

Virginia Tech
Fall 2019 VT Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Course: ENGL_5454_90863_201909: Studies in Theory-ENGL_5454_90863_201909
 Instructor: Derek Mueller *
 Response Rate: 7/10 (70.00 %)

1 - Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

1A - The instructor was well prepared.

Derek Mueller

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			5.29	5.50	5.57	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	14.29%	█										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree	(5)	2	28.57%	█										
Strongly agree	(6)	4	57.14%	█										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
7/10 (70.00%)	5.29	1.11	6.00	25492	5.50	0.86	6.00	4403	5.57	0.80	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.

Derek Mueller

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			4.71	5.34	5.49	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	1	14.29%	█										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	14.29%	█										
Agree	(5)	3	42.86%	█										
Strongly agree	(6)	2	28.57%	█										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
7/10 (70.00%)	4.71	1.38	5.00	25391	5.34	1.02	6.00	4390	5.49	0.89	6.00			

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.

Derek Mueller

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means									
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%			4.86	5.29	5.57	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%											
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	28.57%	█										
Somewhat agree	(4)	0	0.00%											
Agree	(5)	2	28.57%	█										
Strongly agree	(6)	3	42.86%	█										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	Mean	STD	Median
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median			
7/10 (70.00%)	4.86	1.35	5.00	25389	5.29	1.10	6.00	4388	5.57	0.84	6.00			

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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.

Derek Mueller

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	2	28.57%										
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	2	28.57%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	14.29%										
Agree	(5)	2	28.57%										
Strongly agree	(6)	0	0.00%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
7/10 (70.00%)	3.14	1.68	3.00	25342	5.55	0.87	6.00	4389	5.66	0.77	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.

Derek Mueller

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percent	Percent Responses	Means								
Strongly disagree	(1)	0	0.00%										
Disagree	(2)	1	14.29%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	14.29%										
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	14.29%										
Agree	(5)	3	42.86%										
Strongly agree	(6)	1	14.29%										
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
7/10 (70.00%)	4.29	1.38	5.00	25206	5.34	1.05	6.00	4346	5.50	0.90	6.00		

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

Derek Mueller

Response Rate 6/10 (60%)

- Provided tools that I will be using when teaching first year writing and provided the foundation of what makes an effective instructor and class setting.
- Provide timely feedback for each assignment and included drafts before major assignments
- The commonplace book was probably the most helpful thing. I wish there had been more discussion about the actual pragmatics of English 1105 though. Walking through the syllabus template together would have been nice. I had to dig into the website to find out what the assignment options for project 2 even were, much less what the pros and cons have been in actual classroom settings.
- Provided lots of literature about comp, exposed us to the assignments we'll be doing in our classes
- Dr. Mueller had structured the class well to suit our needs as incoming teachers of composition. The readings seemed carefully-selected to get us thinking about being in the classroom, and in-class discussions focused on very practical topics (departmental funding, university/department dynamics, and teaching methodologies) that were useful to meditate on. The class seemed to have a targeted goal of preparing us for the classroom, and it worked well.
- Derek was extremely well-organized. He presented and taught everything very well in class and made a ton of information very easily accessible through his website / google drive.

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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%										
Disagree	(2)	0	0.00%										
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	14.29%	█									
Somewhat agree	(4)	1	14.29%	█									
Agree	(5)	3	42.86%	███									
Strongly agree	(6)	2	28.57%	██									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
7/10 (70.00%)	4.86	1.07	5.00	22396	5.32	1.00	6.00	4339	5.35	0.92	6.00		

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%										
Disagree	(2)	1	14.29%	█									
Somewhat disagree	(3)	1	14.29%	█									
Somewhat agree	(4)	3	42.86%	███									
Agree	(5)	1	14.29%	█									
Strongly agree	(6)	1	14.29%	█									
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department		
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median		
7/10 (70.00%)	4.00	1.29	4.00	22296	5.07	1.24	5.00	4315	5.03	1.20	5.00		

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

Response Rate	4/10 (40%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perhaps I need to overcome my low self confidence and tendency to doubt myself. They often prevent me from bringing my best self into the class. • If the classroom atmosphere had been one of mutual respect, perhaps I wouldn't have dreaded coming to class and would have put more effort into assignments. • Be better focused in class • At no point in the semester did I make a practice of showing up to class having only skimmed the readings, but I could have been better prepared a week or two. 	

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

Derek Mueller	
Response Rate	4/10 (40%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The templates for the syllabus, project assignments, and course calendar were immensely helpful! Thank you for providing these and giving me actual experience in performing the assignments I will giving and providing instructional feedback that has allowed me to improve in many areas. I'm so grateful for this experience! • During the course of the semester, I began to realize he took criticisms of the articles he assigned personally. Overall, there seems to be very little separation between the class and what he sees as his own personal identity, and it became problematic. Our class felt that articles he assigned had racist tones, and wanted to question articles' use of specific language, to both qualify it and recognize that better articles needed to be discovered or written. This visibly upset him. Instead of listening to students' input, he protested that the author was a friend and seemed on the verge of losing control and having an emotional meltdown in class. At one point, he went off on a student for suggesting that a style article was a bit dry and prescriptivist, and therefore hard to make interesting to students. Clearly, his classroom management skills need an alarming amount of work, but I believe there must be some deeper issues here that demand investigation. I was also told that he talked about us behind our backs, and that destroyed the trust I had in him as an instructor at the beginning of the semester. I think he does care about students, and clearly has a passion for rhetoric studies, but before he teaches again I would recommend some time devoted to self-actualization and developing an identity outside of this class and its material. • While knowledgeable, this instructor did not always handle certain kinds of criticism or discourse well. While he seemed to respect concepts of diversity and inclusivity well in theory, he often responded poorly when students in class would push back on readings that were in conflict with these ideals. This frustrated or defensive reply to student discourse frequently shut down discussion and by the end of the semester, led to a much more tense atmosphere than when we started. • Although I took a lot of information away from this class, and I feel better prepared to enter the comp classroom after completing it, this instructor made some missteps during certain in-class discussions that caused the classroom atmosphere to deteriorate over the course of the semester. He mishandled some in-class discussions in ways that left some students feeling disrespected, belittled, and/or invalidated. The instructor seemed committed to issues of diversity and inclusivity when he was presenting new material and when he was conducting events in the department, but when students spoke out in class about whether a few readings were potentially racist or sexist, his responses were, on a few occasions, defensive and almost hostile. Although I learned a lot in the class, the classroom environment became difficult and strained over time. 	

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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%		5.00		5.27		5.36		
Bad		(2)	0	0.00%								
Poor		(3)	0	0.00%								
Fair		(4)	2	28.57%								
Good		(5)	3	42.86%								
Very Good		(6)	2	28.57%								
					0	25	50	100	Question	College	Department	
Response Rate	Mean	STD	Median	College	Mean	STD	Median	Department	Mean	STD	Median	
7/10 (70.00%)	5.00	0.82	5.00	22260	5.27	0.93	6.00	4327	5.36	0.88	6.00	

7 - 7A - Please add any comments about the physical environment here:	
Response Rate	1/10 (10%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The room was set up as nicely as possible, but the design (with a necessary support column) made it difficult for some people to see each other. Also, there's an office inside the classroom? So if anyone's up for building a new English building.... 	