FALL 2012 Student Course Evaluation Results - Department of Mechanical Engr

This PDF contains SEI results for MCHE485-001. The first section of the report contains student reported demographic information. In the second part of the analysis, the average values of all individual questions are listed, including a profile line. The report concludes with a compiled list of all student comments regarding the course.

Please contact Institutional Research 482-6863 if you have any questions.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Office of Institutional Research

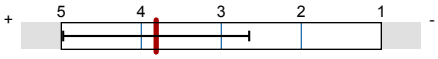
Joshua E Vaughan

MCHE485-001
No. of responses = 20

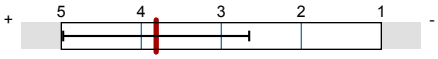
Overall indicators

Global Index

Please complete the following survey about the course:



av.=3.8

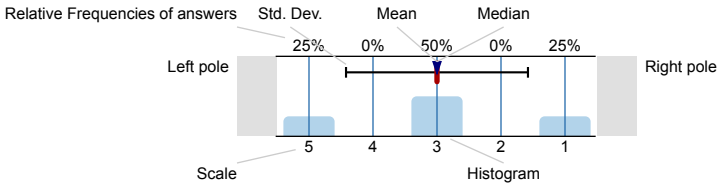


av.=3.8

Survey Results

Legend

Question text

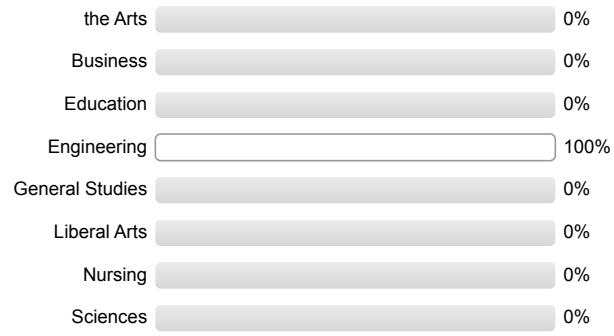


n=No. of responses
av.=Mean
md=Median
ab.=Abstention

Please complete the following survey about the course:

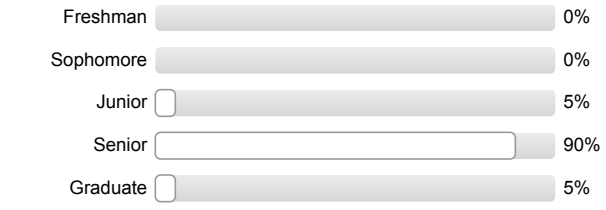
What is the college of your major?

n=20



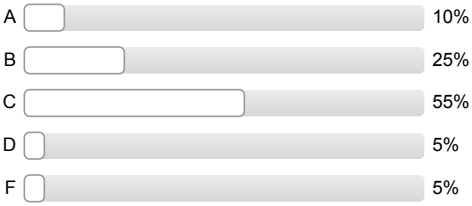
What is your classification?

n=20



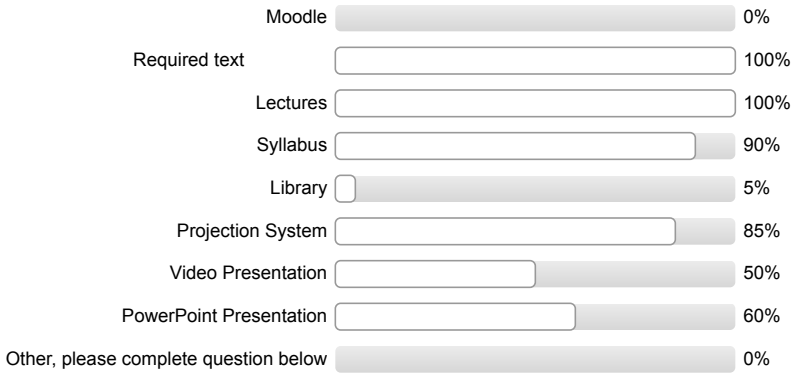
What grade do you expect in this course?

n=20



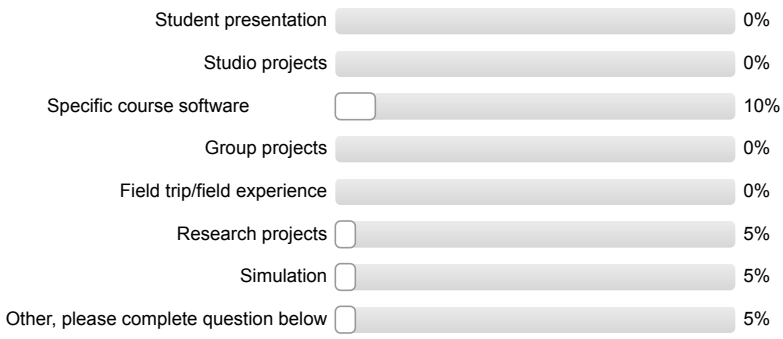
What instructional resources were used in this course? **Check all that apply.**

n=20



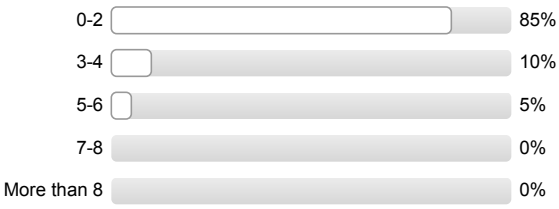
What activities and resources were required of students? **Check all that apply.**

n=20



How many classes did you miss?

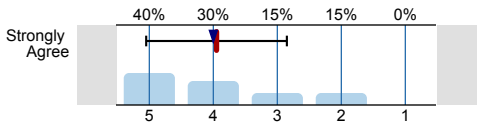
n=20



How many hours per week did you spend outside of class preparing for this course?

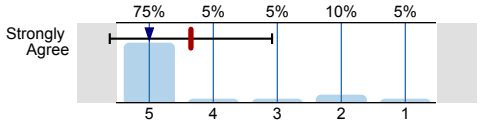
n=20

The instructor made appropriate use of illustrations, demonstrations, examples, and/or required materials.



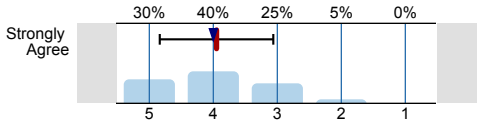
n=20
av.=4
md=4

I turned in all required materials on time.



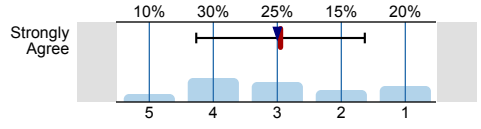
n=20
av.=4.4
md=5

The instructor provided feedback on my performance within a reasonable time.



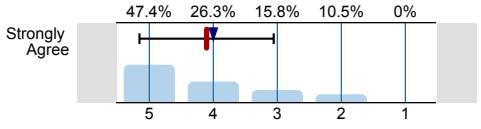
n=20
av.=4
md=4

The instructor explained subject matter in a way that I could understand.



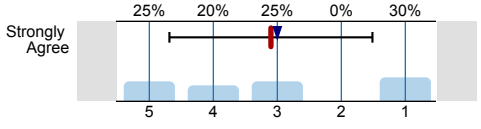
n=20
av.=3
md=3

The instructor created an atmosphere where ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.



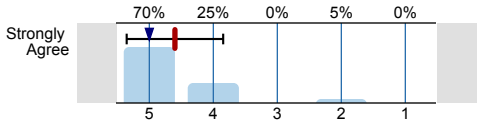
n=19
av.=4.1
md=4
ab.=1

I learned a lot in this course.



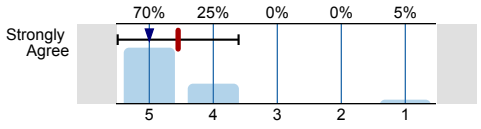
n=20
av.=3.1
md=3

The instructor spoke audibly and clearly.



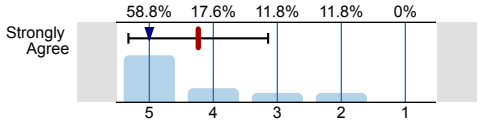
n=20
av.=4.6
md=5

This course challenged me to think.



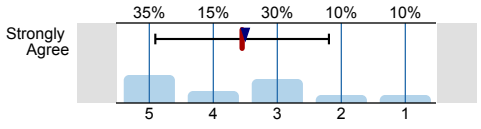
n=20
av.=4.6
md=5

The instructor was available for scheduled appointments outside of class.



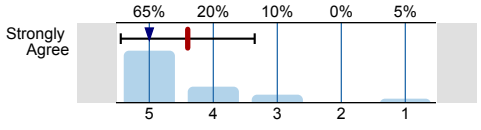
n=17
av.=4.2
md=5
ab.=3

Expectations on assignments, projects, and/or exams were clearly communicated.



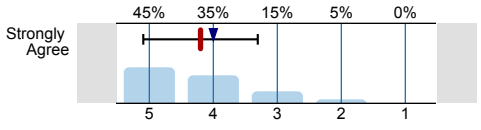
n=20
av.=3.6
md=3.5

The instructor was respectful to students.



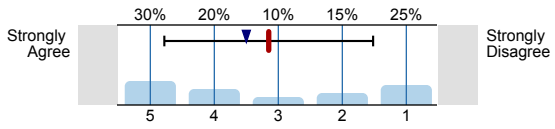
n=20
av.=4.4
md=5

The physical environment (facility) was conducive to learning.



n=20
av.=4.2
md=4

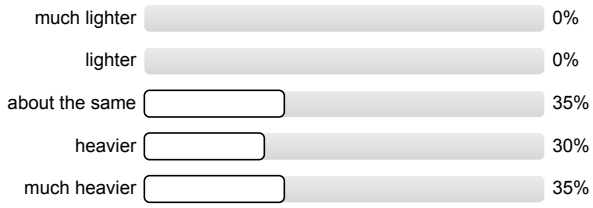
The course resources were useful and appropriate for learning.



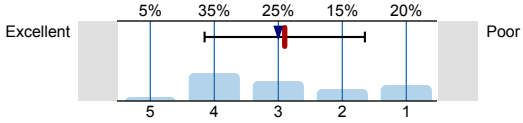
n=20
av.=3.2
md=3.5

The workload for this course in relation to other courses of equal credit was:

n=20

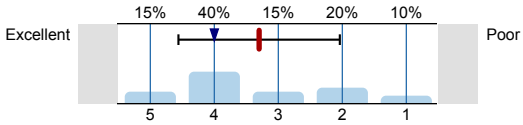


Overall, I would rate this course as:



n=20
av.=2.9
md=3

Overall, I would rate the effectiveness of this instructor as:



n=20
av.=3.3
md=4

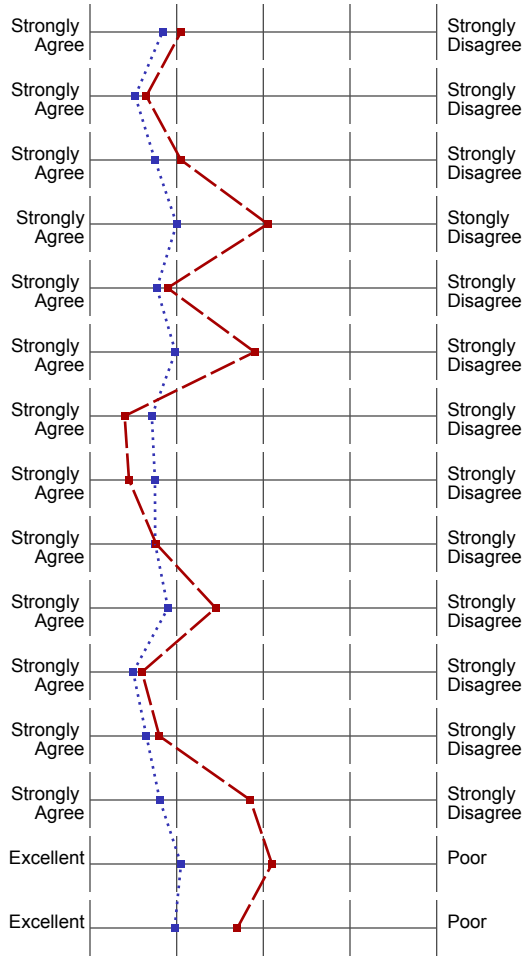
Profile

Subunit: Department of Mechanical Engr (MCHE)
Name of the instructor: Joshua E Vaughan
Name of the course: (Name of the survey) MCHE485-001

Comparative line: Department of Mechanical Engineering

Values used in the profile line: Mean

Please complete the following survey about the course:



The instructor made appropriate use of illustrations, demonstrations, examples, and/or required	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=511	av.=4.0 av.=4.2	md=4.0 md=5.0	dev.=1.1 dev.=1.1
I turned in all required materials on time.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=516	av.=4.4 av.=4.5	md=5.0 md=5.0	dev.=1.3 dev.=0.9
The instructor provided feedback on my performance within a reasonable time.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=515	av.=4.0 av.=4.3	md=4.0 md=5.0	dev.=0.9 dev.=1.1
The instructor explained subject matter in a way that I could understand.	Strongly Agree	Stongly Disagree	n=20 n=518	av.=3.0 av.=4.0	md=3.0 md=4.0	dev.=1.3 dev.=1.2
The instructor created an atmosphere where ideas can be exchanged freely and easily.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=19 n=511	av.=4.1 av.=4.2	md=4.0 md=5.0	dev.=1.0 dev.=1.1
I learned a lot in this course.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=518	av.=3.1 av.=4.0	md=3.0 md=4.0	dev.=1.6 dev.=1.2
The instructor spoke audibly and clearly.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=520	av.=4.6 av.=4.3	md=5.0 md=5.0	dev.=0.8 dev.=1.0
This course challenged me to think.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=519	av.=4.6 av.=4.3	md=5.0 md=5.0	dev.=0.9 dev.=1.1
The instructor was available for scheduled appointments outside of class.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=17 n=464	av.=4.2 av.=4.2	md=5.0 md=5.0	dev.=1.1 dev.=1.0
Expectations on assignments, projects, and/or exams were clearly communicated.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=520	av.=3.6 av.=4.1	md=3.5 md=5.0	dev.=1.4 dev.=1.2
The instructor was respectful to students.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=518	av.=4.4 av.=4.5	md=5.0 md=5.0	dev.=1.0 dev.=0.9
The physical environment (facility) was conducive to learning.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=516	av.=4.2 av.=4.3	md=4.0 md=5.0	dev.=0.9 dev.=0.9
The course resources were useful and appropriate for learning.	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	n=20 n=514	av.=3.2 av.=4.2	md=3.5 md=5.0	dev.=1.6 dev.=1.1
Overall, I would rate this course as:	Excellent	Poor	n=20 n=518	av.=2.9 av.=3.9	md=3.0 md=4.0	dev.=1.3 dev.=1.2
Overall, I would rate the effectiveness of this instructor as:	Excellent	Poor	n=20 n=520	av.=3.3 av.=4.0	md=4.0 md=4.0	dev.=1.3 dev.=1.2

Comments Report

Please complete the following survey about the course:

If you marked "Other" in the question above, please list the activities and resources required of students in the space below.

- Tests and homework

Please provide any comments about the course or instructor in the space below, including ways to improve instruction.

- A lot of people were complaining that they were not doing well in the class but I think the material was covered well. It was kind of a challenge to remember how to derivate everything for the tests and not really knowing what was or was not going to be given on the formula sheet. Though, the point of part of learning the material is to know how to derive it is true and shouldn't have really hindered people to much. I learned a good bit in the class and like that UL gives us this class that students at other schools don't cover in detail. I would have liked to have a bit more experience with doing some assignments in Matlab. I would say that the only opinion I have on the lectures is that instead of following the book examples, which are available from us to follow at home, maybe pull some from the homework sections(obliviously not the ones that are going to be assigned to us).

- Examples in lectures were not enough to adequatelly prepare class for homework. Lectures and homework were not enough to prepare for test. Tests were in no way similar to anything else in the course.

- He isn't a bad teacher. I just don't think he understands we really don't like vibrations and 95% of the student body will be going into the oil and gas field.

- I believe this course should be 3 days/week 50 minutes each. Dr. Vaughan teaches well, but i just think his tests are too long in some cases and too hard in others, but this is is first semester. One thing I would have liked better would be if he would tell us what kind of curve is expected with the current class average since everyone is doing quite bad numerically with grades in his class. I understand that may be too much to ask with it being his first semester. It just makes the class more stressful if you really haven't a clue as to what your grade may be. Great teacher who knows his subject. He just needs some work on conferring what it is he wants through his tests and to make tests in such a way as to get those answers. I believe he wants to see an understanding of the theories, but the tests also require regeneration of formulas which makes students require memorizing formulas rather focusing on theory.

- It is obvious from attending even one of Dr. Vaughan's classes that he has a brilliant grasp of vibrations and has experience with the practical application of the class material. It is equally apparent from the test scores that Dr. Vaughan's enthusiasm for vibrations was not conveyed to the class in general. While many may be quick to blame the professor, the students should bear their portion of the responsibility for the sub-par performance. The words "All I want is my C" where constantly directed at the class in question, and there was a general resistance of the students to push outside of the level of academic rigor which they were accustom to. This predisposition was, in no small part, propagated by the fact that most, if not all, of the students are seniors and many have jobs waiting for them when they graduate. I would go so far as to say this class had a fatal case of "Senioritus". I cannot fault Dr. Vaughan for the students refusal to learn and complete the required course work. I got the feeling that the students were starting to exert more effort for the last test but without a firm understanding of the basics, I am doubtful if it was enough. I feel the fact that this semester was Dr. Vaughan's first at UL also contributed to the lack-luster grades. It is hard to build a course without a knowing specifically what kind of background your students are coming into the class with. I feel that Dr. Vaughan may have over-estimated the class's understanding of dynamics slightly. This misjudgment coupled with the student's reluctance to extend themselves and the fact that the students had no reference as to how Dr. Vaughan would teach got the class off to a rough start from which it never truly recovered. I think the administration and Dr. Vaughan should temper their judgment of Dr. Vaughan's first course at UL with the fact that, without trying to be cruel, I don't feel that the class comprised the best UL had to offer, myself included. Most of the students had poor attitudes about the class and many are struggling though all of their other classes. One other quirk from the course was that we were not allowed an open book or self-made help sheet for the test. While these aids are by no means mandatory for one to take Dr. Vaughan's test, I believe the last closed book closed note test I took in a MCHE/ENGR class was in Mechanics of Materials. It has become almost expected to have one of the two for test. Having said that, Dr. Vaughan has no obligation or need to incorporate either of them into his class. I'm merely noting potential points as to why the class under-performed so drastically.

  On a different note, I think Dr. Vaughan made an effort to adjust his teaching style to the class's needs, or at least he asked for feedback on his teaching during class. Dr. Vaughan handled the class well from an administration stand point, homework solutions were posted timely and expectations were clearly defined. I can respect the fact that, as there is no solutions manual for the vibrations book, Dr. Vaughan had to do the same homework as we did. I liked that Dr. Vaughan used technology effectively in the class, both for presentations and communication with the students.

  In closing I would have to ask Dr. Vaughan not to be discouraged by our class. As with virtually any endeavor, teething problems will arise, but the best results are on the other side of them. With a few tweaks, and a more energized class, I feel that the course can be a very rewarding one for the students and the Mechanical Engineering dept. as a whole.

  P.S. My apologies if this evaluation came across as more of a "stream of consciousness" sort of writing, its a bit late at night.

- The book and resources for this class were not nearly suited for the types of questions asked on the exams. To begin with, the book used has almost no good example problems related to the homework or the types of questions asked on the test. The writing style in the book is not at helpful because the author has so much "fluff" in the text that it is very difficult to understand the subject matter. Also, no matter how hard I prepared for the tests in this class, I would always end up with a low D, which should not happen in a class like this. The reason for these low grades is probably related to the fact that these tests were far too long and most of the material on the test was just complicated derivations that were never even talked about in class or in the homework for that matter. Sure, we went over some very basic set ups in class with just a mass and spring, but when the test comes around, you expect us to derived damped systems that we have never even

messed with before? In the Fourier analysis chapter, the homework assigned wasted hours of my time trying to figure out how to do a Fourier representation of a function when all you had to do is work one or two examples in class and it would have sufficed. Take note that most of these problems sprout from the book being absolutely useless as far as examples go. On that same note, I would highly suggest finding a different book that would be more useful to the students instead of telling us to just refer to other books for "review resources". As college students, we do not have much money or time to go around looking for books that were not required for the class. Also, when you graded our tests and homework, you didn't even really tell us what we did wrong, you just marked "close" or nothing at all. Those sorts of things are not helpful to students and it would be better to know exactly where we went wrong so that we can fix it for next time. I also noticed that every time I went to you with a question, the answer was always something along the lines of "that's simple, just...., you can get it from there", not "here, let me show you how to do this" or "I will do an example for the class next time we meet". Overall, I feel more confused about vibrations after taking this class than before I took it. I am unsure what I am really supposed to know walking out of this class and what is just "fluff". This is the first time I have really had a problem with any of my classes since I started college, so I hope that you take everything in these comments seriously. I am a very hard working and dedicated student and I would like to see all future hard working dedicated students not have the same issues that I have had with this class.

- The course text was horrible and was not used much. The instructor taught entirely too fast and at a level that was too high for most students.
  Rather than recognizing student's troubles, he continued to teach at a fast pace. Ultimately I felt overwhelmed by the amount of material and never got a firm grasp of the concepts.

- The subject material is extremely difficult to grasp. The instructor is available for all office hours and appointments. Dr. Vaughn is very knowledgeable in vibration mechanics. He provided us with all the material to learn about vibrations and to succeed in the subject. When it came down to taking the test the material just doesn't stick long enough to pass the test.

- This class from a learning standpoint is not too bad, but the big glaring issue is that the tests that Dr. Vaughan give are strange and tough. As opposed to the homework he assigns, which consists of working out problems, the tests flow more from the high level and understanding of the notes and working on the modelling and derivation of the systems and equations. This in and of itself is not too unreasonable, but he expects us to know this more or less from memory without the book and with a formula sheet that is only marginally helpful. The class averages on the first 2 tests have been both easily below 60 out of 100.

- VERY HARD COURSE!!!

- We havent spent a whole lot of time on the skill set necessary to really understand this class. I was lost from day 1 and have been playing catch up since, but i am starting to piece it together. I feel that it would be very beneficial to the class if we were to have had some sort of supplemental instruction period outside of class where student can attend of their own free will and any and all questions can be asked and answered. Even if the professor wishes not to join, possibly a graduate student well versed in this course could be useful for helping to rebuild and strengthen our foundations in kinematics, and also possibly a primer on linear algebra would be useful

- When I asked questions in his office, he would only provide hints. There comes a point where I just need an answer because a hint is counterproductive. I need to see an answer eventually so I can learn from mistakes and move on.
  There were not enough examples worked NUMERICALLY and COMPLETELY in class. Numbers rather than general formulas benefit my understanding exponentially.
  The text for this class was terrible. The material was not explained well enough in the chapter with examples to work the hw problems given.
  The tests were even more ambiguous than the book.
  The class as a whole did not feel like an introduction to vibrations. It had more of a graduate level feel to it. No one is learning if a curve is needed to fix the extremely low class average on the test.