ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY

Creation Date: **Thursday, May 15, 2025**

blue®

Is this a required course?

Is this a required course?		
Yes (6)		66.67%
No (3)		33.33%
[Total (9)]		

What percentage of classes did you attend in this course?

What percentage of classes did you attend in this course?		
Less than 50% (0)		0.00%
50-74% (0)		0.00%
75-89% (0)		0.00%
90-99% (7)		77.78%
100% (2)		22.22%
[Total (9)]		

Stimulation and Challenge

Overall

CLASS AVG 4.67
INST-DEPT AVG 4.13
INST-COLL AVG 4.11
StFX 4.20

1. The level of intellectual challenge in this course is appropriate.

CLASS AVG 4.22
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.04
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.05
StFX 4.11

2. The instructor shows interest and enthusiasm in teaching this course.

CLASS AVG 4.89
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.26
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.36
StFX 4.48

3. The instructor stimulated my interest in this subject area.

CLASS AVG 4.78
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.06
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 3.91
StFX 4.03

4. I was encouraged to apply my knowledge in different ways (i.e. critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, writing skills)

CLASS AVG 4.78
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.17
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.12
StFX 4.18

Stimulation and Challenge

Overall	Value
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.53

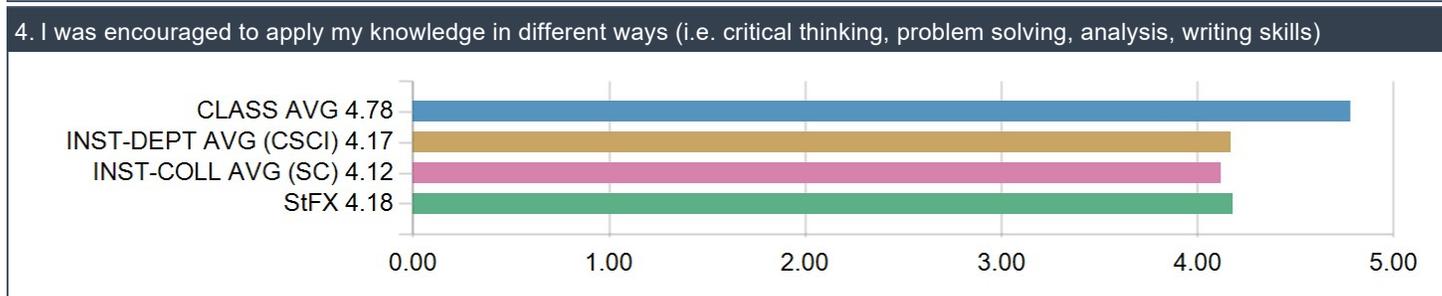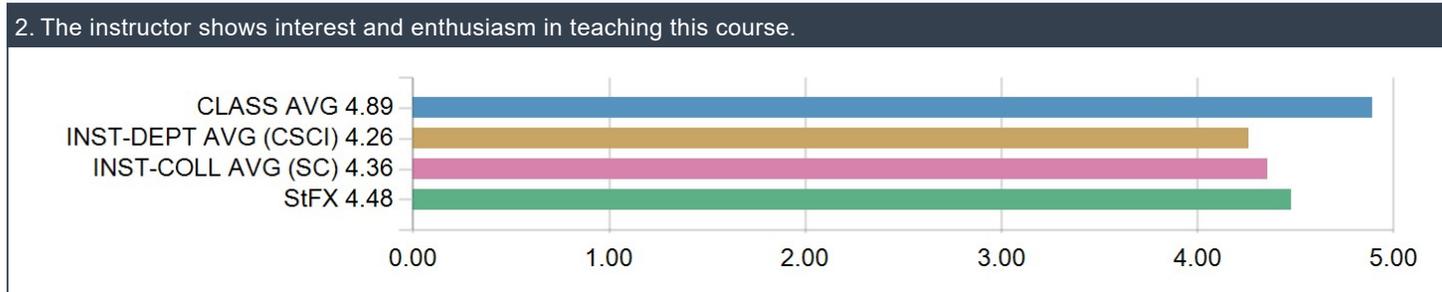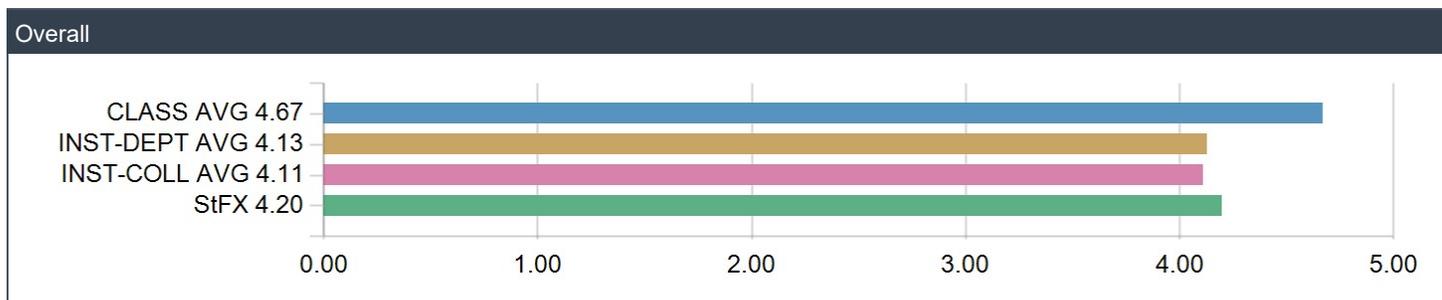Individual Report for 20251049928-Computer Organization James Hughes

1. The level of intellectual challenge in this course is appropriate.

	Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (0)		0.00%
Disagree (0)		0.00%
Neutral (1)		11.11%
Agree (5)		55.56%
Strongly Agree (3)		33.33%
[Total (9)]		
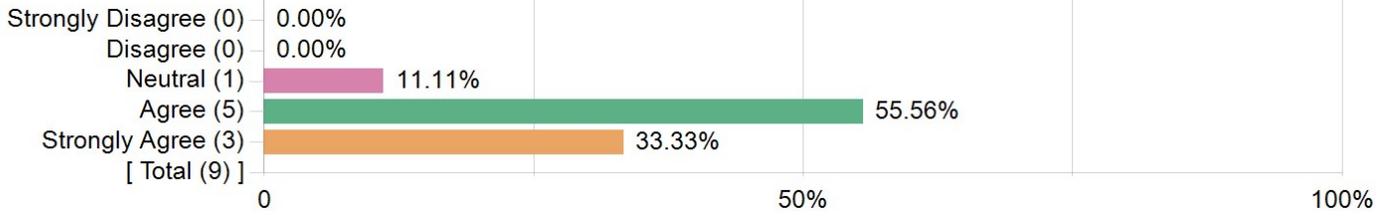
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.67

2. The instructor shows interest and enthusiasm in teaching this course.

	Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (0)		0.00%
Disagree (0)		0.00%
Neutral (0)		0.00%
Agree (1)		11.11%
Strongly Agree (8)		88.89%
[Total (9)]		
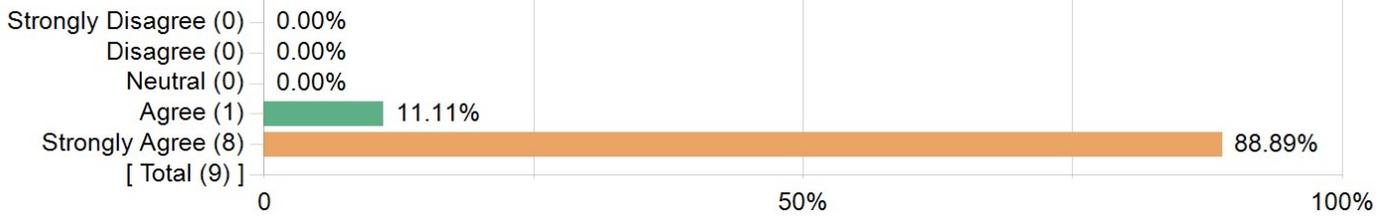
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.33

3. The instructor stimulated my interest in this subject area.

	Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (0)		0.00%
Disagree (0)		0.00%
Neutral (0)		0.00%
Agree (2)		22.22%
Strongly Agree (7)		77.78%
[Total (9)]		
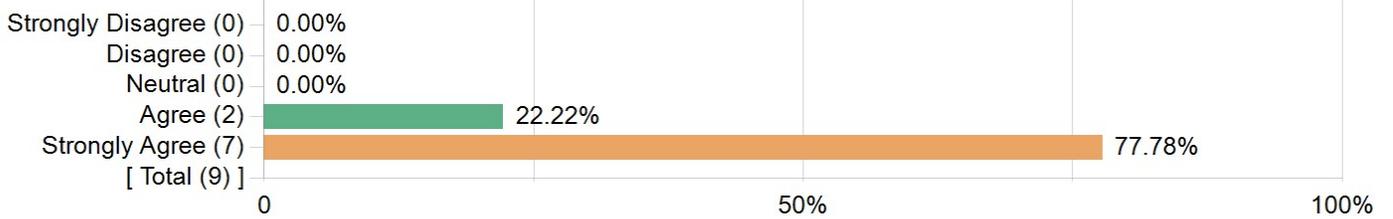
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.78
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.44

Stimulation and Challenge (continued)

4. I was encouraged to apply my knowledge in different ways (i.e. critical thinking, problem solving, analysis, writing skills)

Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (0) — 0.00%
Agree (2) — 22.22%
Strongly Agree (7) — 77.78%
[Total (9)]
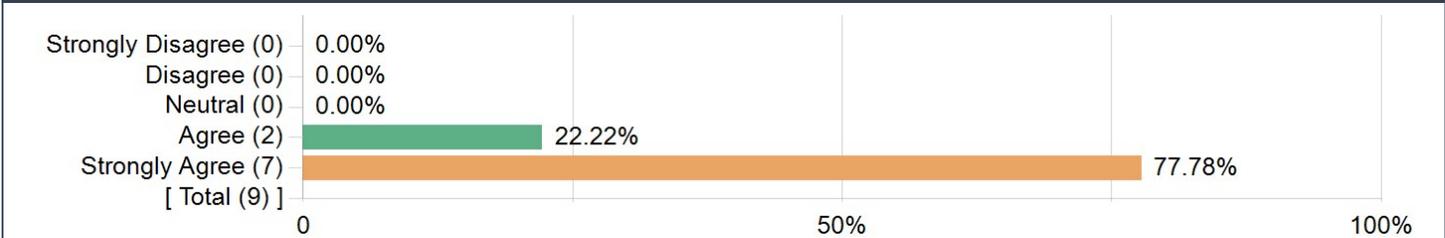
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.78
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.44

Instructor Communication

Overall

CLASS AVG 4.61	
INST-DEPT AVG 4.25	
INST-COLL AVG 4.17	
StFX 4.25	

Scale: 0.00 – 5.00

1. The instructor makes students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas.

CLASS AVG 4.56	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.34	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.28	
StFX 4.40	

Scale: 0.00 – 5.00

2. The criteria for assessment are clearly communicated to students.

CLASS AVG 4.44	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.21	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.07	
StFX 4.14	

Scale: 0.00 – 5.00

3. The instructor's communication skills (volume, enunciation, speed, tone, vocabulary) are appropriate for the course.

CLASS AVG 4.78	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.21	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.22	
StFX 4.30	

Scale: 0.00 – 5.00

4. The instructor is effective in organizing and presenting the course materials.

CLASS AVG 4.67	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.25	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.10	
StFX 4.16	

Scale: 0.00 – 5.00

Instructor Communication

Overall	Value
Mean	4.61
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.60

Individual Report for 20251049928-Computer Organization James Hughes

1. The instructor makes students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (4)	44.44%
Strongly Agree (5)	55.56%
[Total (9)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.53

2. The criteria for assessment are clearly communicated to students.

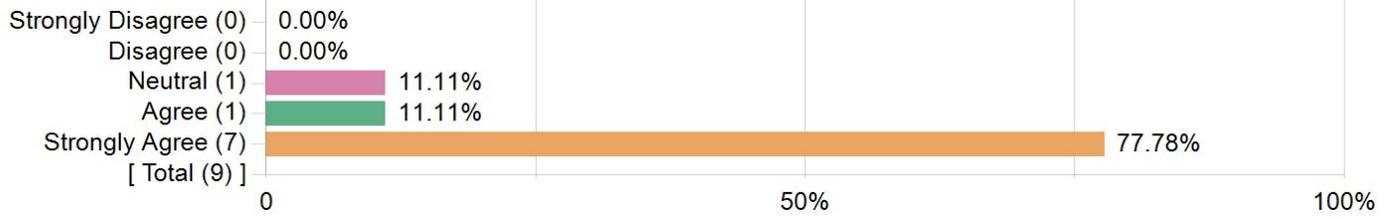|	
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (1)	11.11%
Agree (3)	33.33%
Strongly Agree (5)	55.56%
[Total (9)]	
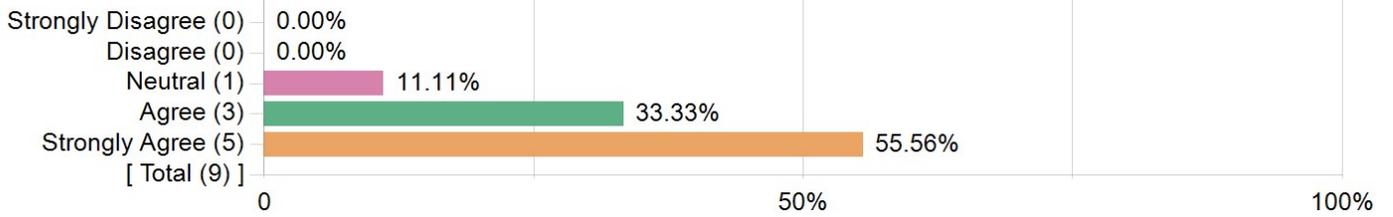
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.44
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.73

3. The instructor's communication skills (volume, enunciation, speed, tone, vocabulary) are appropriate for the course.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (2)	22.22%
Strongly Agree (7)	77.78%
[Total (9)]	
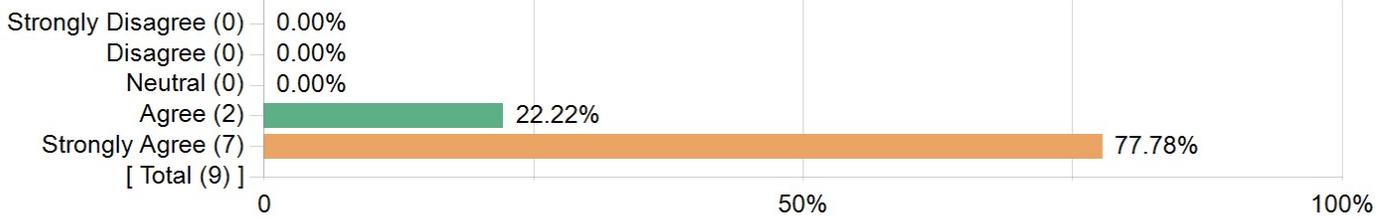
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.78
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.44

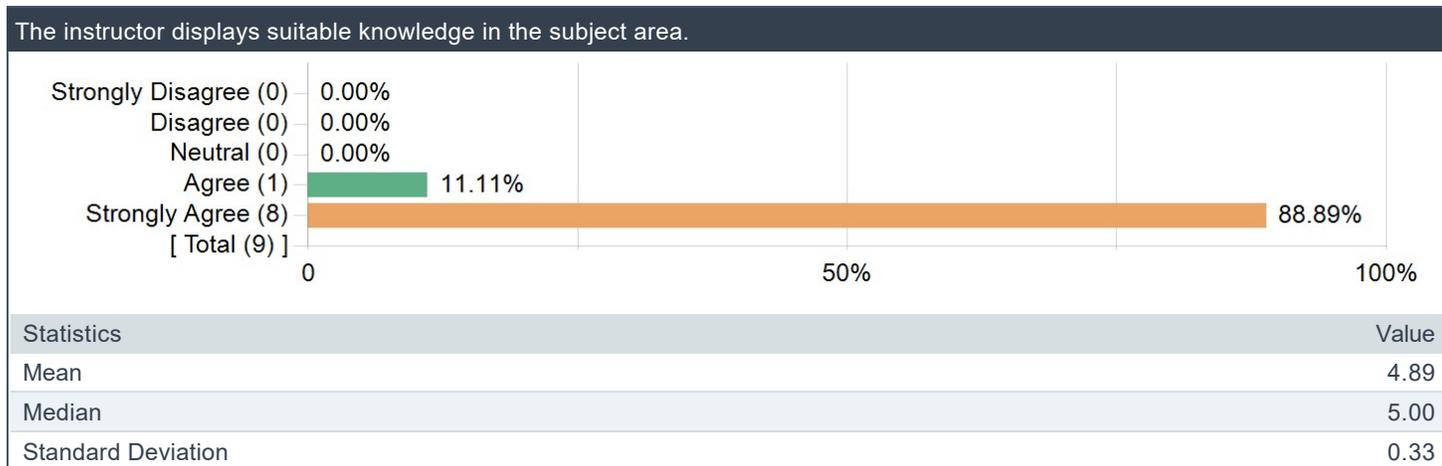## 4. The instructor is effective in organizing and presenting the course materials.

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (1)	11.11%
Agree (1)	11.11%
Strongly Agree (7)	77.78%
[Total (9)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.71

Knowledge and Expertise

Overall

CLASS AVG 4.89	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.37	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.51	
StFX 4.60	

0.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00

CLASS AVG 4.89	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.37	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.51	
StFX 4.60	

0.00 1.00 2.00 3.00 4.00 5.00

Knowledge and Expertise

The instructor displays suitable knowledge in the subject area.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (1)	11.11%
Strongly Agree (8)	88.89%
[Total (9)]	

0   50%   100%

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.33

Course Organization

Overall

CLASS AVG 4.49	
INST-DEPT AVG 4.16	
INST-COLL AVG 4.16	
StFX 4.22	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

1. Assignments and tests are returned to the students within a reasonable time.

CLASS AVG 4.22	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.10	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.16	
StFX 4.23	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

2. The instructor adheres to the criteria for assessment and evaluation as described in the course outline.

CLASS AVG 4.78	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.23	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.28	
StFX 4.32	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

3. The course material is well organized.

CLASS AVG 4.56	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.20	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.13	
StFX 4.18	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

4. The instructor is available for consultation outside of class

CLASS AVG 4.22	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.24	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 4.28	
StFX 4.34	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

5. I would recommend this course to fellow students.

CLASS AVG 4.67	
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI) 4.03	
INST-COLL AVG (SC) 3.94	
StFX 4.03	

0.00   1.00   2.00   3.00   4.00   5.00

Course Organization

Overall	Value
Mean	4.49
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.76

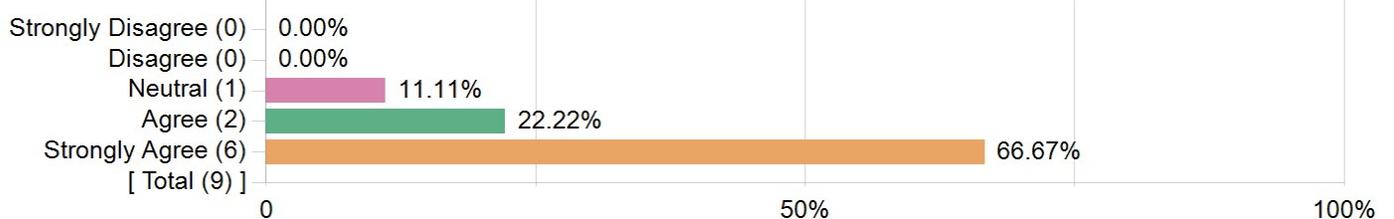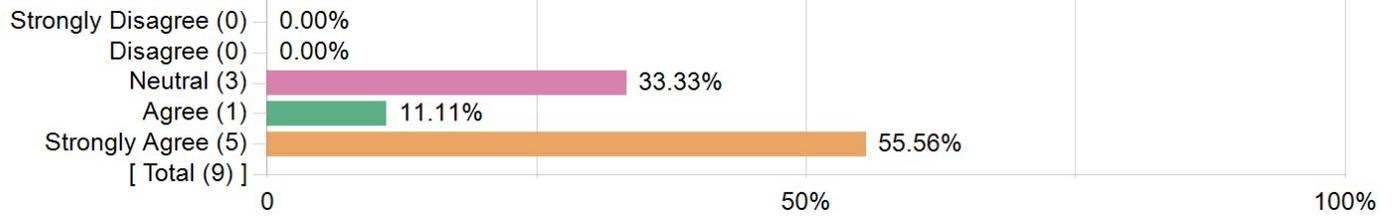### 1. Assignments and tests are returned to the students within a reasonable time.

Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Disagree (1) — 11.11%
Neutral (0) — 0.00%
Agree (4) — 44.44%
Strongly Agree (4) — 44.44%
[Total (9)]
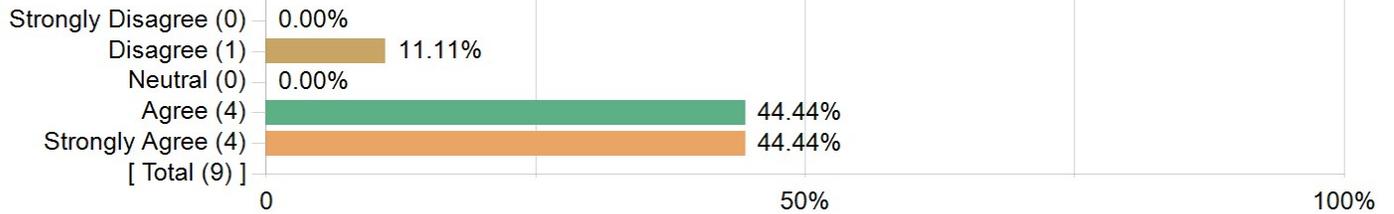
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	0.97

2. The instructor adheres to the criteria for assessment and evaluation as described in the course outline.

Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (0) — 0.00%
Agree (2) — 22.22%
Strongly Agree (7) — 77.78%
[Total (9)]
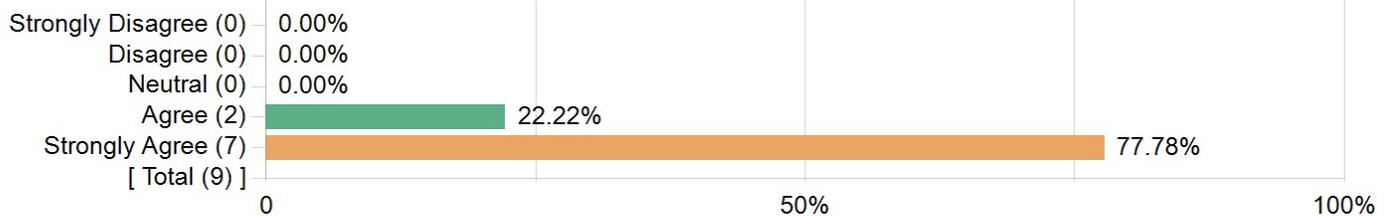
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.78
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.44

3. The course material is well organized.

Strongly Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Disagree (0) — 0.00%
Neutral (1) — 11.11%
Agree (2) — 22.22%
Strongly Agree (6) — 66.67%
[Total (9)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.56
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.73

4. The instructor is available for consultation outside of class

Response	Percentage
Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (3)	33.33%
Agree (1)	11.11%
Strongly Agree (5)	55.56%
[Total (9)]	

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.22
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.97

Course Organization (continued)

5. I would recommend this course to fellow students.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (3)	33.33%
Strongly Agree (6)	66.67%
[Total (9)]	
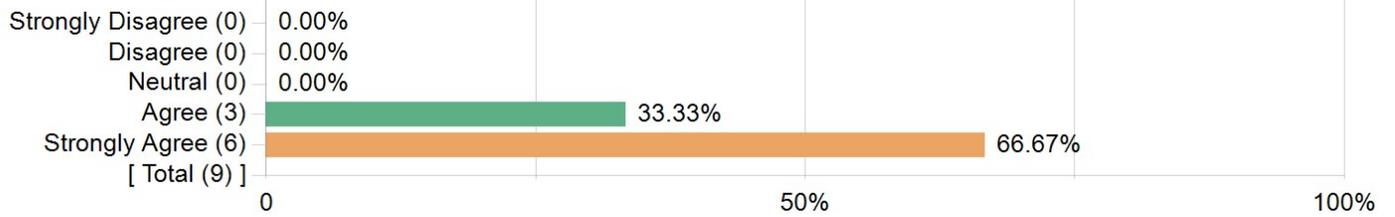
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.67
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.50

The amount of material covered in this course is:

The amount of material covered in this course is:

Too low (0)	0.00%
Appropriate (9)	100.00%
Too high (0)	0.00%
[Total (9)]	
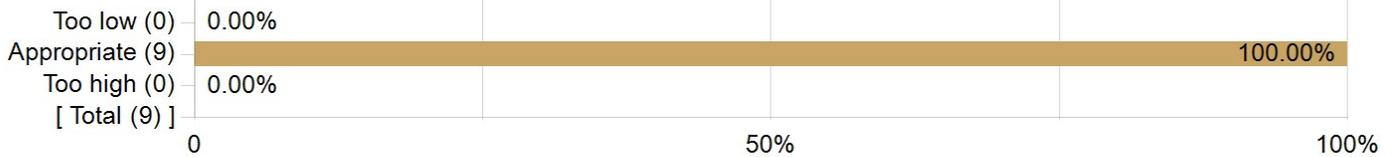
I would describe this course as:

Overall

CLASS AVG	4.33
INST-DEPT AVG (CSCI)	3.71
INST-COLL AVG (SC)	3.54
StFX	3.66
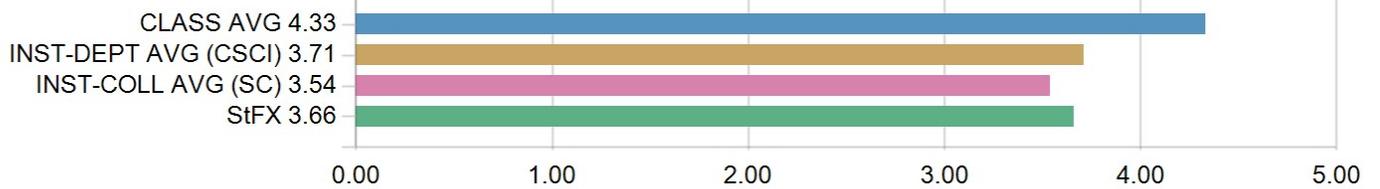
I would describe this course as:

I would describe this course as:

1 Poor (0)	0.00%
2 Fair (0)	0.00%
3 Good (2)	22.22%
4 Very Good (2)	22.22%
5 Excellent (5)	55.56%
[Total (9)]	
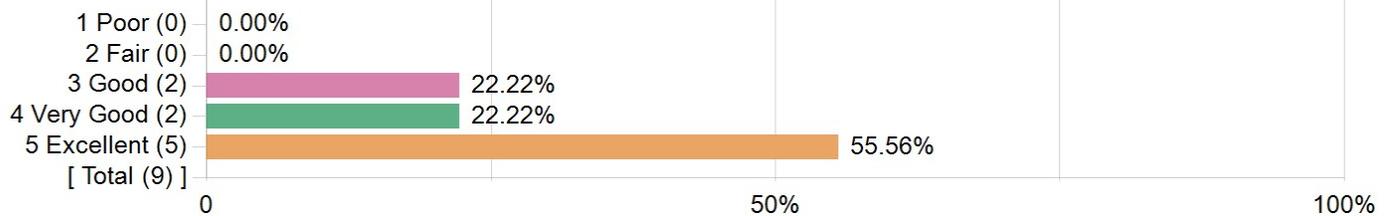
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.33
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	0.87

What were the best aspects of this course and/or instructor?

Comments
It's a very interesting subject, and I really appreciate the hands–on learning approach.
I really enjoyed the course content being posted online. It makes it very easy to follow along during class, and it is fantastic to look back at while working on assignments or labs. Dr. Hughes is clearly passionate about the course and the content and it reflects in the way he instructs.
This course was excellent when it came to learning through creation (through labs and assignments) and not just learning through being told what to learn.
I appreciated the pace and material coverage of the course. We started at the lowest level with transistors and abstracted through to higher levels of the computer organization. In addition, I feel the increase in complexity was appropriate. I enjoyed the labs and thought they complemented the lectures well. It was nice that logic (AND, OR, NOT, etc.) was covered in the early course content as some of the students have not taken discrete structures or may not have covered logic in other courses.
The Hans on learning aspect, where we applied what we learned into a final design of a computer.
Tall and well organized
The material really gave students an understanding of what happens behind the scenes in a computer and about electronic component and their functions. Therefore, I would say the actually content was the best aspect.
It built upon my knowledge from previous classes in new ways, giving a fuller understanding of both topics taught in this course and not taught, but related. Also Dr. Hughes' transparency about redeveloping the course was helpful in understanding the choices made during it.

Are there any aspects of this course or of the instruction that could be improved? If so, please explain.

Comments
I know they are extra work for the instructors, and I know I may be alone in this, but a second midterm I would find to be a helpful gauge of how I'm absorbing the material.
I believe some of the assignments could be made more difficult. Compared to Dr. Hughes other courses, the assignments do not take nearly as long. With that being said, the assignments and labs are otherwise fantastic and we apply what we learn in creative ways (I especially like the problems where we have restrictions on the components we can use).
I wouldn't change anything with this course.
Adding a second test in a future version of the course could be beneficial. The first test was great but focused on lower levels of abstraction and simpler circuitry. Assuming the final will cover more complex circuits, a second test could help students adapt to the increase in abstracted material and bridge the gap between early course content and the final. If needed, an assignment could be dropped to balance marking if that is a concern.
More rigorous grading for lab attendance
The improvements needed will be naturally developed over teaching the course more times.

Do you have any other comments about the course and/or the instructor?

Comments
Dr. Hughes is a great instructor and made sure to go over the required base knowledge required at the beginning of the course (like logic and number systems). He is very approachable for questions inside and outside of class. I would say most of the class appreciates his energy and enthusiasm for the topic, given the attendance and participation I've seen in this class versus others.
This is by far my favourite computer science course I have taken so far.
This course was one of my favourites so far at StFX. Professor Hughes knows his stuff and gives clear lectures and expectations. I learned a lot and enjoyed doing so.
The instructor openly shared his opinion on the computer science department's sticker contest, which is completely understandable. However, James' comments about the designs came across as somewhat harsh. Someone in the class did submit designs, and they may not have taken the feedback well. Art is subjective, and not everyone will appreciate the same styles. That said, a little consideration goes a long way, especially when someone put in the effort to participate — even if design isn't their strong suit. While this may not have been the intent, offhand comments like these could discourage students from participating in similar contests in the future. When it comes to James' effectiveness as an instructor, he is fantastic—you can clearly see his passion for computer science. He completely overhauled this course and did an excellent job incorporating Digital, an open–source computer simulator, for an interactive learning experience. The progression from the transistor level to higher levels of abstraction provided a solid foundation for understanding computer hardware and design considerations. By the end of the course, the class was able to see the realization of a Turing–complete 8–bit system.
I really enjoyed this course. The content and presentation of the content was one of my favourites from the CSCI courses I've taken