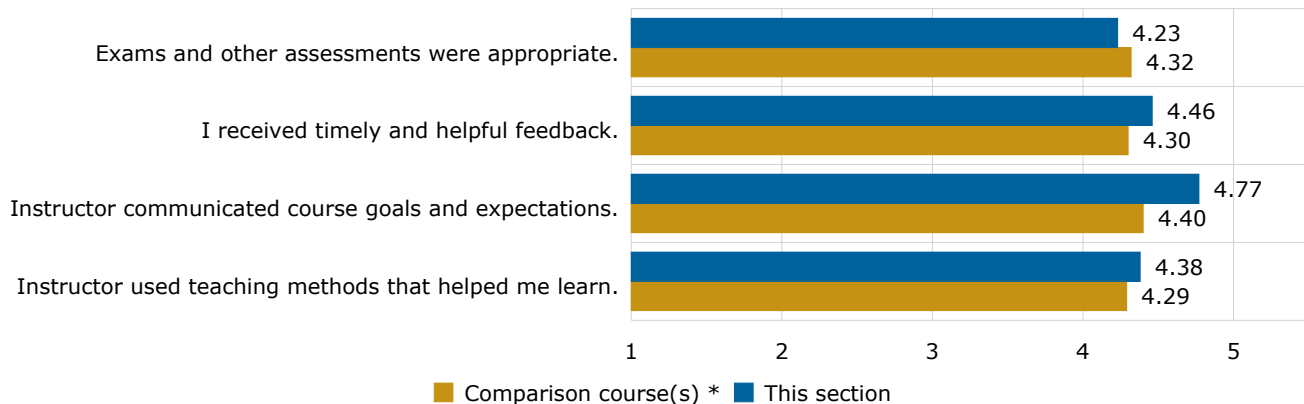
Student Learning

Class Mean: 4.63 (Strongly Agree) **Comparison Mean:** 4.43 (Agree)



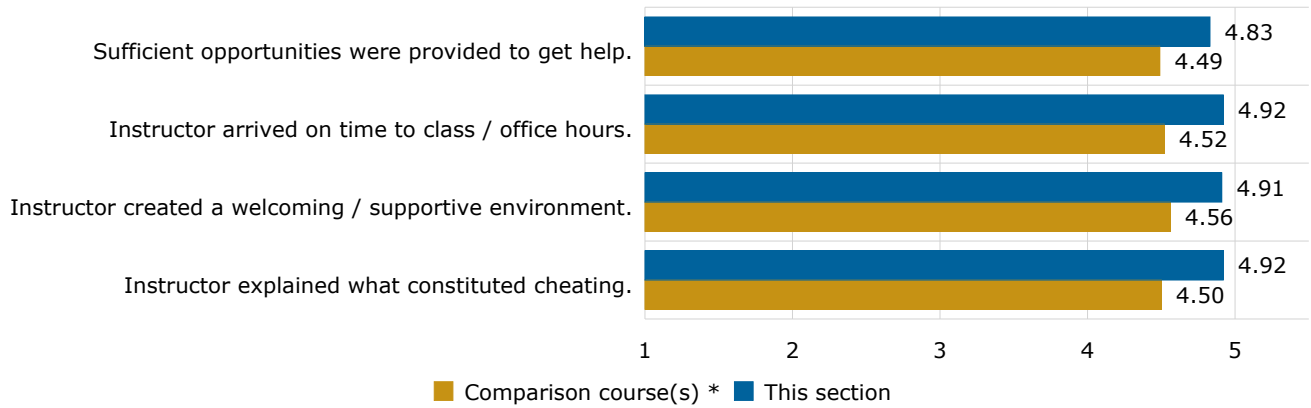
Course Structure

Class Mean: 4.46 (Agree) **Comparison Mean:** 4.33 (Agree)

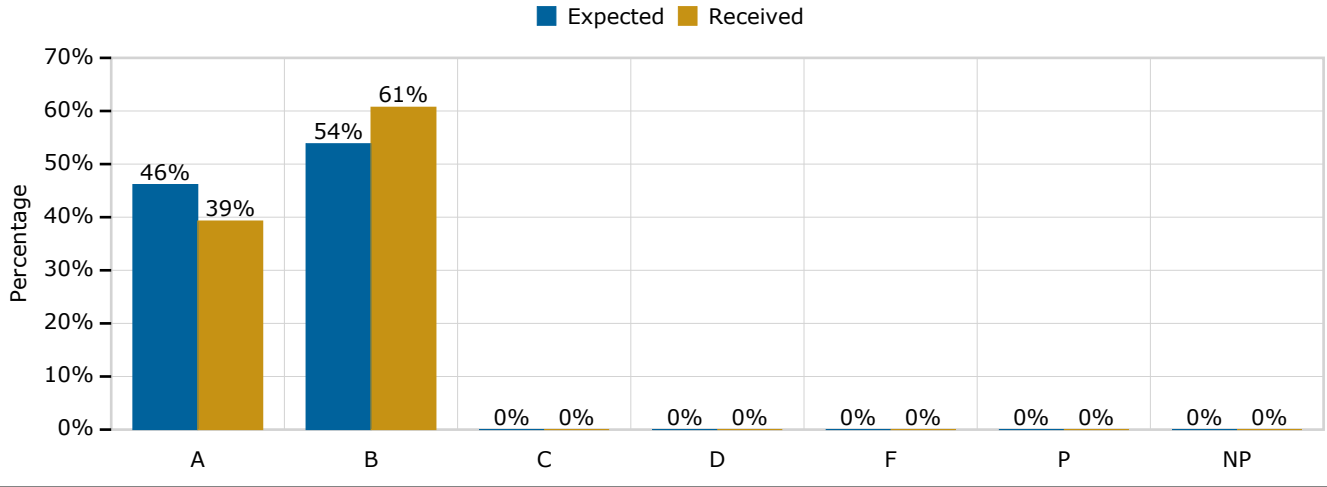


Class Environment

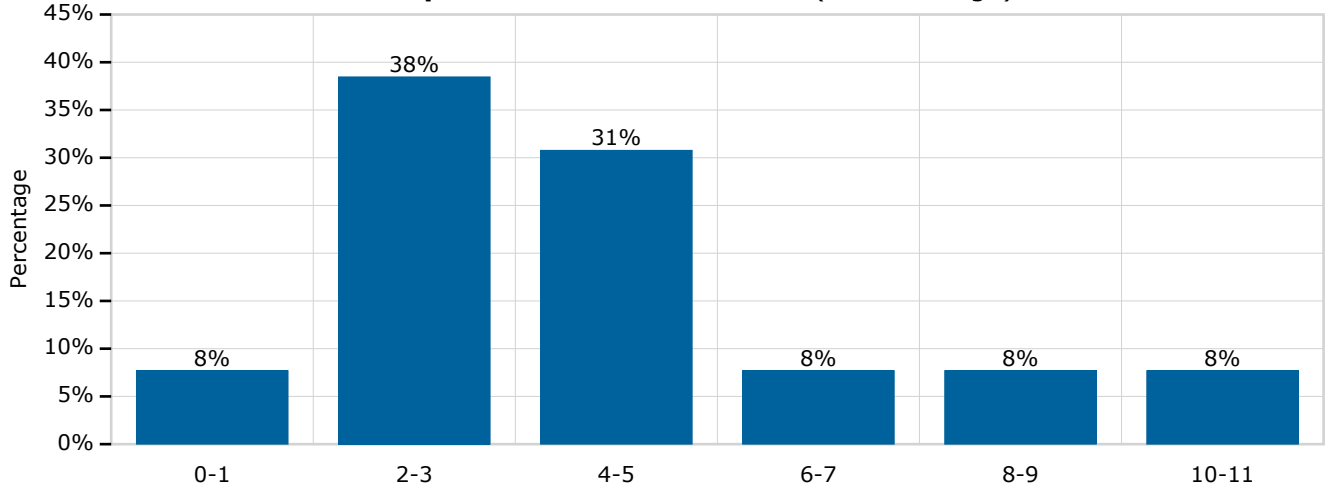
Class Mean: 4.9 (Strongly Agree) Comparison Mean: 4.52 (Strongly Agree)



Expected Grade (B+ average, 3.46, SET respondents) vs. Grade Received (B+ average, 3.39, all students)



Hours per week outside of class (4.85 average)



DETAILED RESULTS

Note: "% Positive" reflects responses of Strongly Agree or Agree; "% Negative" reflects Strongly Disagree or Disagree responses.

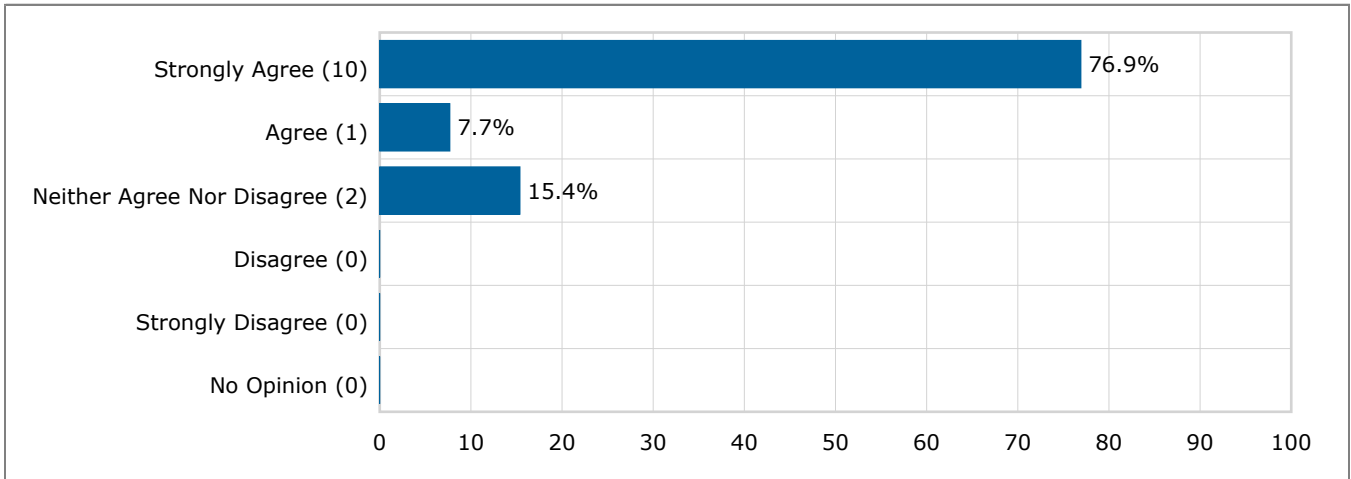
Scoring Methodology

A numerical value is assigned to each response in the standard Likert Scale used for evaluations: Strongly Agree (5), Agree (4), Neither Agree Nor Disagree (3), Disagree (2), Strongly Disagree (1). Responses marked "No Opinion/Not Applicable" are excluded from mean calculations.

Student Learning

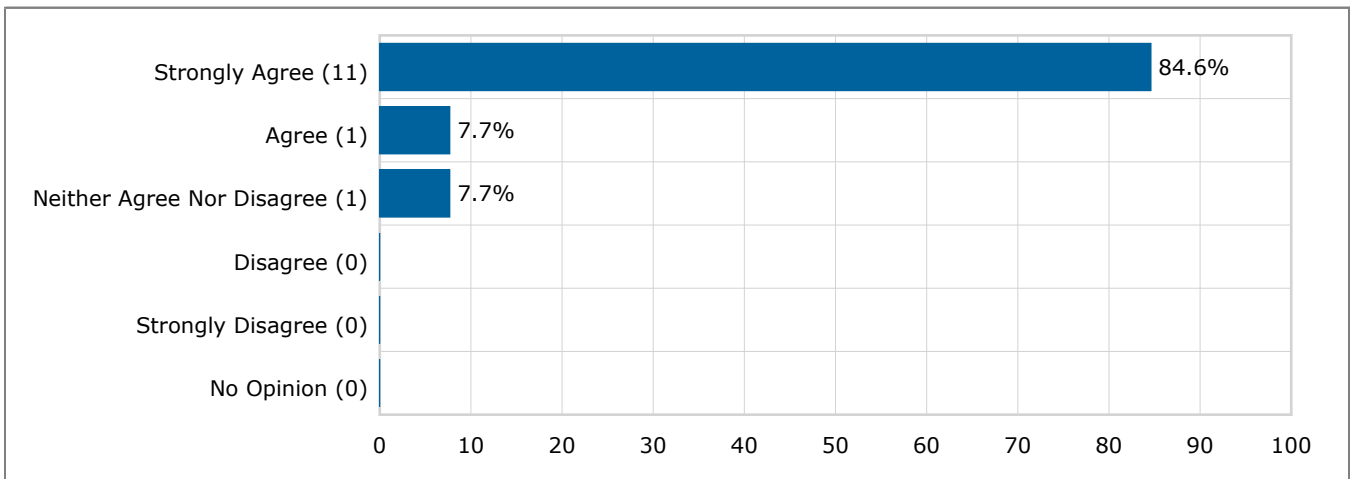
1. Class sessions helped me learn the course content.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
84.6% Positive	4.62 ± 0.74 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



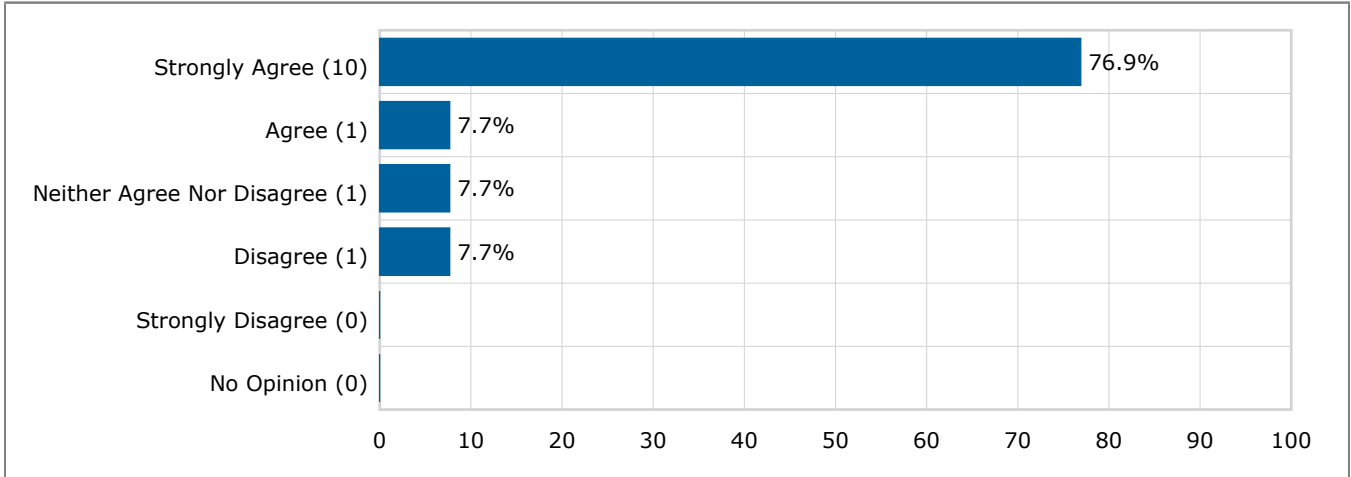
2. Course readings and other course materials helped me learn course content.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
92.3% Positive	4.77 ± 0.58 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



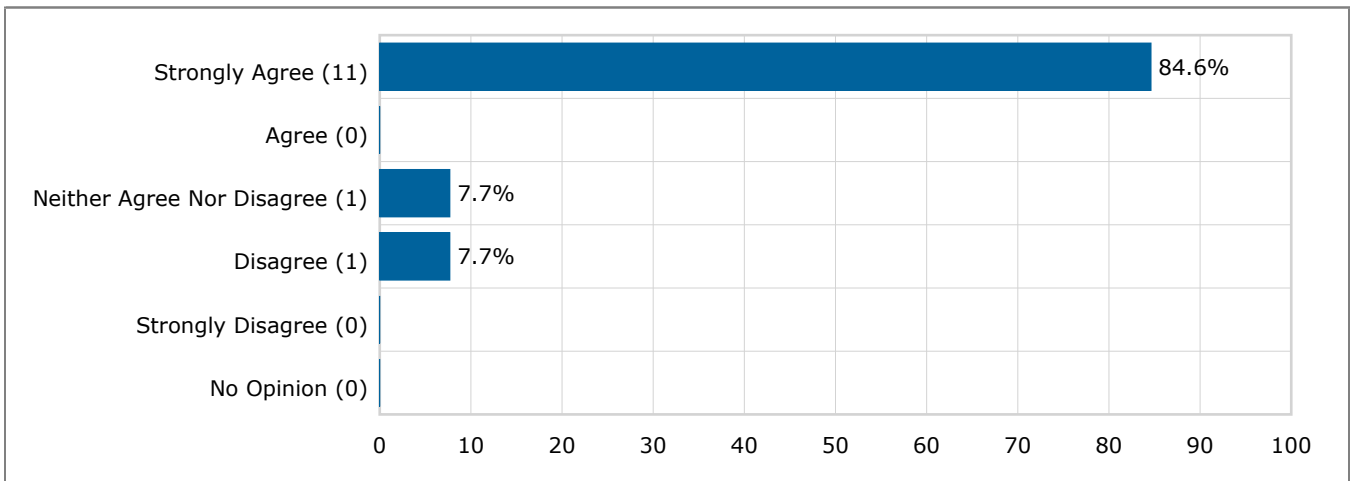
3. Assignments (homework, projects, etc) helped me learn the course content.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
84.6% Positive 7.7% Negative	4.54 ± 0.93 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



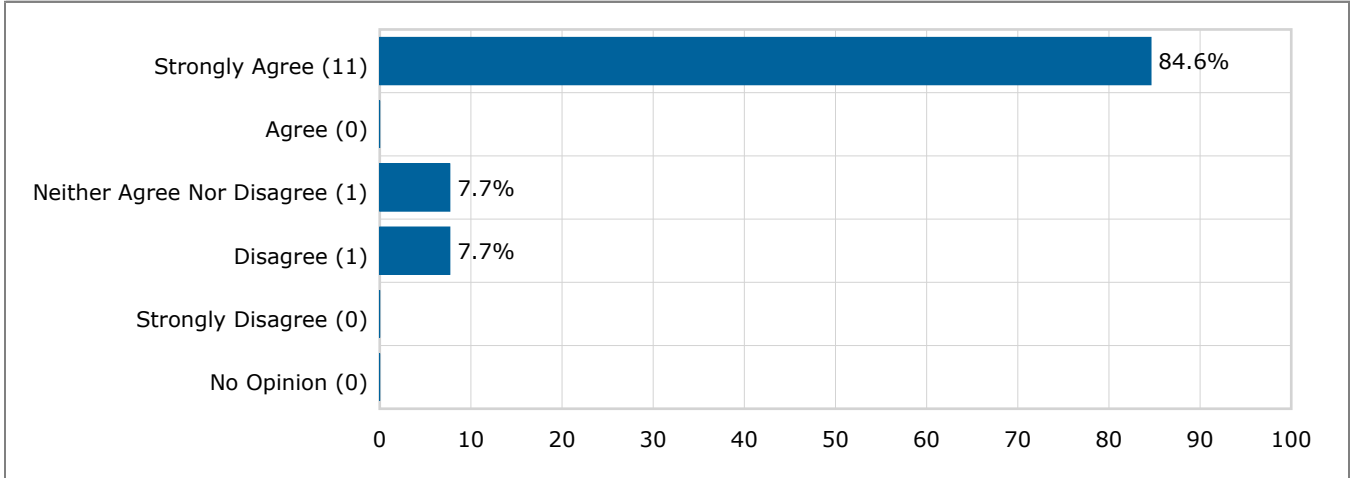
4. The course developed my appreciation of and skills for the subject.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
84.6% Positive 7.7% Negative	4.62 ± 0.92 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



5. The course was **intellectually stimulating and engaging**.

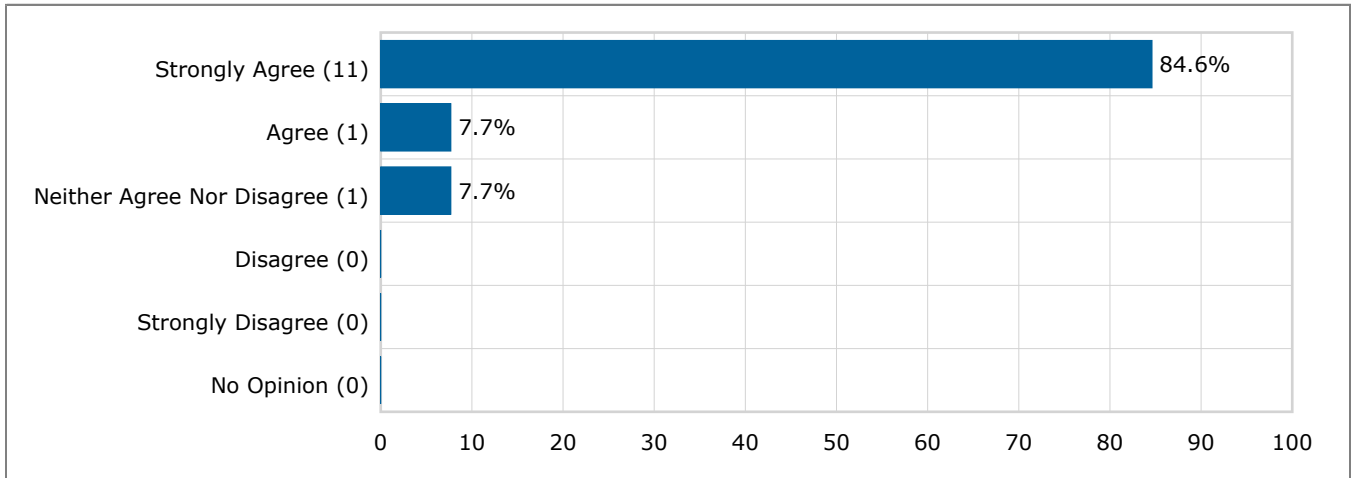
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
84.6% Positive 7.7% Negative	4.62 ± 0.92 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



Course Structure

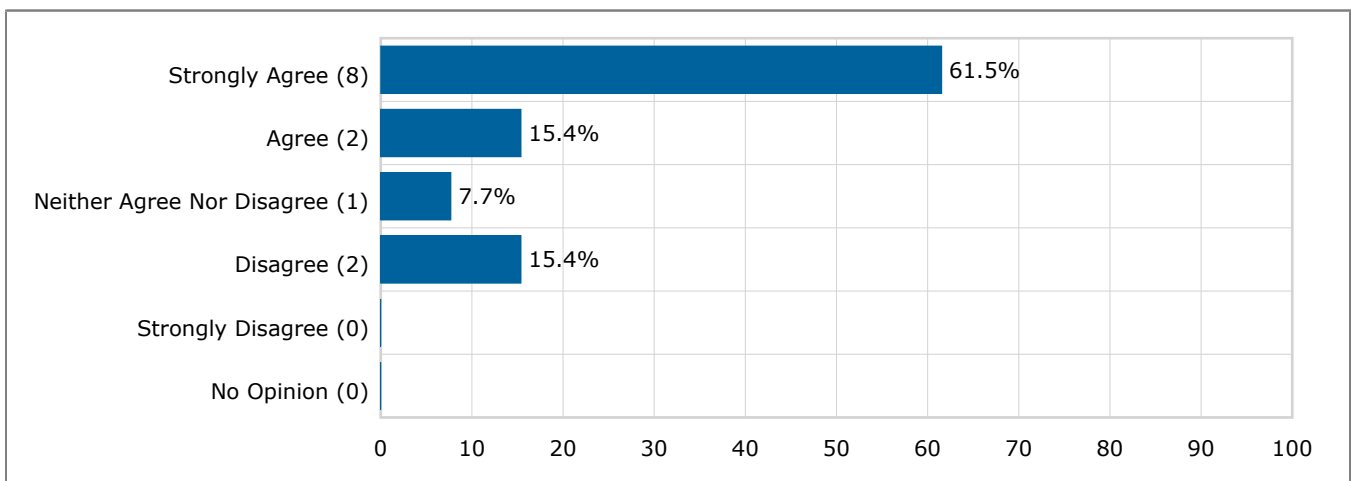
6. The instructor effectively communicated **course goals**, learning **outcomes**, and **expectations**.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
92.3% Positive	4.77 ± 0.58 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



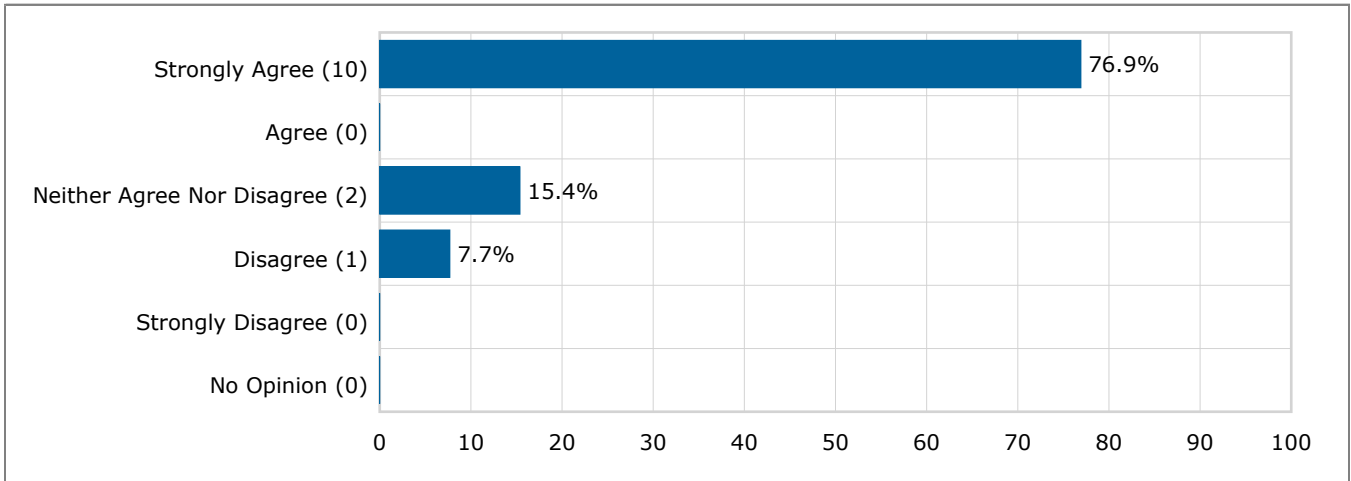
7. **Exams and other assessments** (essays, projects, etc) were an appropriate measure of course learning outcomes.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
76.9% Positive 15.4% Negative	4.23 ± 1.12 (Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



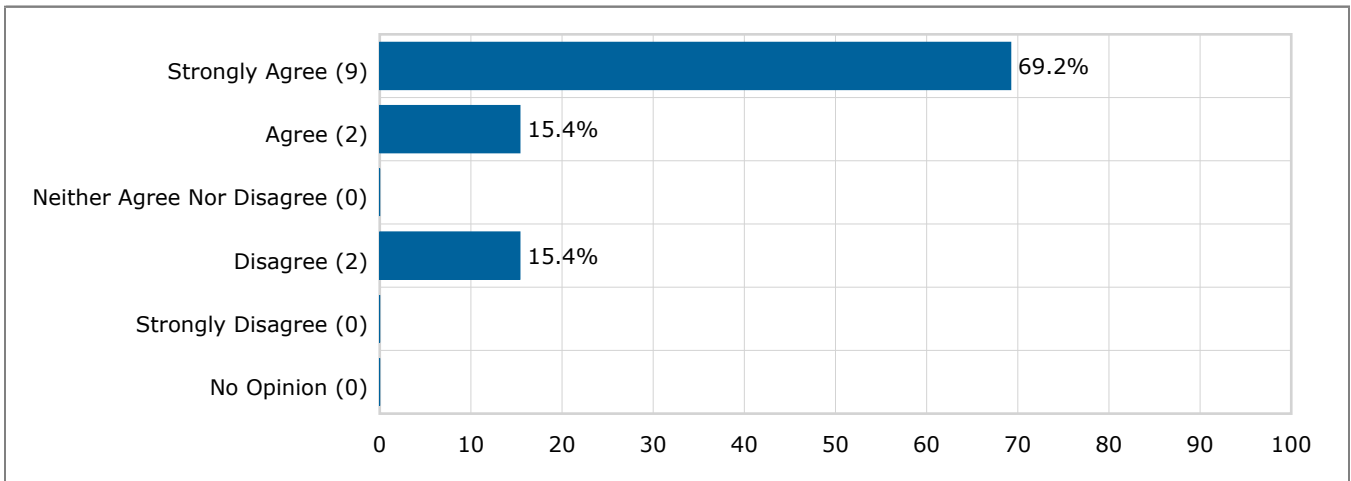
8. I received **timely and helpful feedback** in this course.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
76.9% Positive 7.7% Negative	4.46 ± 1.01 (Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



9. The instructor incorporated **teaching methods** that helped me learn.

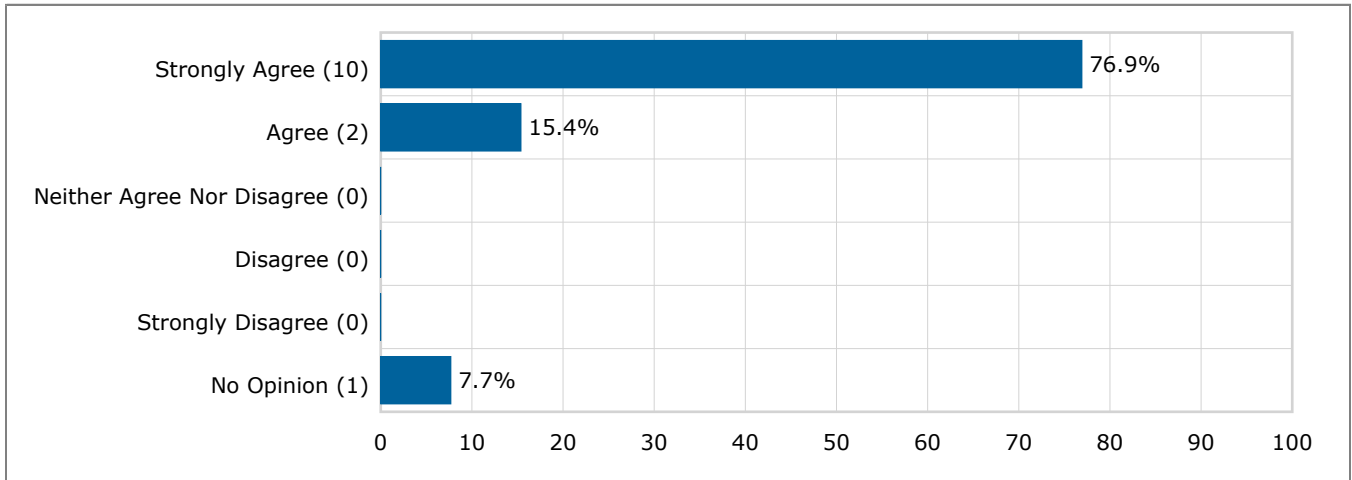
% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
84.6% Positive 15.4% Negative	4.38 ± 1.08 (Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



Class Environment

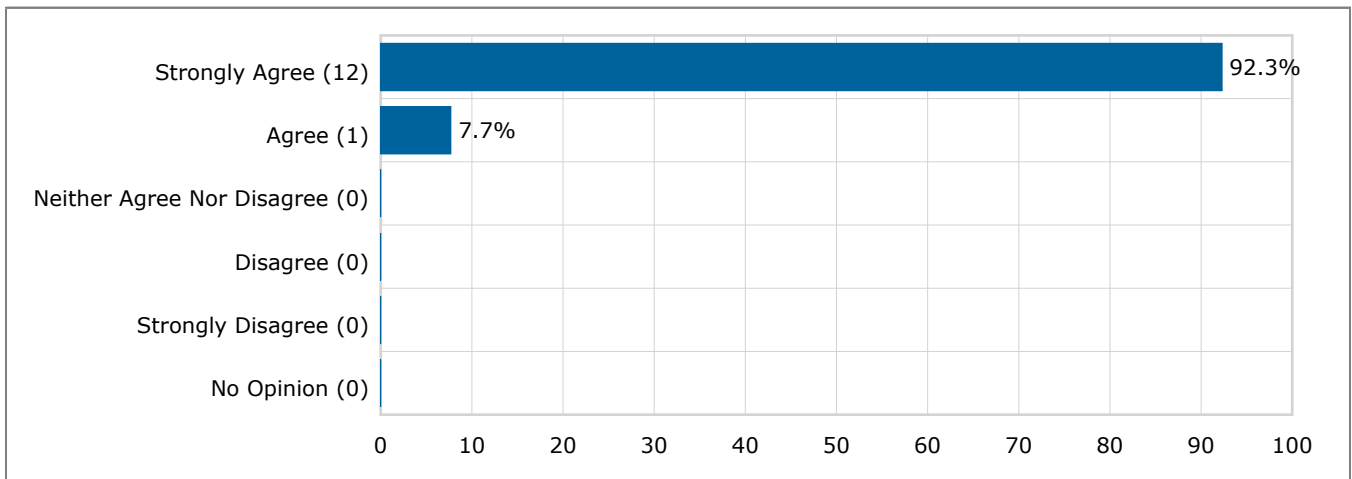
10. There were sufficient **opportunities offered for me to get help** when needed (e.g. established office hours, discussion section, discussion board, etc).

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
92.3% Positive	4.83 ± 0.37 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



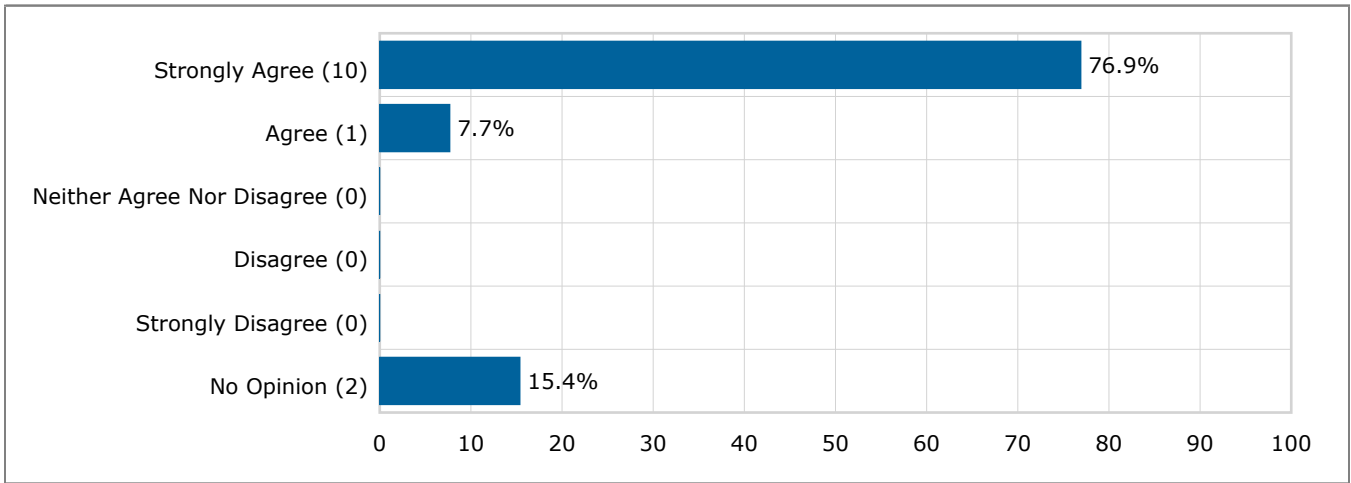
11. The instructor **arrived on time** to class sessions and office hours.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
100% Positive	4.92 ± 0.27 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



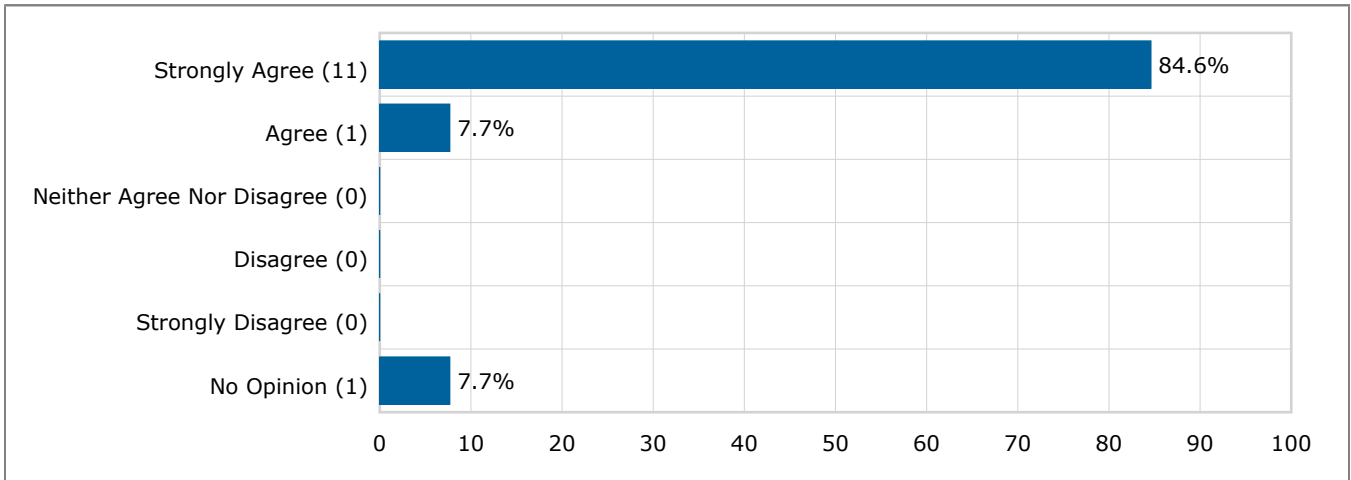
12. The instructor created a **welcoming and supportive learning environment** that valued and supported students from all backgrounds and identities.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
84.6% Positive	4.91 ± 0.29 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



13. The instructor explained what constituted cheating in this course and emphasized the importance of **academic integrity**.

% Positive/Negative	Mean (SD)	Median	Response Count
92.3% Positive	4.92 ± 0.28 (Strongly Agree)	5 (Strongly Agree)	13 (100.00%)



Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that...

14. Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that particularly helped you to engage with the material, learn the material, and/or develop your own critical perspectives on the material.

I found the scribe notes particularly helpful for studying. I think the optional homework assignments were also helpful; instead of focusing on polishing solutions, I was able to focus on understanding the problems. I also like how the professor welcomed questions during every lecture.

Professor Wang explained concepts very clearly, detailing the geometric intuition behind complex ideas whenever possible.

the proof of the important lemma or theorem is really clear in steps which help me a lot to review and understand the class

The review sessions at the beginning of lecture were very helpful.

15. Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that were less helpful for your learning. Optionally you may offer constructive suggestions that might improve their effectiveness.

I felt like being able to use a typed cheat-sheet for the midterm exam would have been helpful. I don't think handwriting the cheat-sheet helped me with learning the material.

My math background is weak so I had trouble following some of the proofs.

Please assign homework for this class that is graded.

Sometimes there was too much content given on one slide. Additionally, the way the notes are written when working out a problem or providing a proof is often hard to follow and confusing.

16. Please describe any specific aspects of the course and/or teaching practices that your instructor used that created or interfered with a welcoming learning environment that valued and supported students from all backgrounds and identities.

Professor Wang excelled at this, creating a friendly and welcoming space for all to learn.

Very inclusive with questions and took the time to learn everyone's names.

Instructor Custom Questions

17. What one concept did you take from this class that will likely shape your future?

Gradient Descent!

KKT Conditions

Smoothness and convergence rate. It's definitely helpful to have this in mind whenever we think about get machine learning method work.

The mathematical background of GD and SGD seems remarkably important. Additionally, the idea of the min-max problem as a 2-player game in the context of game theory was very interesting, and inspired me to look into it on my own.

18. General comments about the Instructor's performance. Please keep your comments constructive and professional, abiding by the Principles of Community.

No opinion

Professor Wang excelled in creating a productive and interesting environment for learning. I deeply enjoyed his class!

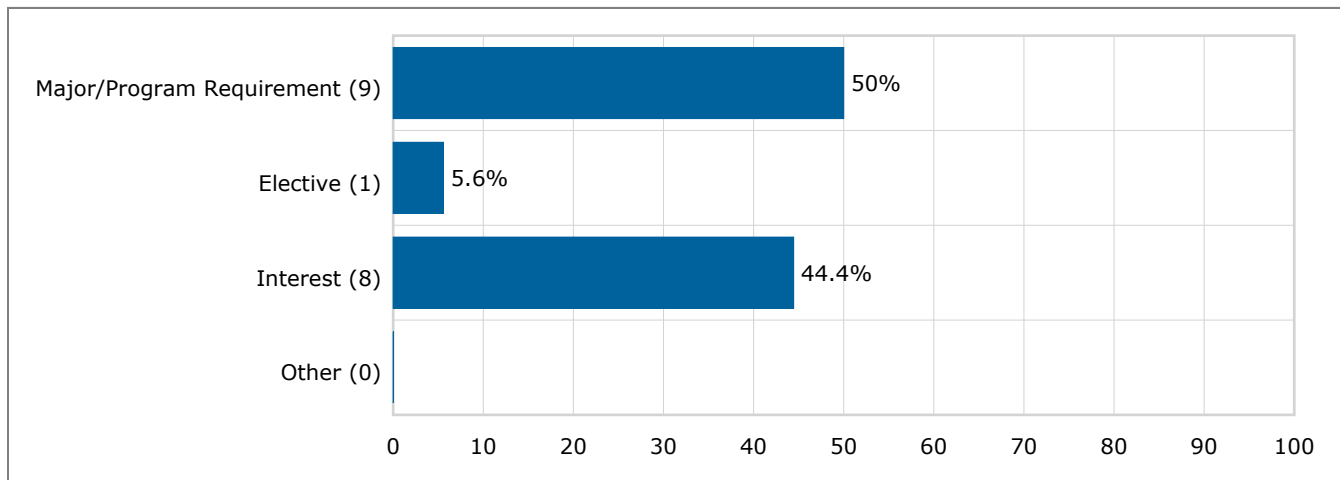
The instructor commits lots of efforts to engage students, and make students learn. It is a math-oriented course, making it harder to achieve the goal. But he has done a good job. The mini-project helps, and some of the learning rate graphs from publishing papers make the learning more concrete.

The professor's explanation is very detailed, and the derivation of some proofs is very rigorous, which will not put too much pressure on me to study.

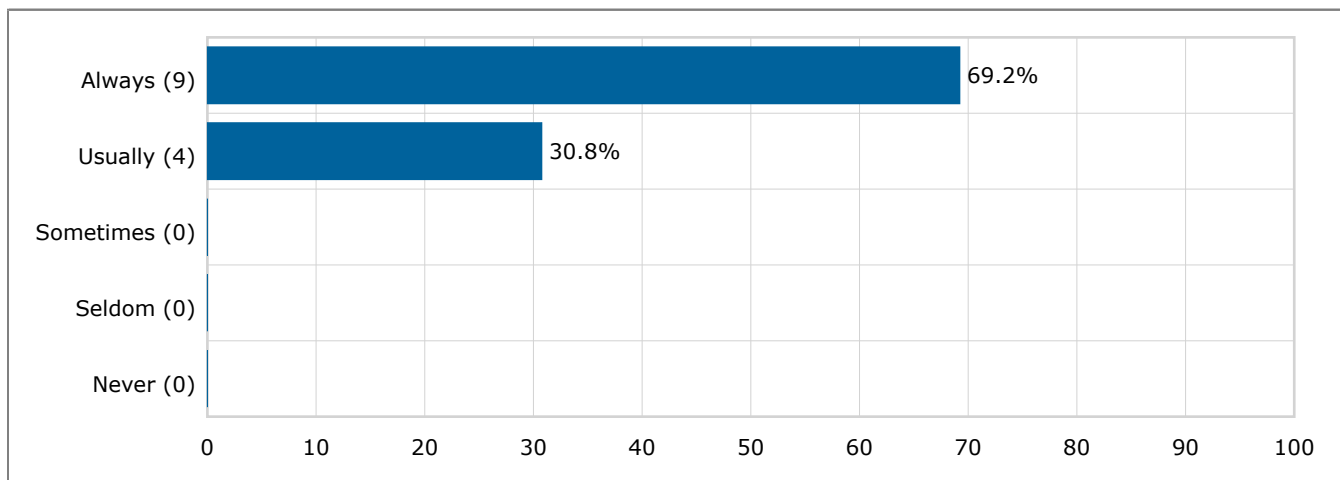
This is was single most best course i have taken till now. It was perfect. It really helped me understand optimization papers a lot. And really made me interested in working on optimization research. I will potentially try to work on this research topic on my thesis or research in general. This was really motivating and intriguing class. I wish we touched more on the SOTA optimization research.

Student Participation

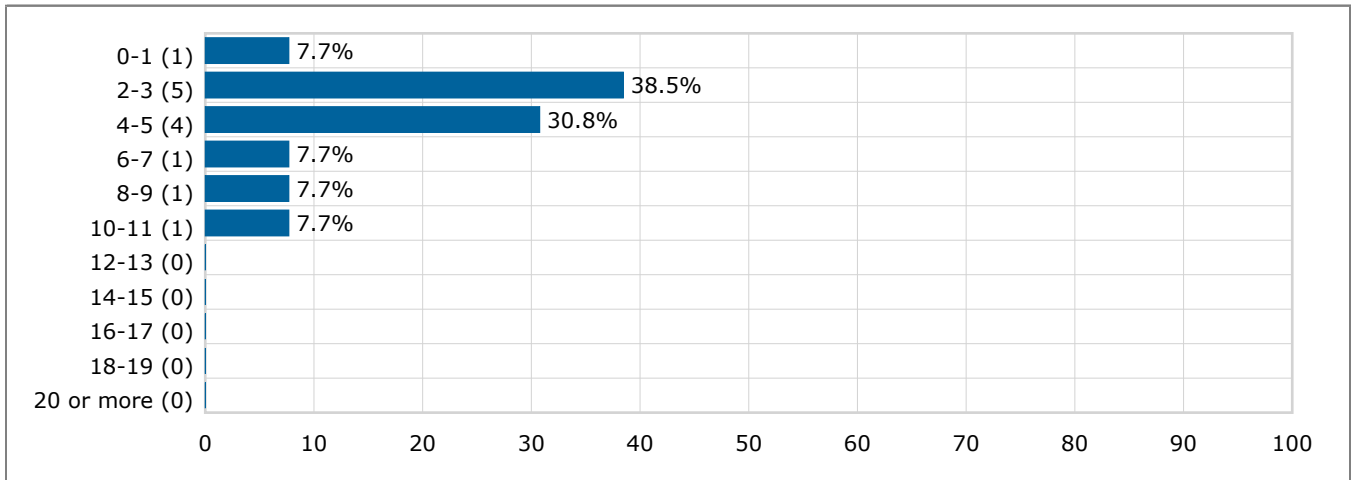
19. What was/were your reason(s) for taking this course?



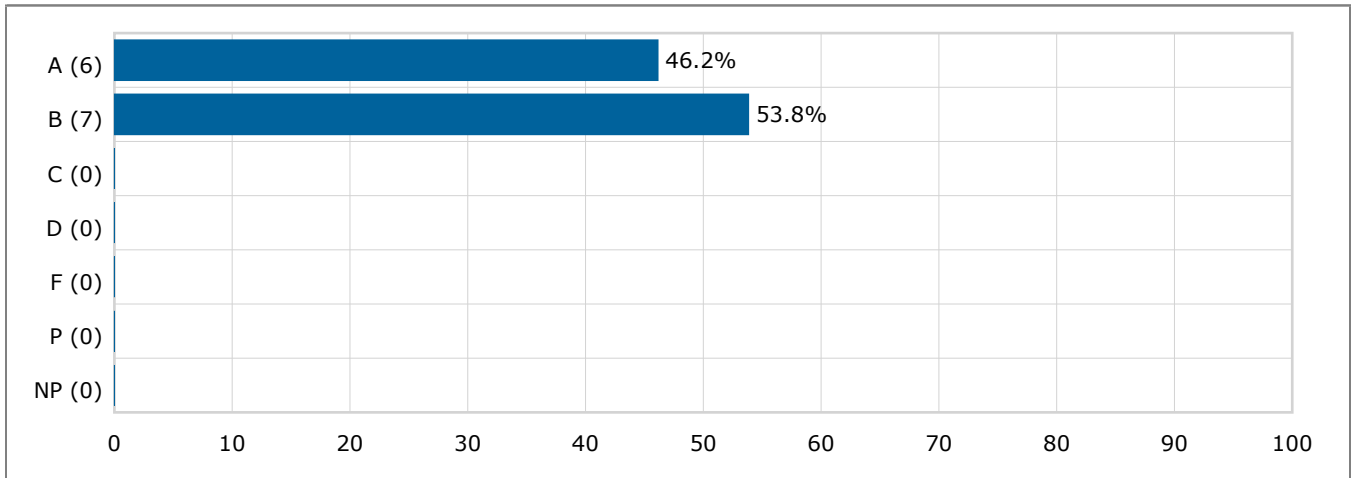
20. How often did you attend class and/or engage with course materials?



21. Hours per week of work outside of class



22. Expected grade in the course



Additional Feedback

23. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in the course?

I hope Professor Wang teaches at UCSD for a long time!

No opinion

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