

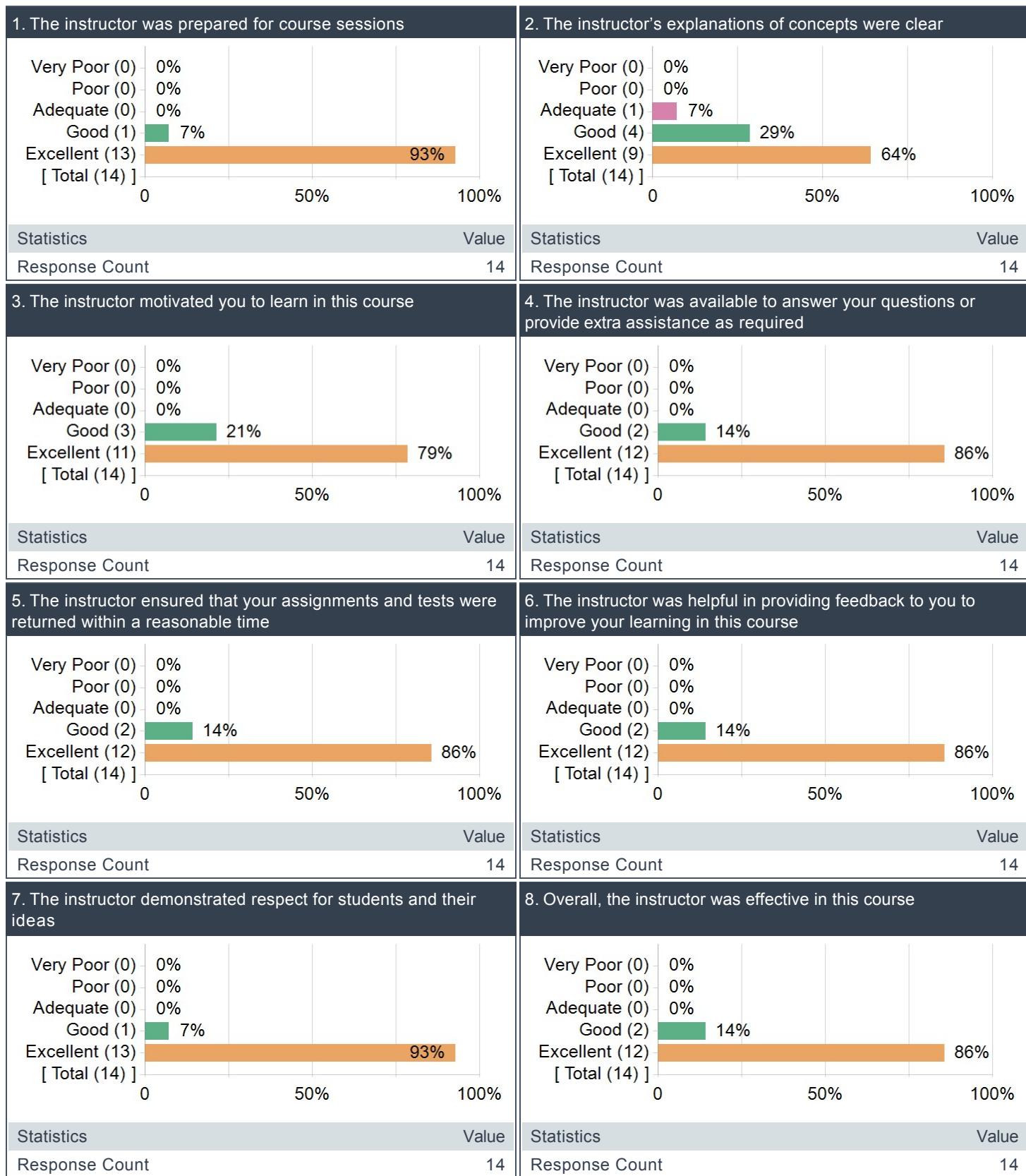
Project Title: **UVic Course Experience Survey - Fall 2020**

Courses Audience: **27**
Responses Received: **14**
Response Ratio: **52%**

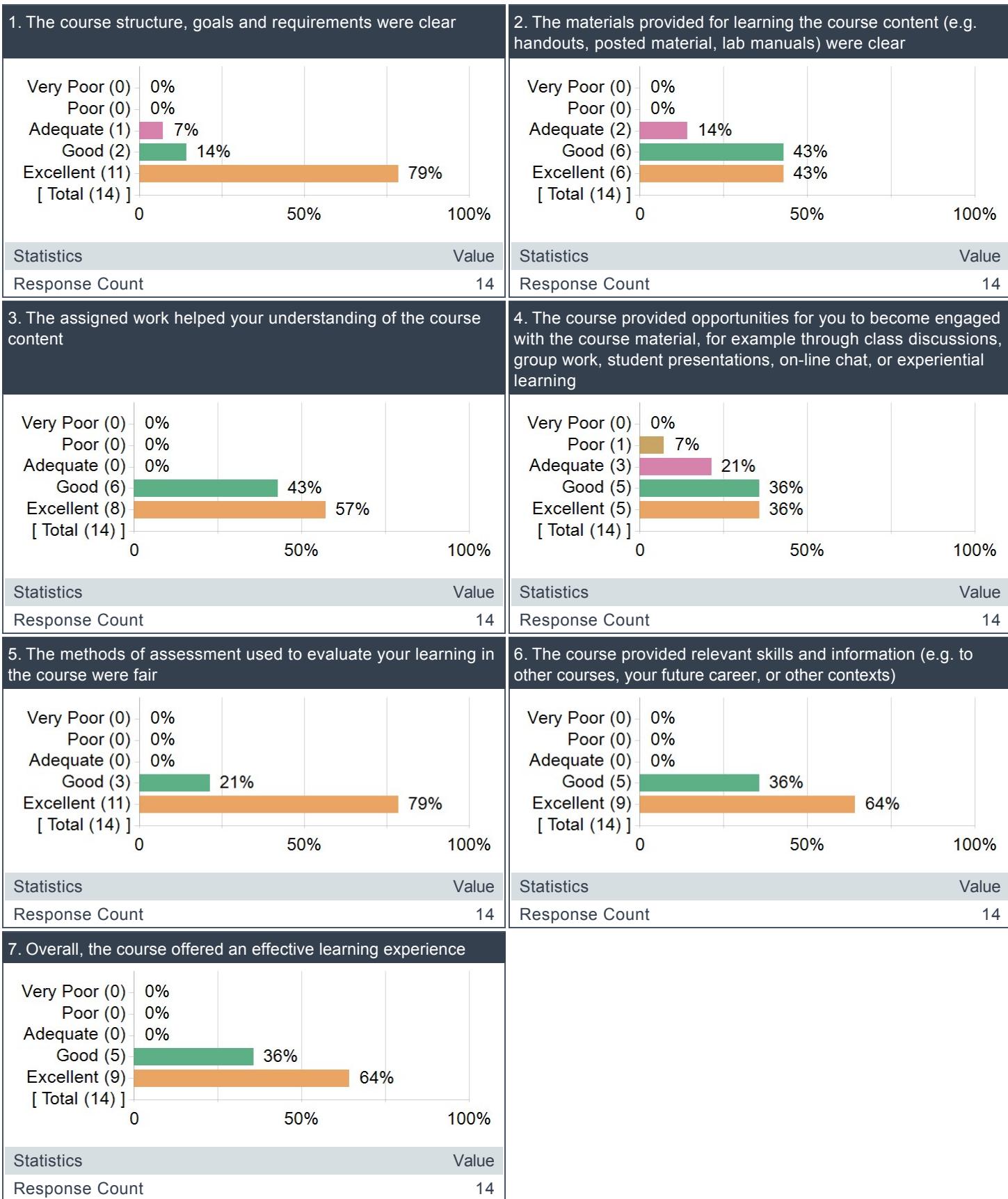
Subject Details

CRN	11457
VNUMBER	XXXXXX

I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

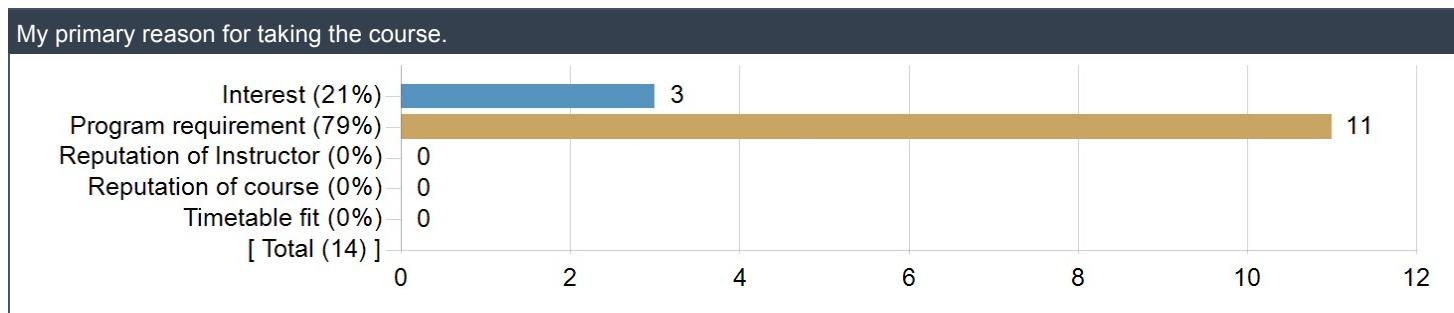


II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

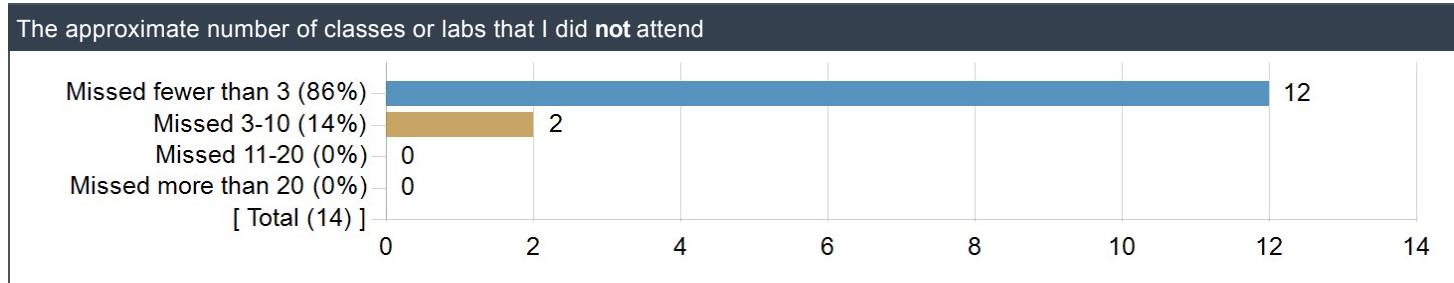


III Statements About The Students:

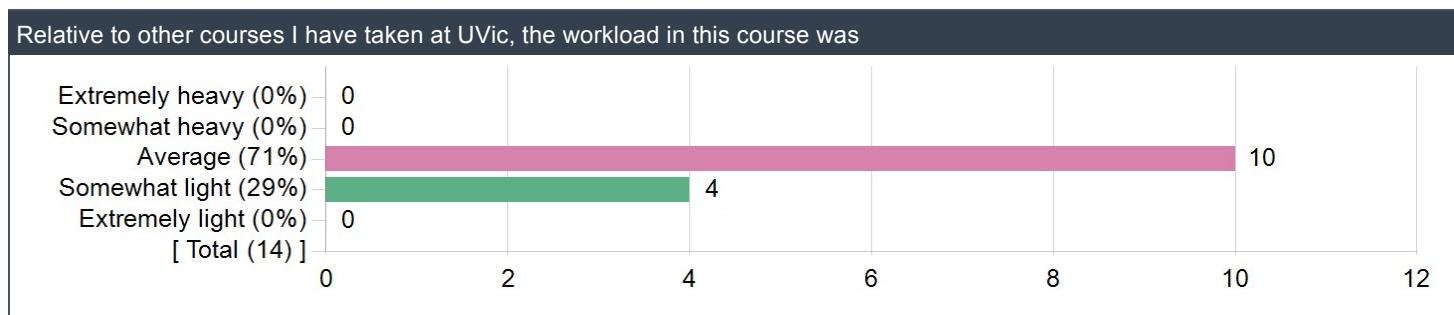
My primary reason for taking the course.



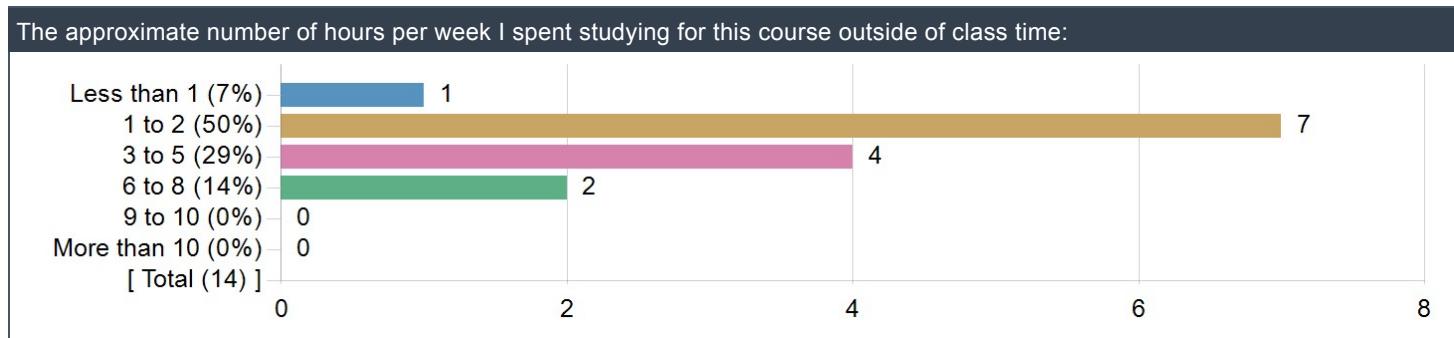
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend



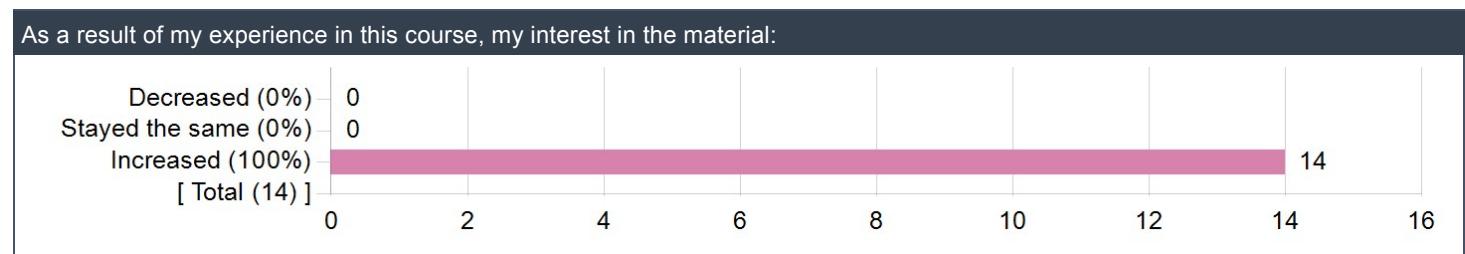
Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was



The approximate number of hours per week I spent studying for this course outside of class time:



As a result of my experience in this course, my interest in the material:



IV Student Comments:

What strengths did your instructor (**Julia Horne**) demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

Comments
Julia did a phenomenal job of making online lectures engaging. Throughout the semester I had a really hard time learning through zoom classes, I found the computer time and lack of in person classes to be hugely detrimental to my learning experience, and believe retention (in general, in all of my classes) will be very poor as a result. That being said, this class was HANDS DOWN the best of the bunch. Julia did an amazing job of keeping things interesting while also actually teaching the information, as opposed to simply presenting it as is often the case. I liked all the funny comments, captions, pictures and videos. The quizzes were great in that they re-inforced things learned in a stress free way. Overall this was an excellent course, and my favourite one this semester. This is also a small comment, but I really liked how I was able to do the homework on paper with a pencil then upload pictures of it; I spent an unreal amount of time on my computer this semester, which was really rough, so being able to do that without looking at a screen was awesome. I also appreciated that the term paper was due early on, as I had four other papers due this week on top of two in-class finals. The way the course was adapted to online learning was very effective as well; some of my instructors compensated for the online format by adding a bunch of extra small, participation oriented assignments and even additional lectures outside of class time, which was really rough. I found this to be a really great balance between eliminating a final exam but still evaluating knowledge of concepts learned in class. I looked forward to this class as it was consistently interesting, relevant and engaging. Thank you for an excellent class!
Julia is a very fun instructor and is exceptionally engaging in lectures. Her humour always helped us learn and could explain topics in more ways that helped us grasp content better, as well as giving us walk-throughs on work where we didn't quite get something with a very comprehensive marking style. I greatly appreciated that she recorded lectures so that we could go back and reference them, given that occasionally one would have to miss a lecture for whichever reason and it is currently very challenging to get notes etc from classmates when we can't meet anyone in the class. The quizzes helped us review course material and the assignments helped us think outside the box and apply knowledge from lecture in a critical way. Her compassion for her students truly helped me out a couple of times when situations arose in my life and I would have a delay on an assignment, allowing me the time to actually understand the content rather than rush to a deadline with poor work. Overall a fantastic instructor and 10/10 would take again, she is an asset to the UVic teaching staff.
She was an amazing teacher who was very engaging and supported her students. There was plenty of time in class to ask questions and discuss any topics. The feedback on our assignments were helpful. Her insight into every topic was very in-depth and she was able to give us more information if we needed it.
Always interested in the course material made it easy for us to learn it!
Dr. Horne is by far my favorite professor I have had yet! I really appreciate how organized she was for all the classes and how knowledgeable she was on all the material. I also really enjoyed how relatable she was to the students and how relaxed she made the learning environment. I will definitely take another course with her in the future if I have the chance
Julia took the move to online learning like a champ and utilized the brightspace learning environment in a very effective way
Julia is a very engaging and entertaining presenter. She used lots of pop culture references and humour in her slides which helped keep my attention during online lectures. She is also very well versed (or so it seemed) in the course material, she was almost always able to answer questions well and would simply admit to not knowing something if that was the case. She was respectful of all students and was excited about course material. Her slides were well formatted and easy to read.
she is super patient and kind
she was AMAZING! very entertaining, perfect pace to allow students to take clear notes from slides as well as what she was saying. best class i have taken this semester by far.
She was able to draw connections of concepts with relevant modern day points of discussion such as movies and celebrities. This not only kept our interest in the class, but also made things easier to understand. She was also successful in making what could be considered dry topics very interesting for everyone. She interacted and encouraged discussion among us which kept us on topic.
Very easy to talk to. Showed compassion and cared about her students.
She made lectures interesting and brought her fun personality to the class which definitely encouraged attendance in my opinion. She is very kind and compassionate, providing extensions and help when needed, especially during these unprecedented times. She understood that not only were her students challenged by other classes but also that life, and mental circumstances were affecting many students. She always tried her best to reduce our stress and I very much needed and appreciated it!
Julia is the best! She creates a very comfortable space to learn and keeps the mood light. Her concepts are clear, the powerpoints are very understandable and the assignments and quizzes were the perfect amount of challenging but understandable. Enough to make you really think and help your learning.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor (Julia Horne**) could have helped you learn more effectively.**

Comments
I found some of the assignments to be a little disjointed from the lectures; sometimes we covered things in class after the assignments were due that would have been good to know before writing the assignment (especially for the last one, HW 5). This may be deliberate, which is not a problem as it certainly made me think and engage with the material. I also found the grading to be very fair (maybe a little too lenient?) but I am in 5th year, so this is likely to be different for students in second year. Maybe for second year students it's a nice change from the norm, which unfortunately in my experience is harsh, unflexible and impersonal grading.
We could have possibly used a little more math instruction given the assignments did have math components, but this also made us put more thought into how we structured questions and worked through them. I did find myself lost in this part sometimes but overall the challenge was beneficial.
She could describe more of what her abbreviations for events are such as "GOE" or "BIF's". Powerpoint slides could have more sentence structure rather than only being point form.
I can tell you have a wealth of knowledge of the topics covered in the course and sometimes that knowledge lead to long winded and somewhat confusing explanations of concepts. Not necessarily a bad thing but my only suggestion would be to make your explanations more clear and concise. Other than that I loved the course and you are one of the best professors I have ever had! Thank you for a great semester :)
None at all! I can not believe this was her first class teaching! She is a better professor than many of my other professors are who have been teaching for many years.
While I understand that this may have been done intentionally to help keep people focused, I often found that some key concepts to the course seemed to be poorly explained on the slides. when going back to look at them it can be hard to tell exactly what is going on or what is being explained. For example there were many slides on chemical reactions during the unit on chemical cycling through the earth system, but none of the equations were clearly labelled, there were names of the equations on the side of the slides but it was hard to tell which equation was which, which made it difficult to apply the information on the slides to quizzes or homework assignments. There were similar instances of this happening in other units of the course as well. In short, a more clear emphasis on key ideas and concepts on the slides would have been beneficial to my learning.
none
julia was awesome i have no suggestions other than maybe making the homework deadline the end of the week so that we can email her our questions as she doesn't answer emails on weekends and the homework is due mondays.
Nothing needs to change, she did great.
Maybe more definitions in lectures and on the slides?
I have none. She was a wonderful professor.
I have been unable to think of anything!

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Comments

I am unsure of how this course would have proceeded in-person, but I think some tactile experiments or projects would have been fascinating, though difficult at home. I am a tactile learner and find that this learning style is frequently brushed aside in academic institutions with the exception of field labs, which is a shame because classroom knowledge and practical field knowledge are very different.

Structure the course so the topics are more streamline. I was difficult to follow where we were when we went back and forth in Earth's history.

I loved all the content of this course, I honestly would not change it at all. I loved all the content and really enjoyed the format of the course.

I think this course could have been improved by changing the order we moved through Earth's history. While it may have worked for some people it would have greatly benefitted me to move through periods in earths history in chronological order, rather than starting in the late cenozoic, moving backwards to the hadean, and then jumping forwards to the anthropocene. I'm not sure if this choice was made as it lended itself better to the order in which earth systems and their interaction were being taught, but it would have helped me keep things sorted in my head to move in chronological order.

none

doing the geologic timescale in order may have helped piece together events

I think the course is perfect the way it is.

The worksheets could be a little more clear or maybe some sample calculations could be provided as it is all new to us and hard to figure out if we are missing any components

Very well designed and very enjoyable! This course was my favorite this semester and was the most interesting!