

Winter 2025

## Individual Instructor Report for Winter 2025 - 25W EPS SCI 2 LEC 1 - SCIENCE IN MOVIES J. MARGOT

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Created **Sunday, March 23, 2025**



**Courses Audience:** 345  
**Responses Received:** 272  
**Response Ratio:** 78.84%

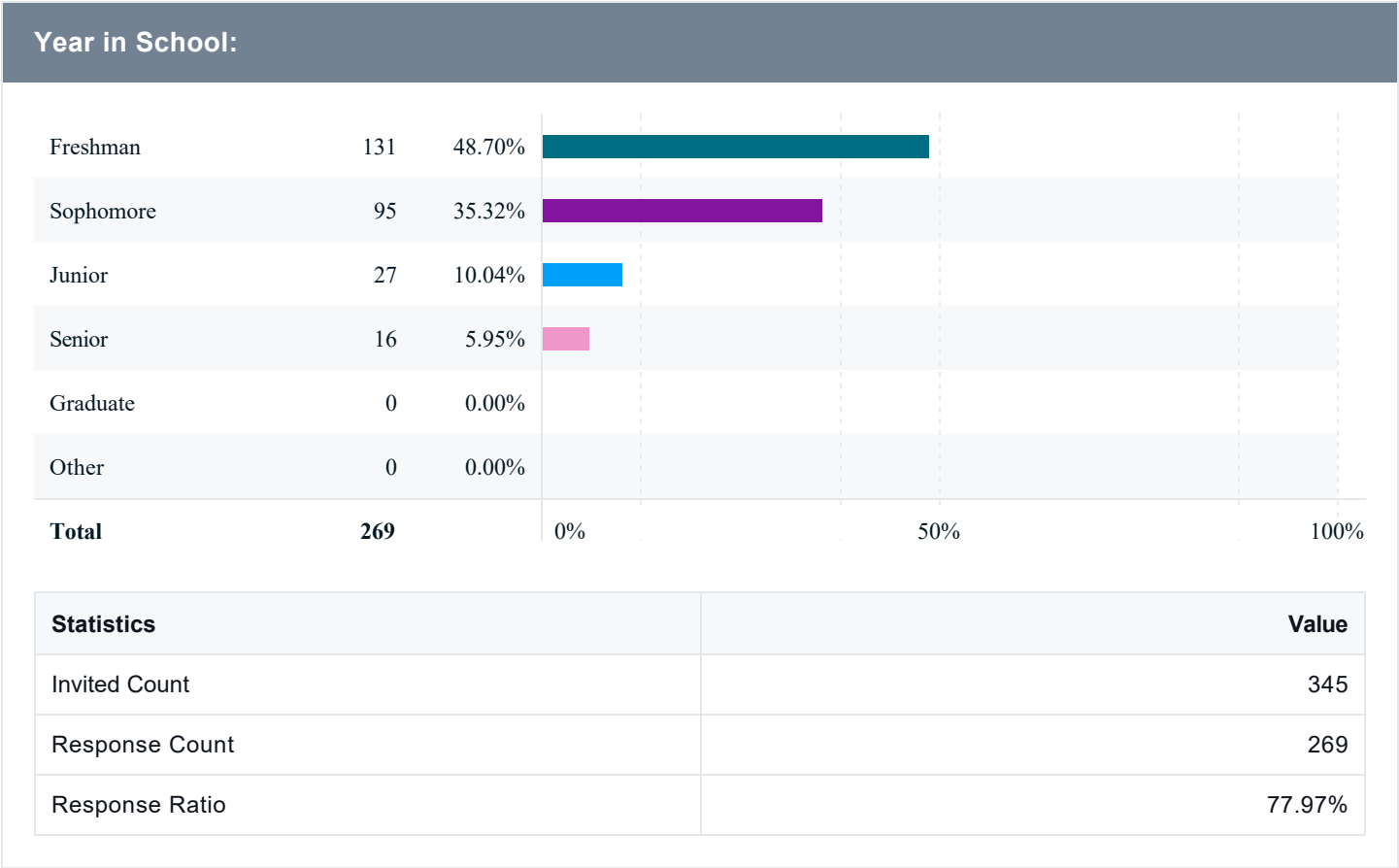
### Report Comments

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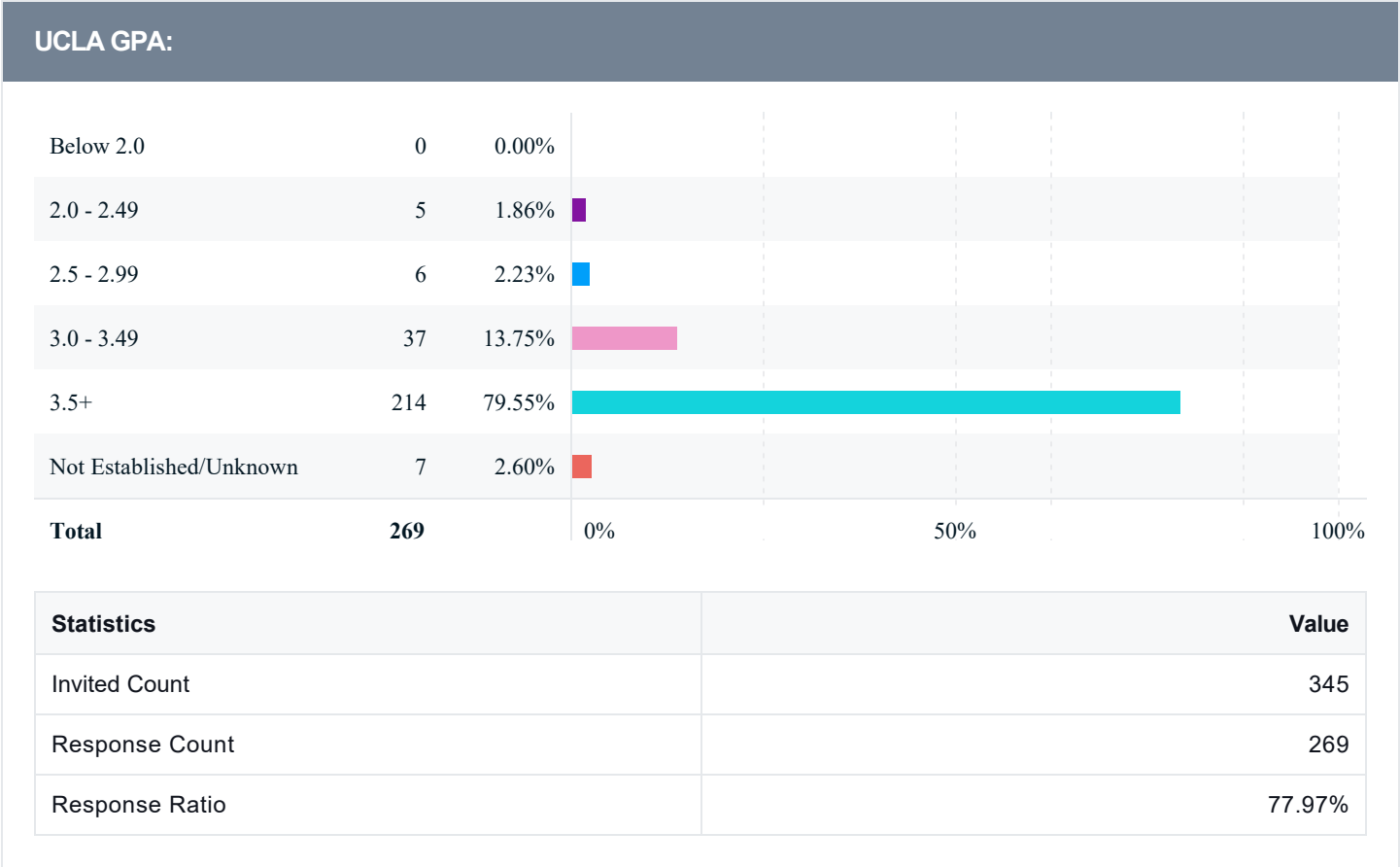
Please find your Instructor Summary Report below. Please visit the [Student Experiences of Teaching website](#) for additional information.

Background Information

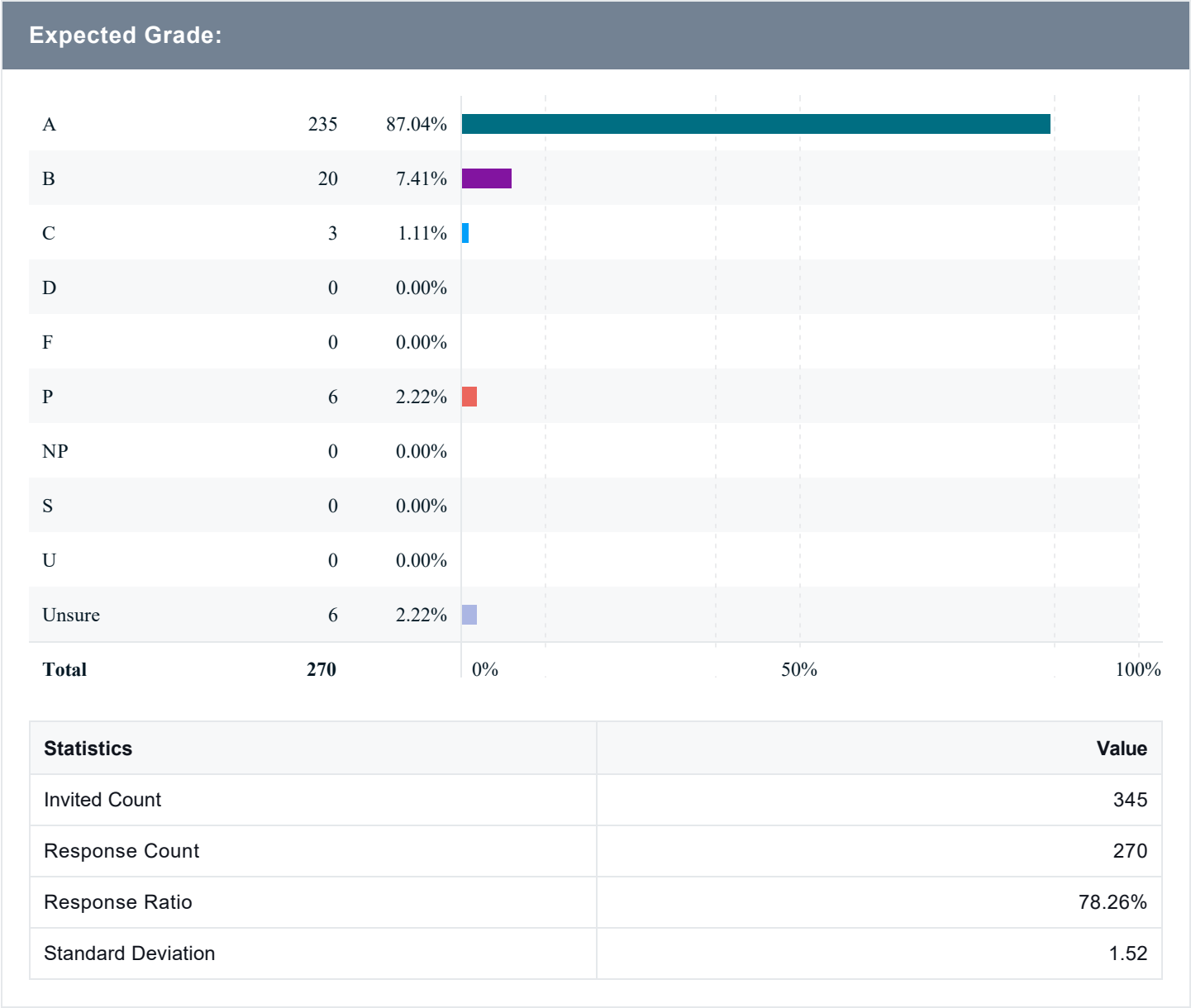
Year in School:



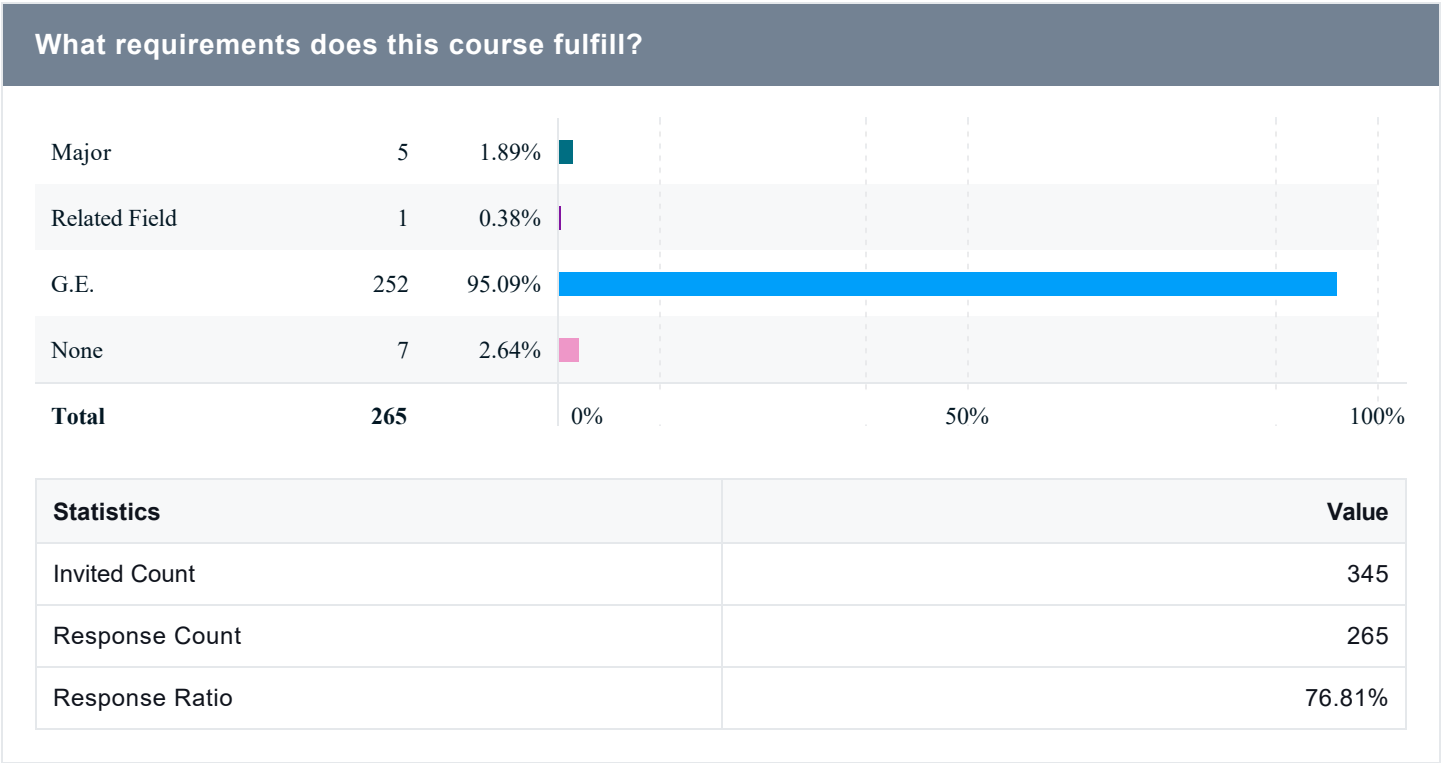
UCLA GPA:



Expected Grade:

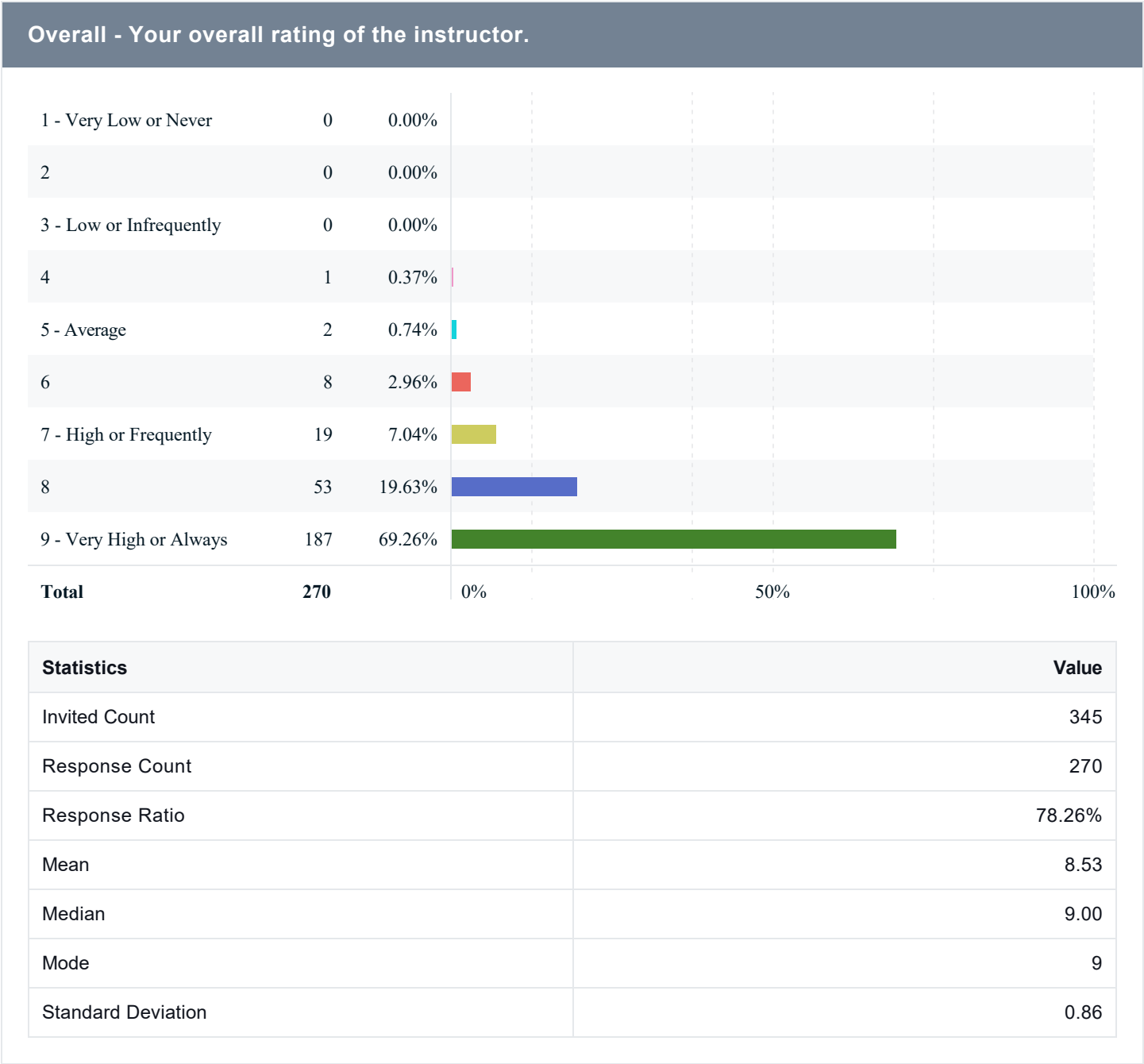


What requirements does this course fulfill?

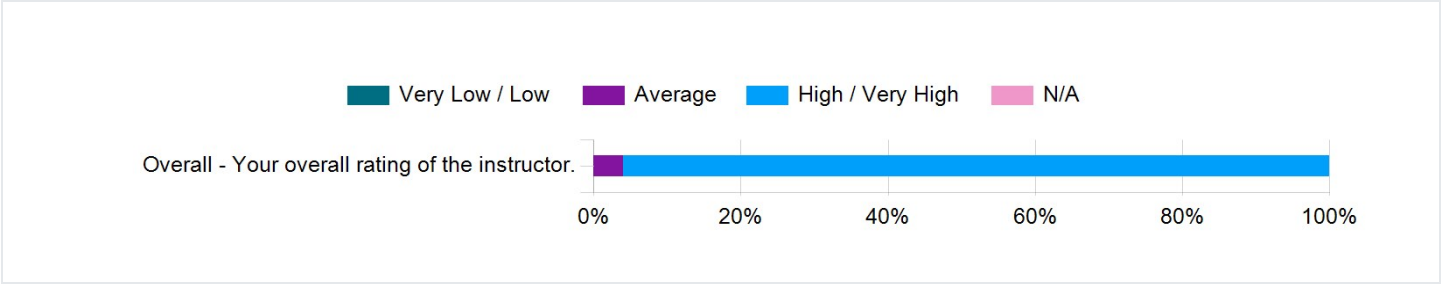


Overall Rating

Overall - Your overall rating of the instructor.



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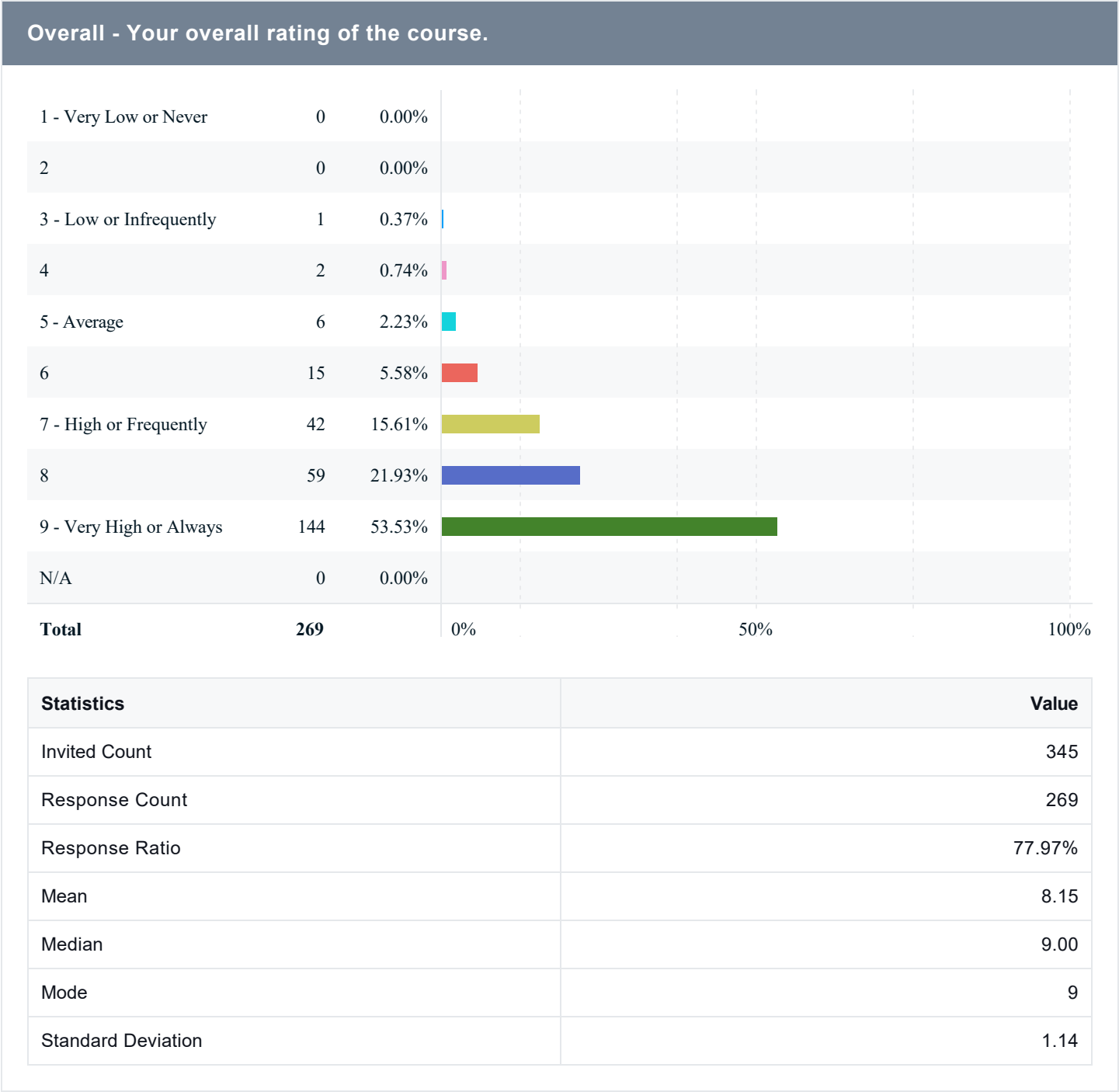


Overall - Your overall rating of the instructor.

1 - Very Low or Never, 3 - Low or Infrequently, 5 - Average, 7 - High or Frequently, 9 - Very High or Always

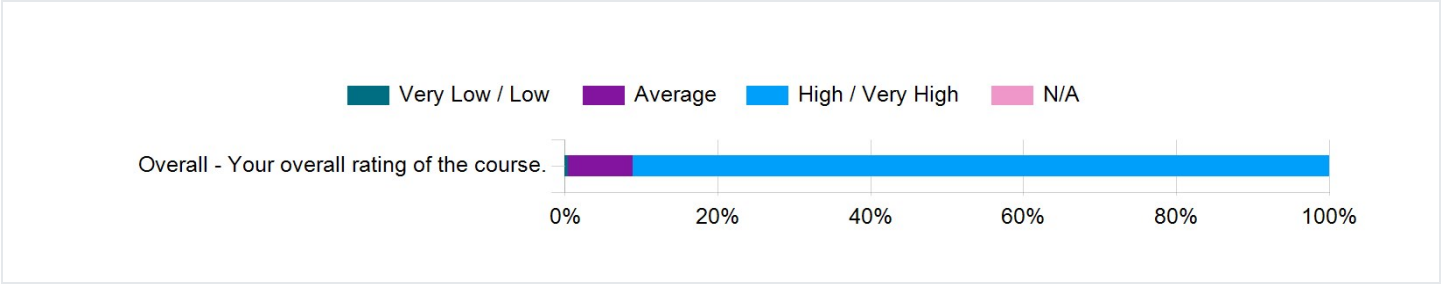
Enrolled	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
345	78.26%	8.53	9.00	9	0.86

Overall - Your overall rating of the course.





Overall - Your overall rating of the course.



Overall - Your overall rating of the course.

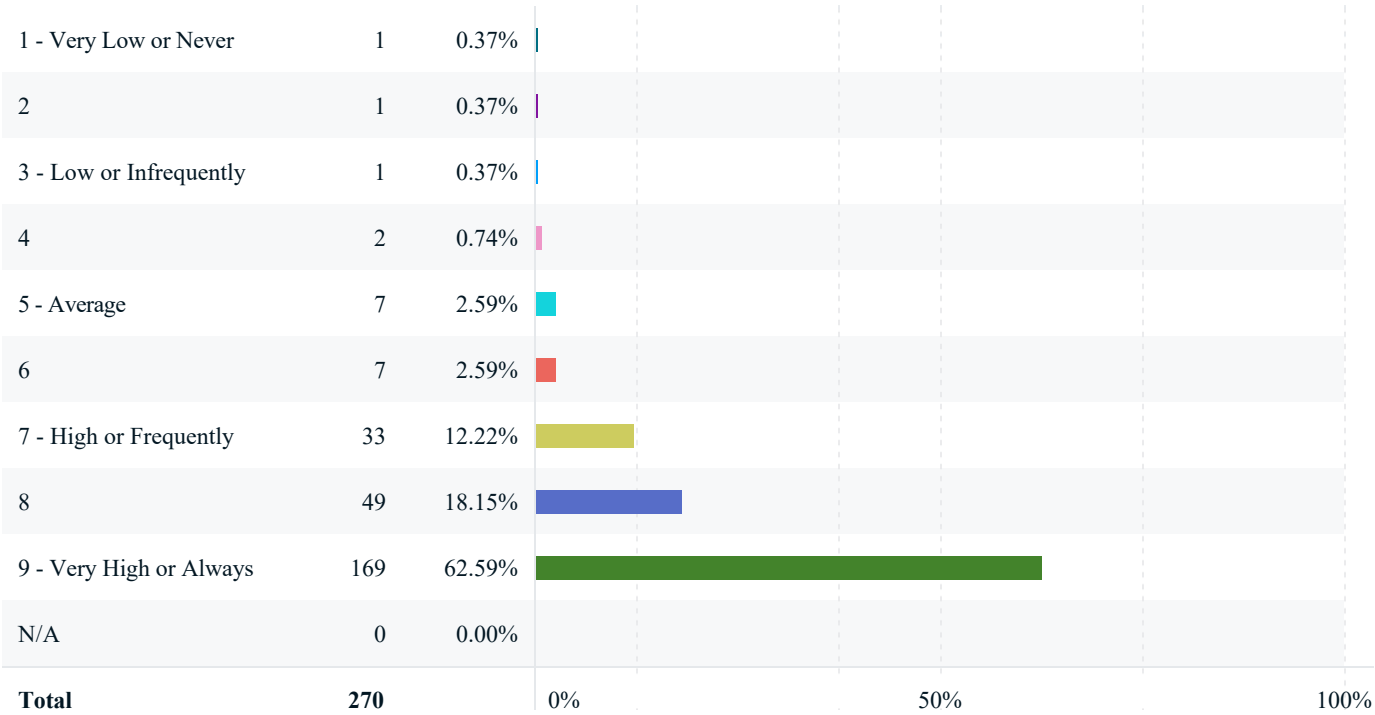
1 - Very Low or Never, 3 - Low or Infrequently, 5 - Average, 7 - High or Frequently, 9 - Very High or Always

Enrolled	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
345	77.97%	8.15	9.00	9	1.14

Questions focused on Instructor

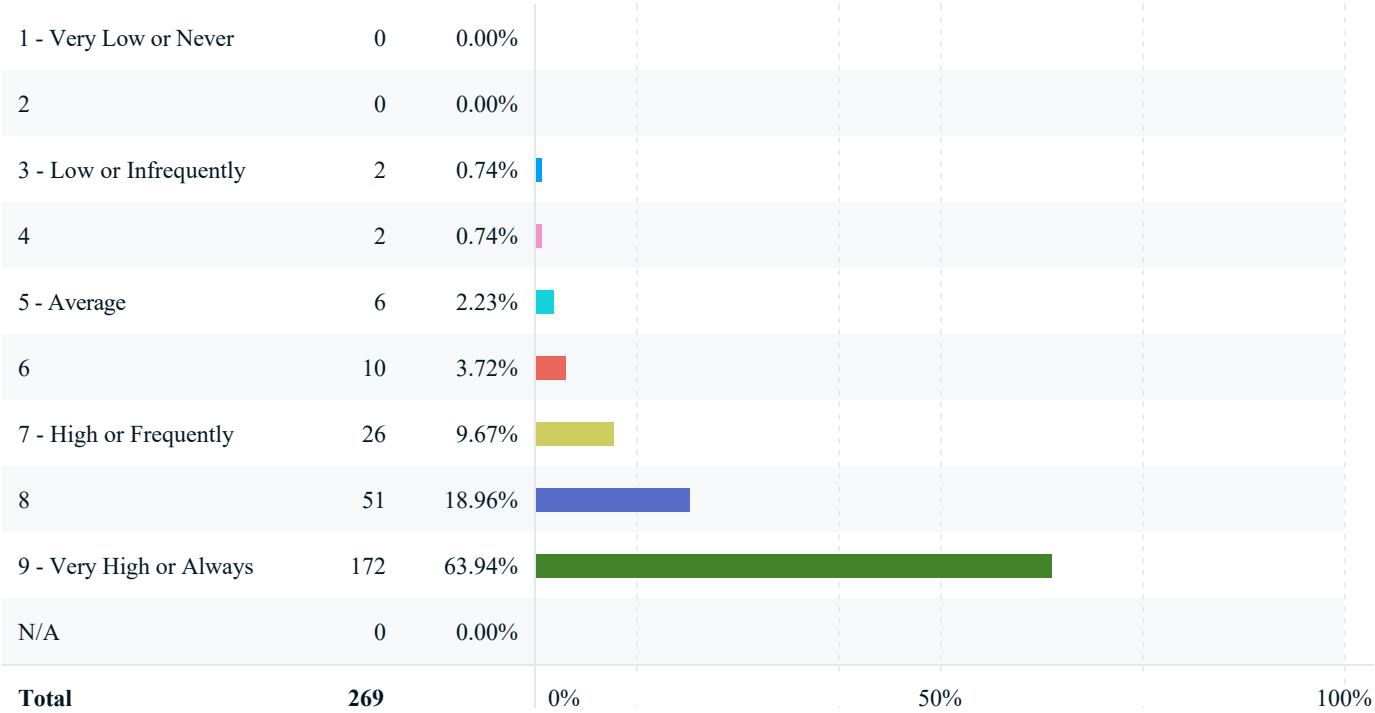
To What Extent Do You Feel That:

1. Instructor Concern - The instructor was concerned about student learning.



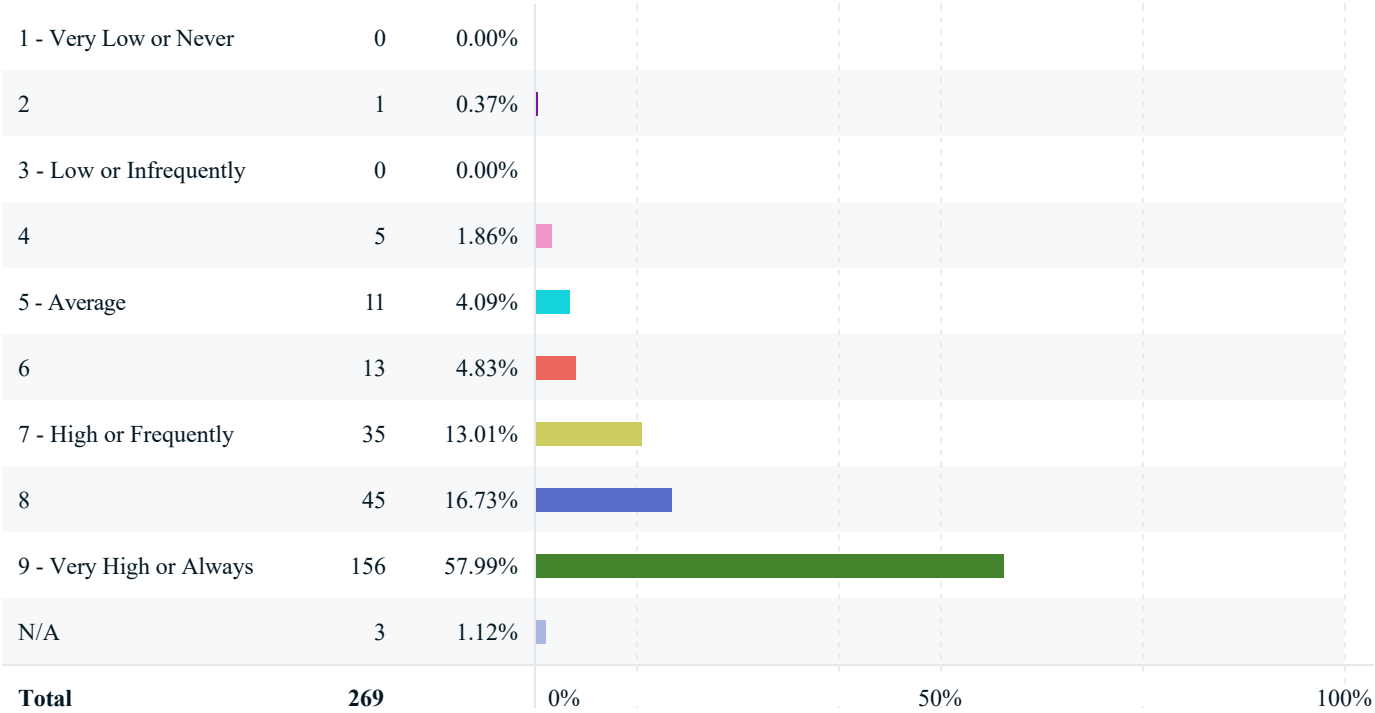
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	270
Response Ratio	78.26%
Mean	8.28
Median	9.00
Mode	9
Standard Deviation	1.24

2. Organization - Class presentations were well prepared and organized.



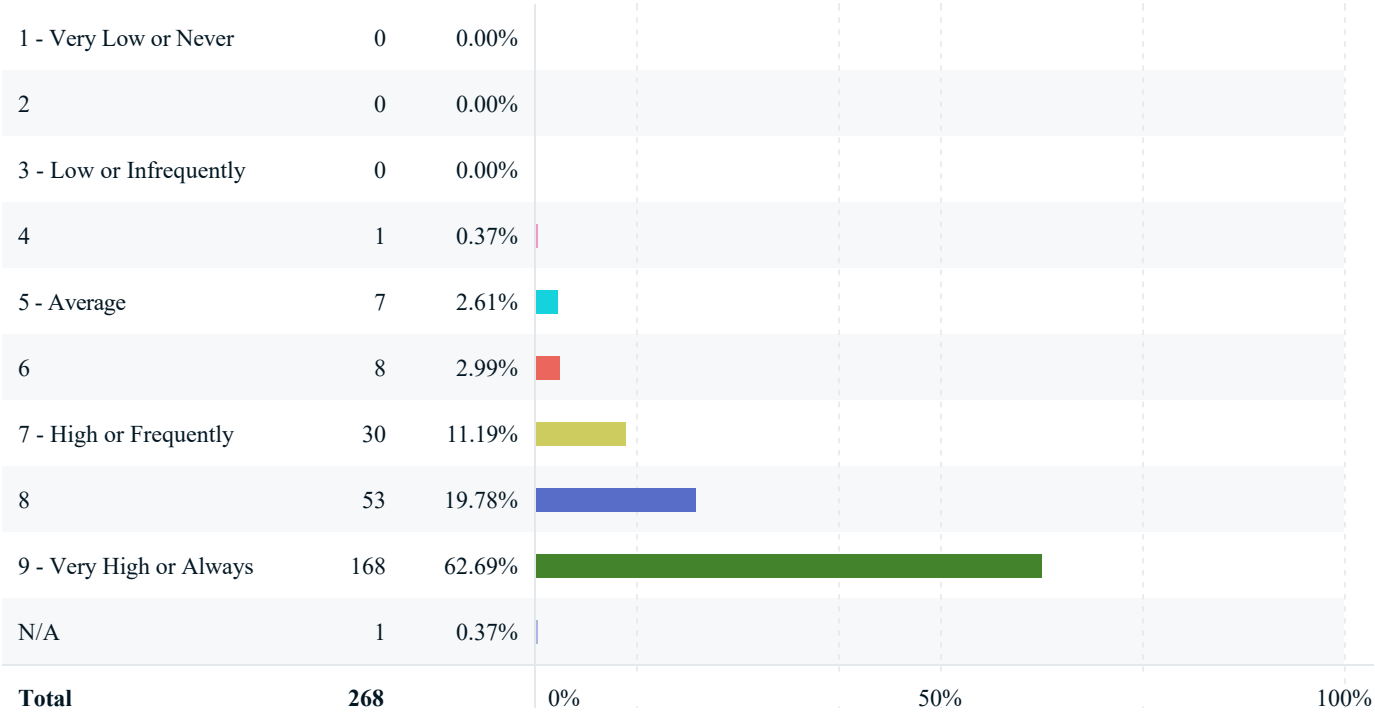
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	8.33
Median	9.00
Mode	9
Standard Deviation	1.13

3. Interaction - Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.



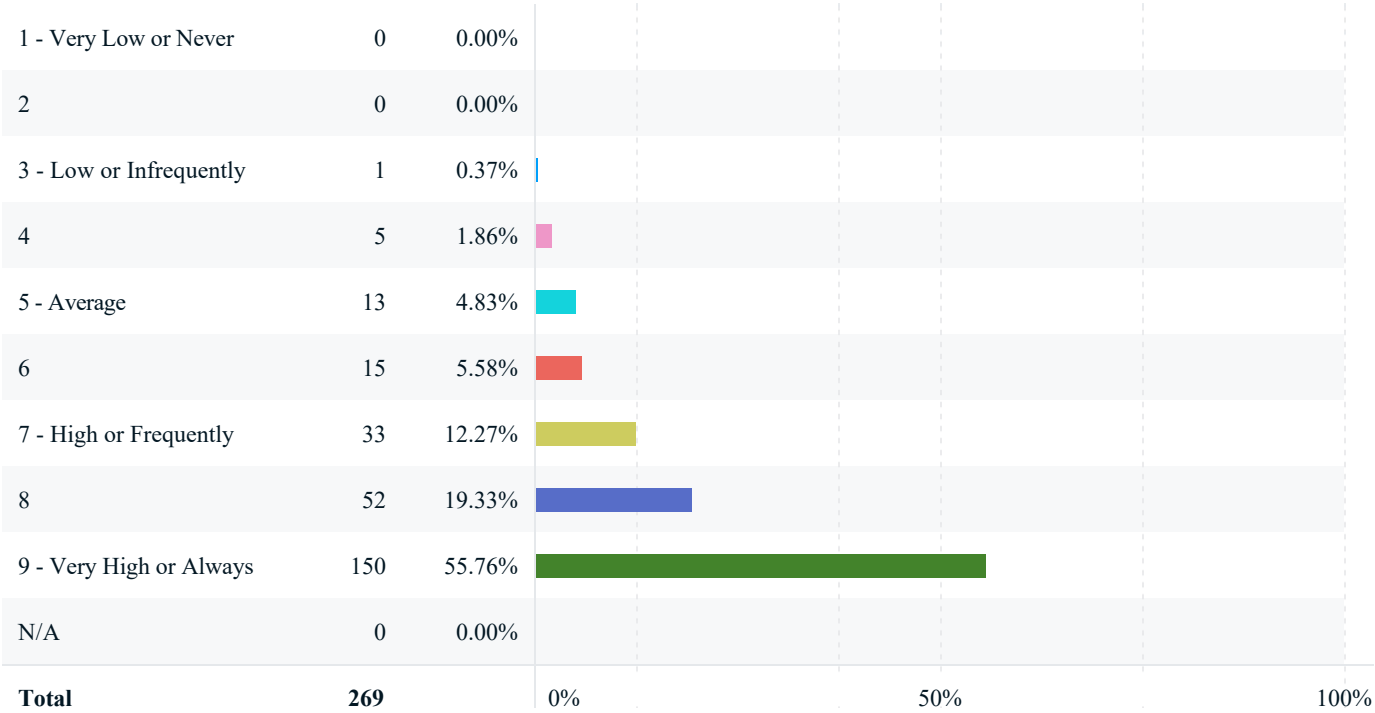
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	8.14
Median	9.00
Mode	9
Standard Deviation	1.31

4. Communication Skills - The instructor had good communication skills.



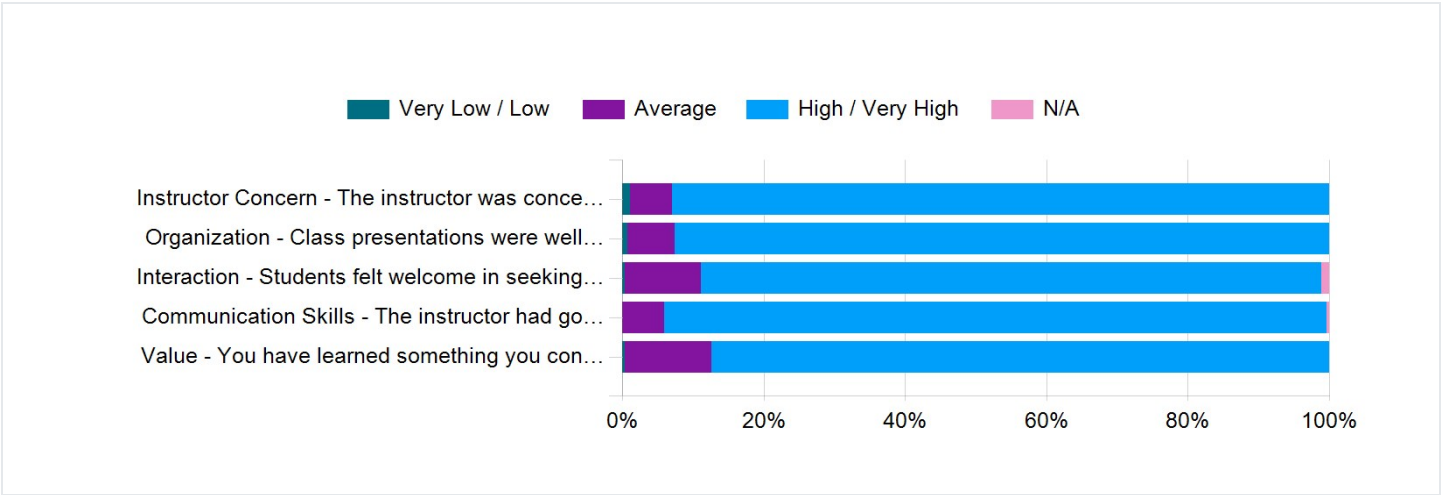
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	268
Response Ratio	77.68%
Mean	8.36
Median	9.00
Mode	9
Standard Deviation	1.01

5. Value - You have learned something you consider valuable.



Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	8.09
Median	9.00
Mode	9
Standard Deviation	1.31

To What Extent Do You Feel That:



To What Extent Do You Feel That:

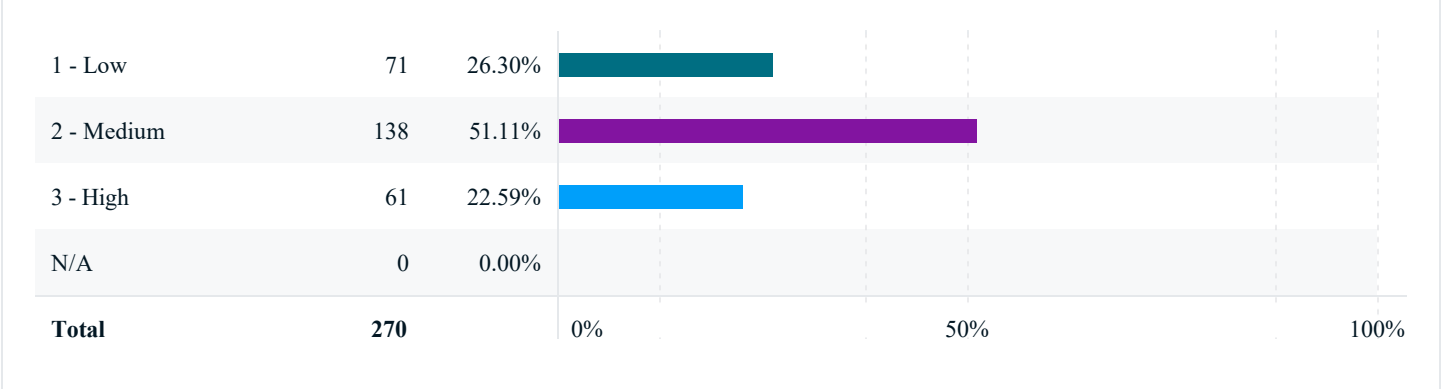
1 - Very Low or Never, 3 - Low or Infrequently, 5 - Average, 7 - High or Frequently, 9 - Very High or Always

	Enrolled	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
Instructor Concern - The instructor was concerned about student learning.	345	78.26%	8.28	9.00	9	1.24
Organization - Class presentations were well prepared and organized.	345	77.97%	8.33	9.00	9	1.13
Interaction - Students felt welcome in seeking help in or outside of the class.	345	77.10%	8.14	9.00	9	1.31
Communication Skills - The instructor had good communication skills.	345	77.39%	8.36	9.00	9	1.01
Value - You have learned something you consider valuable.	345	77.97%	8.09	9.00	9	1.31

Questions focused on Course

Your View of Course Characteristics:

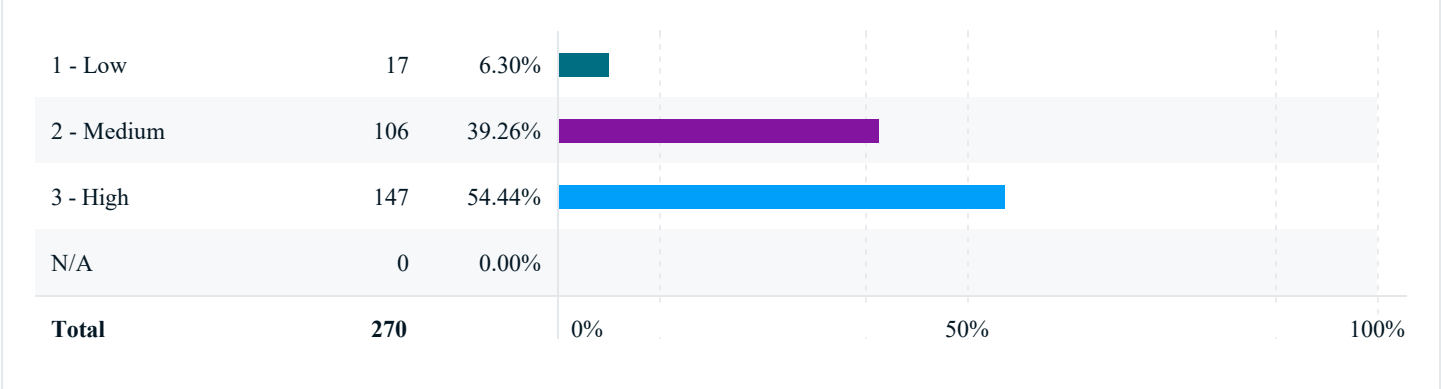
1. Subject interest before course



Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	270
Response Ratio	78.26%
Mean	1.96
Median	2.00
Mode	2
Standard Deviation	0.70

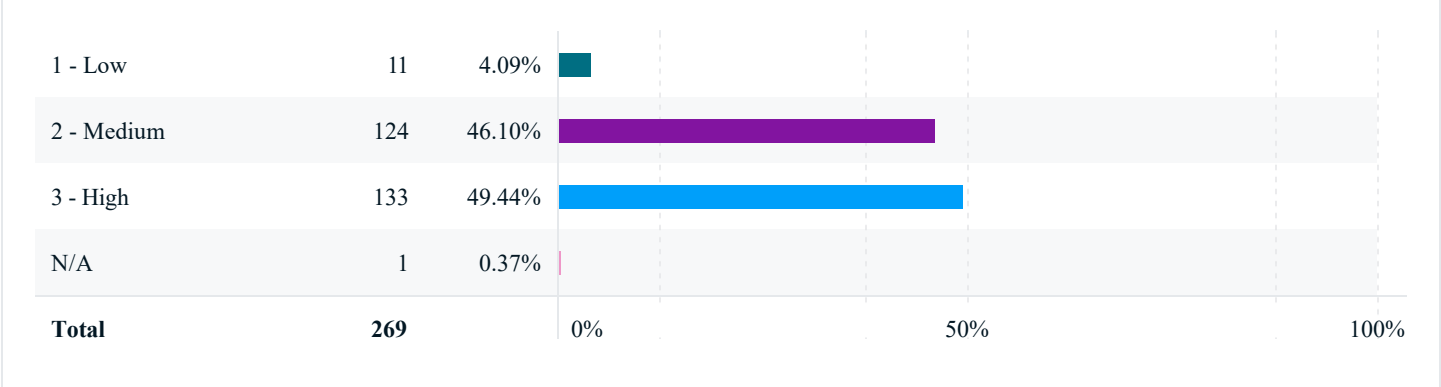


2. Subject interest after course



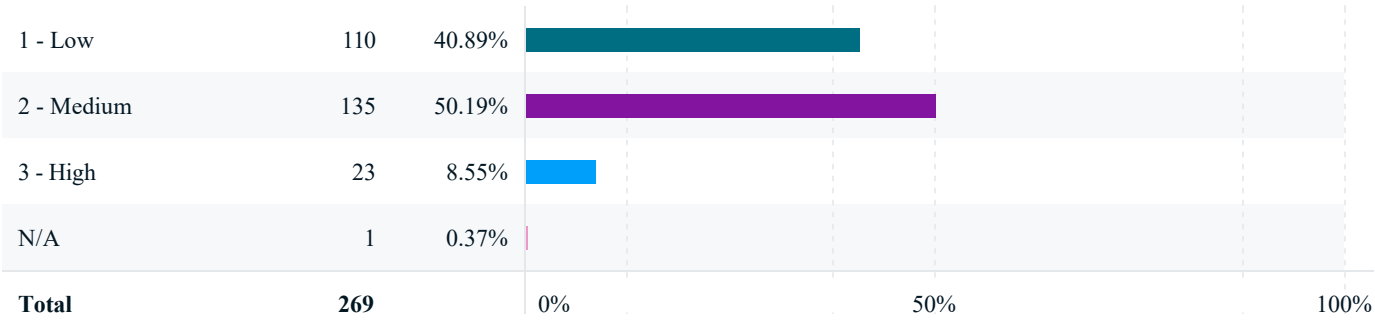
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	270
Response Ratio	78.26%
Mean	2.48
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.61

3. Mastery of course material



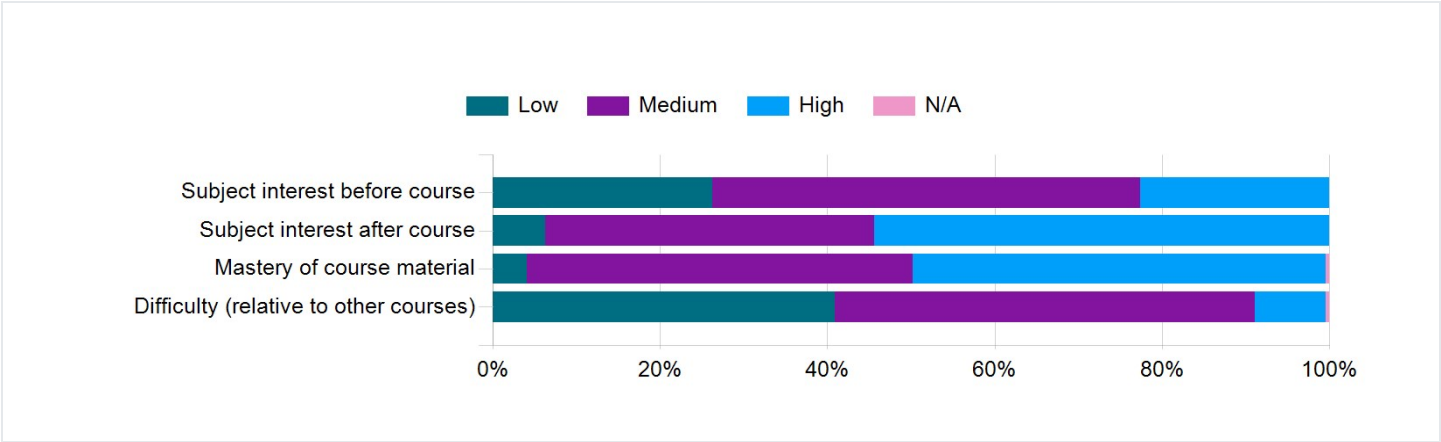
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	2.46
Median	2.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.58

4. Difficulty (relative to other courses)



Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	1.68
Median	2.00
Mode	2
Standard Deviation	0.63

Your View of Course Characteristics:

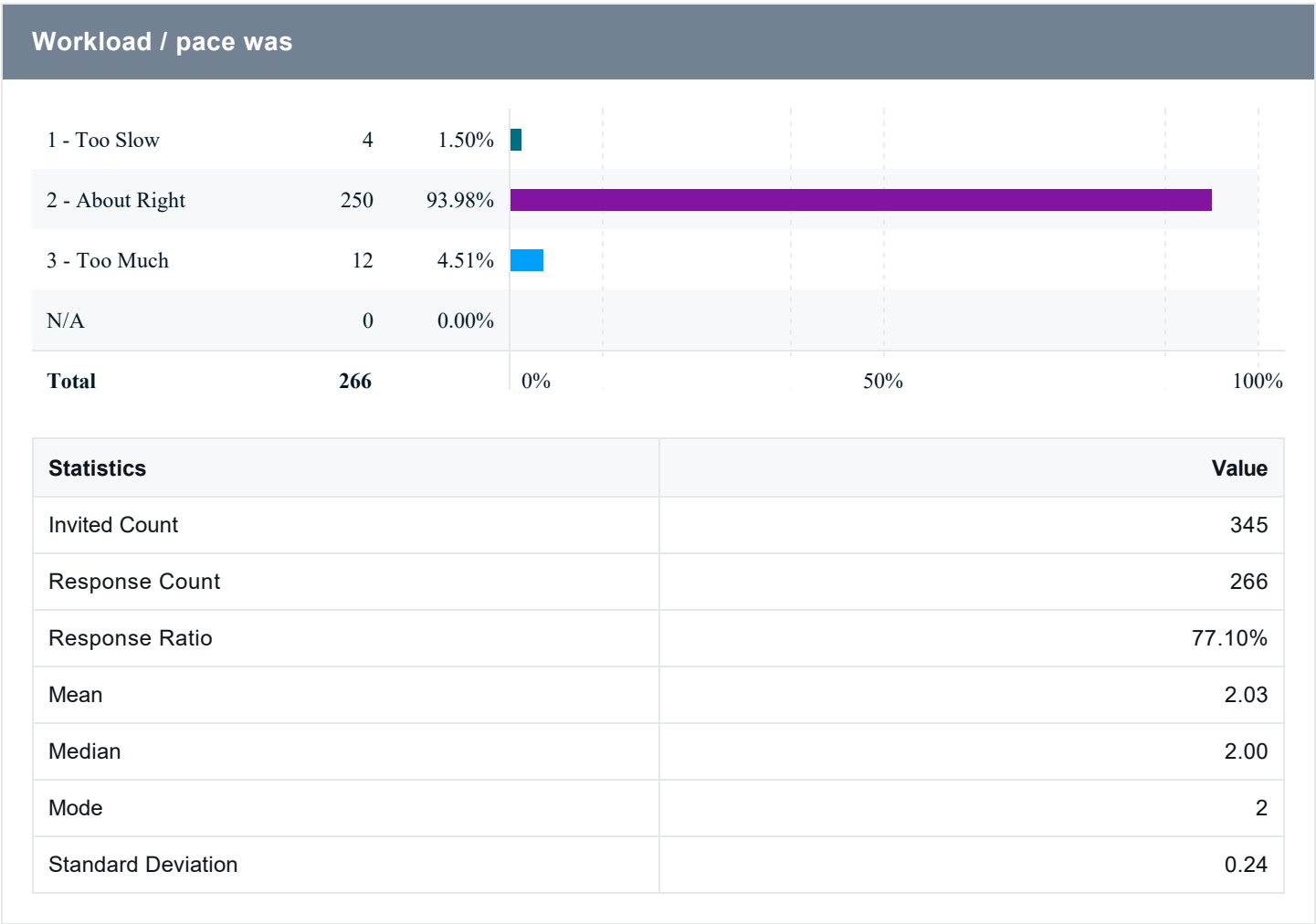


Your View of Course Characteristics:

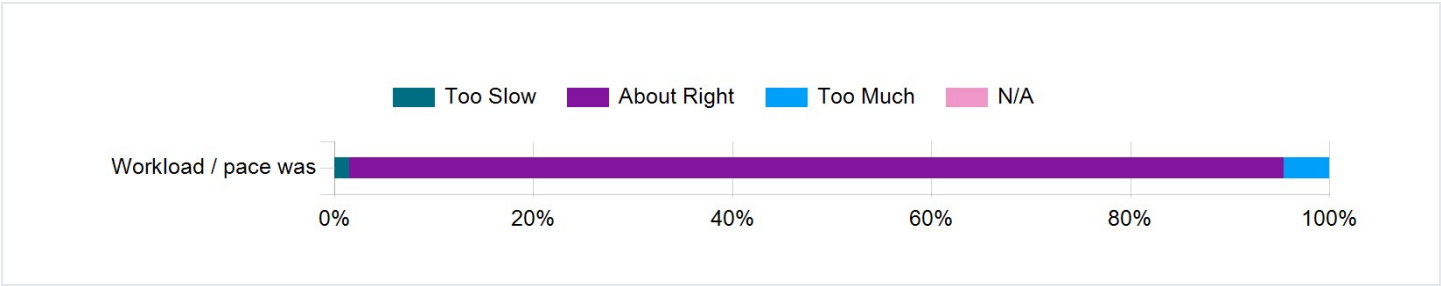
1 - Low, 2 - Medium, 3 - High

	Enrolled	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
Subject interest before course	345	78.26%	1.96	2.00	2	0.70
Subject interest after course	345	78.26%	2.48	3.00	3	0.61
Mastery of course material	345	77.68%	2.46	2.00	3	0.58
Difficulty (relative to other courses)	345	77.68%	1.68	2.00	2	0.63

Your View of Course Characteristics:



Your View of Course Characteristics:



Your View of Course Characteristics:

1 - Too Slow, 2 - About Right, 3 - Too Much

	Enrolled	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
Workload / pace was	345	77.10%	2.03	2.00	2	0.24

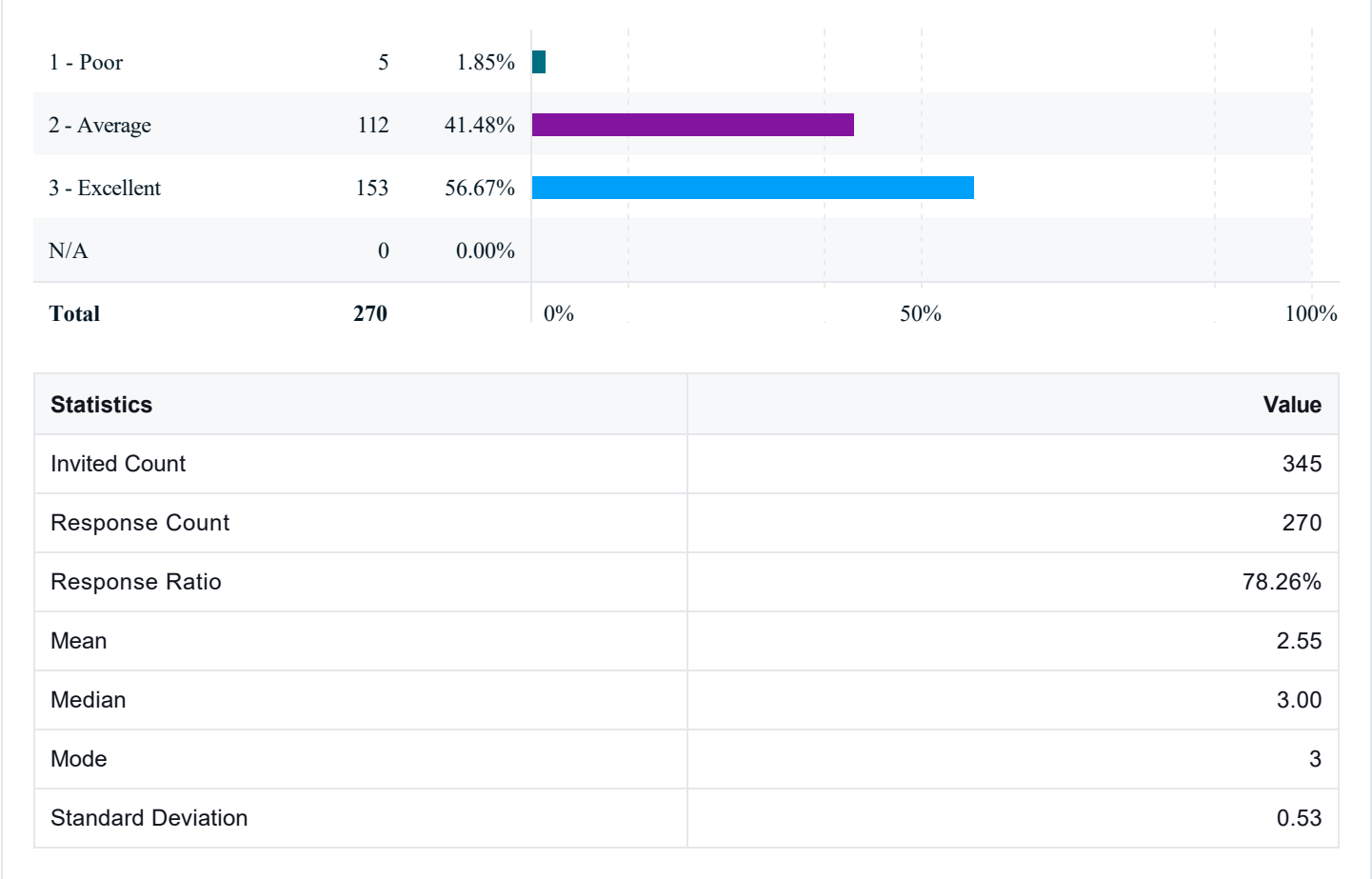
Your View of Course Characteristics:

1. Texts, required readings

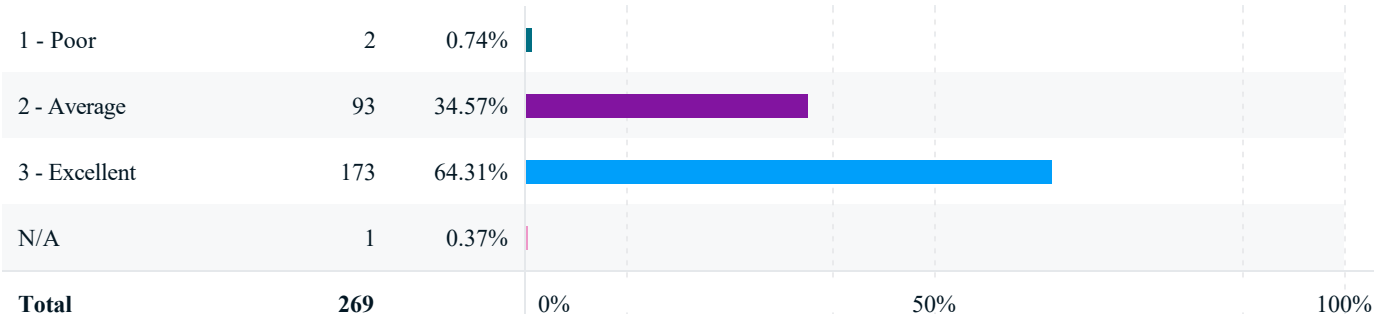
1 - Poor	14	5.20%	
2 - Average	145	53.90%	
3 - Excellent	97	36.06%	
N/A	13	4.83%	
Total	269		

Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	2.32
Median	2.00
Mode	2
Standard Deviation	0.57

2. Homework assignments

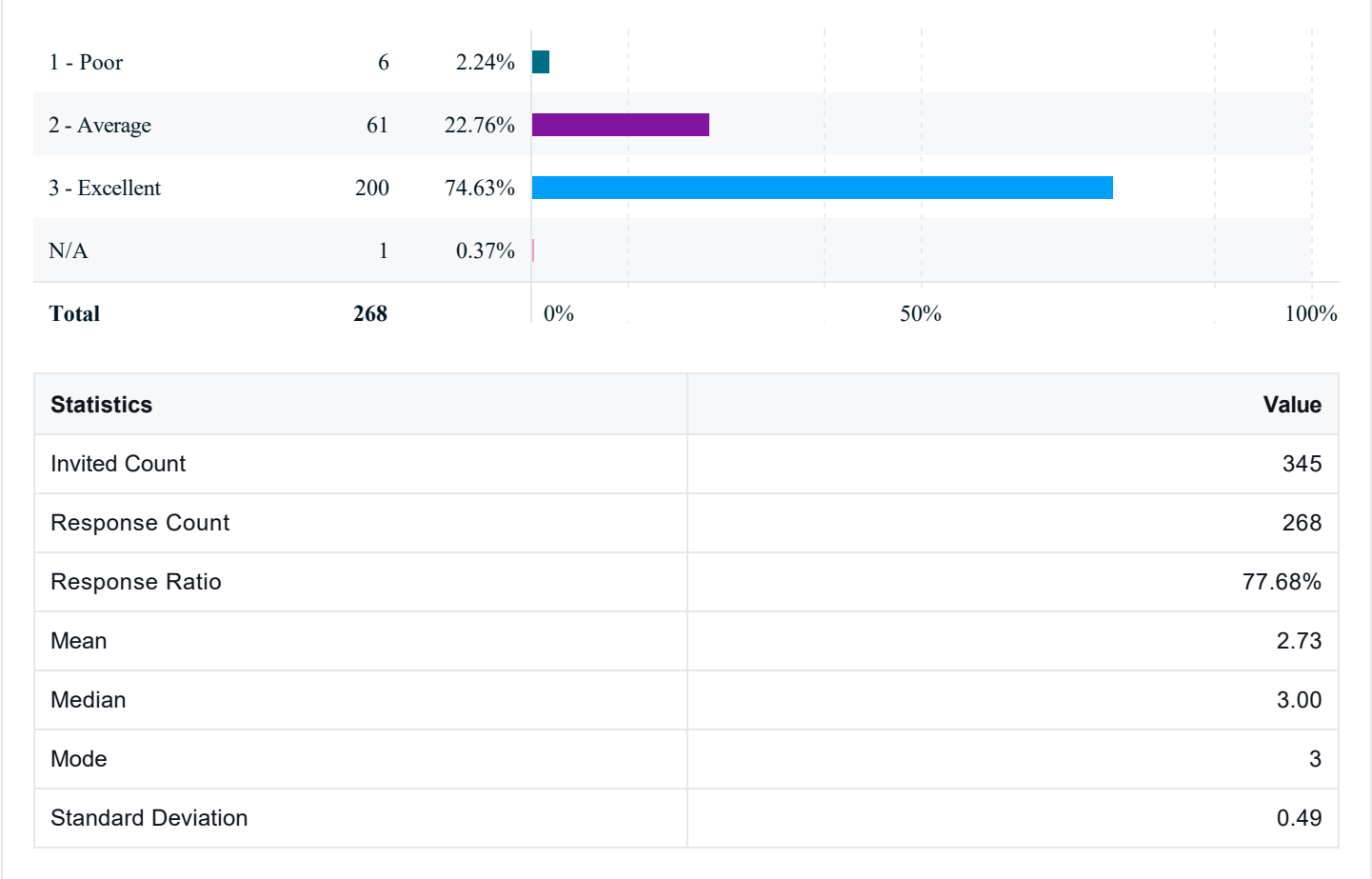


3. Graded materials, examinations



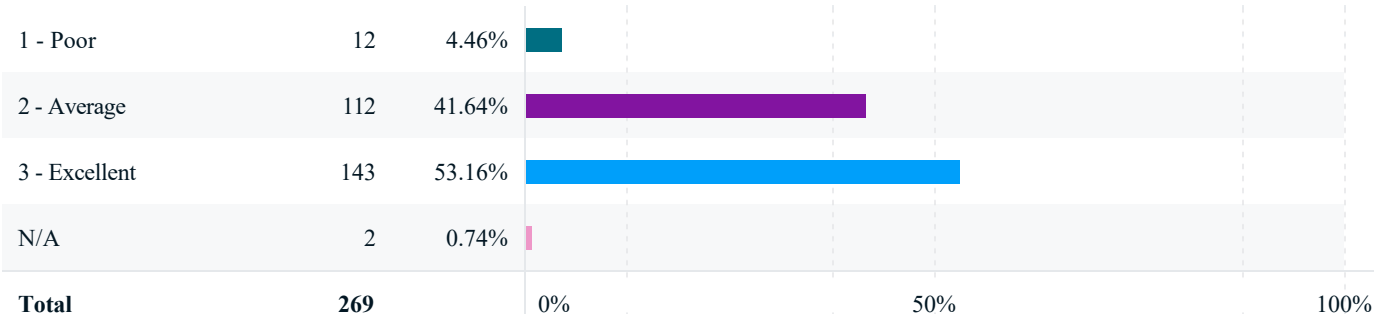
Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	2.64
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.50

4. Lecture presentations



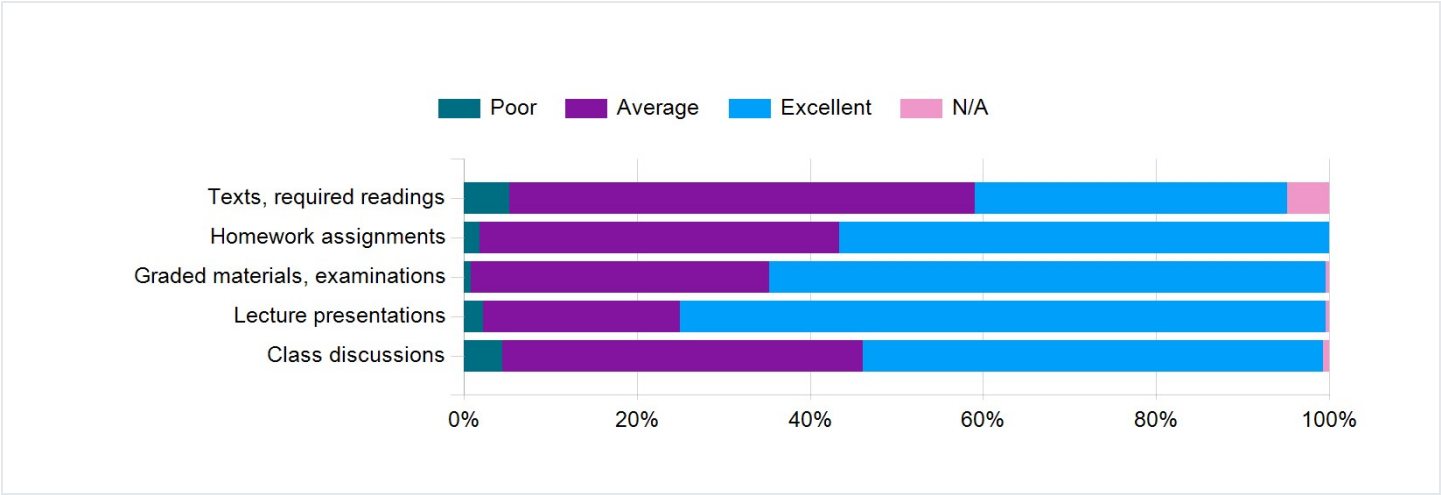


5. Class discussions



Statistics	Value
Invited Count	345
Response Count	269
Response Ratio	77.97%
Mean	2.49
Median	3.00
Mode	3
Standard Deviation	0.58

Your View of Course Characteristics:



## Your View of Course Characteristics:

1 - Poor, 2 - Average, 3 - Excellent

	Enrolled	Response Rate	Mean	Median	Mode	SD
Texts, required readings	345	74.20%	2.32	2.00	2	0.57
Homework assignments	345	78.26%	2.55	3.00	3	0.53
Graded materials, examinations	345	77.68%	2.64	3.00	3	0.50
Lecture presentations	345	77.39%	2.73	3.00	3	0.49
Class discussions	345	77.39%	2.49	3.00	3	0.58

## Comments

**Please identify what you perceive to be the strengths and weaknesses of this instructor and course. (maximum 5000 characters)**

Comments
I enjoyed this class because it offered an opportunity to learn about science as a non-science major. I think that the break down of material was helpful as someone who is not knowledgeable in stem. This made the class enjoyable overall. I also love our professor because he is very passionate and willing to work with students to make the structure of the class successful.
The professor was very nice and understanding. He had obvious passion for the material and the content was very fair for someone coming in with not a lot of knowledge of the content. I enjoyed commentary on the movies and how it was connected to real science. There were a few kinks due to this being the first time having this course, but I overall enjoyed it a lot.
Made learning fun!
I really enjoyed what I learned in this course, but sometimes felt that lectures went too fast for me to digest the material. I think it might be better to go more in-depth into certain topics and really explain them, rather than trying to jump around to 10+ different topics per class. Overall, though, I think the instructor really cared about his students and I would definitely take a class with him again.
I think this course did a great job of explaining good and bad science within movies I just wish that we had clips of the movies to watch rather than the whole movie and more discussion of the movies during section
Professor Margot is extremely knowledgeable about what he is teaching. He makes time to talk to students who need help, and explains things clearly.
I appreciate how engaging prof was. He clearly cares about the subject and his students.
I think the strengths of this course was the pace it took throughout the material and the movies we got to watch every week. I do think the weekly quizzes were the weakness in this class because he only gave us two minutes to take it and it would automatically submit if we did not finish and I think we needed more time.

## Comments

Strengths: innumerable! So kind, intelligent, and amazing at explaining concepts. He really cares about our success and did everything in his power to make lecture super engaging. He listens to student feedback more than any other professor that I have had

Weaknesses: I can't think of any for the professor but I didn't like the lack of in-person exams. Despite the honesty pledge, I know cheating still happens with online and unproctored exams. In an ideal world, this wouldn't have to happen but I do feel like exams should be in-person to not penalize the students taking the exams honestly.

One of the best professors. Very passionate and is understanding that most of us come from a non-STEM background.

Professor Margot was very helpful and overall great professor.

He was very passionate about what he was teaching, and I liked how he showed clips from our required films. This made the homework content and in-class content make more sense to me.

Professor Margot is clearly very passionate about the topics he teaches. He is always organized and happy to answer questions. It is clear he really cares about his students because he always asked us for feedback and allowed a hybrid modeled which helped a lot when I was sick this quarter. This class was engaging especially with the addition of movies which helped reinforce the subjects we were learning. The homework was very helpful in putting the lecture content into practice. I overall really enjoyed this class and learned a lot.

I absolutely loved this course. I took it out of personal interest and felt like it did a great job combining material scientific concepts and some wonderful movies!

The course is very interesting and able to introduce science topics to students who might be more hesitant in taking science courses. As a whole, the lectures are very informative. I do have one suggestion that perhaps extra attendance (in class quizzes / discussion participation) can be given as extra credit to students. In terms of exams, I would appreciate being able to go back on questions as I like to skip questions that I am not able to solve quickly and, instead, loop back to those questions after going through all the questions. I would also appreciate the release of discussion slides since, sometimes, the discussion slides summarizes the lecture in ways that are easier to understand (as discussion doesn't go as deep into topics, the content on the slides are similar to an outline/preview of lecture slides). I had learned a lot from this course and really enjoyed watching all the films while seeing the "science" within each movie. Overall, I believe this course is a great introduction of various science subjects for students who enjoy watching sci-fi films.

Prof. Margot is very organized and has a lenient grading system which i'm very grateful for. The lectures are more interesting than I thought. The only thing I would say is there isn't that much integration between the movies and course content.

I thought this course had a lot of potential and I loved the idea, but the connection between the movies and the science was often times not their or not discussed. The tests, lectures, discussions, and homework all felt very separate.

Professor Margot is a great Professor. He explained the material in an easy-to-understand way and is very lenient with the required work, which allowed me to absorb the material better without having to worry about my grade constantly. This is the first time this class is being offered, so some kinks are to be expected. I expect the movie aspect of the course to be incorporated better in future quarters.

This course was perfect.

The professor seems really knowledgeable in his field and it is obvious that he takes interest and care in the research he does. He makes an effort in the class which makes me as a student want to make an effort to do well in the class.

Professor Margot is very good at performing interesting experiments that intrigued the class. I think the class may have been better if the topics were explained a bit more— specifically the mechanisms behind the topics discussed during discussion.

The professor was very passionate about the course material, which translated into well-articulated, engaging lectures. The movies were a fantastic addition to regular course materials that allowed me to evaluate scientific knowledge on my own and again later in the lecture. Overall, the professor and entire course were very pleasant and ignited a new passion for planetary and space sciences within me.

## Comments

I think that he was a great professor because he made class fun by bringing in demonstrations and make this class feel very fair because although the homework was sometimes difficult, there was grace for missed homeworks or quizzes. I also think that basing this class around movies made it more engaging than if it was a standard science ge. I have had this professor twice and think he is great, especially as someone not very interested in science.

Professor Margot is a very kind and caring professor. His lectures are informative and detailed. Throughout the lectures, professor Margot incorporates fun and interesting demonstrations. His strengths are built upon his love for science and teaching. Because of his hybrid learning system, lecture halls weren't always full, however, that did not stop him from showing his passion for science. He would get excited whenever he was asked a question during class! I believe that professor Margot does not have any weaknesses, he is amazing!

The professor was very passionate about the subject; despite having little to no interest in sciences, his lectures were very engaging and he always went above and beyond to make it accessible to students.

Although this is a new course, the professor is doing a great job at figuring out what works and what doesn't to keep the class moving through all of the content.

Great explanations of topics and responsiveness, but could improve the smoothness of technology during class.

He was very helpful at teaching us, and always made sure to let us learn on our own before asking him.

I think because it's a general overview of many subjects, it can be difficult to understand new concepts every week. If there were 5 subjects that each took 2 weeks to go into detail and really learn, I think that could be better. However, I'm not a stem major so perhaps that also as to do with m ability to fully absorb all topics.

I enjoyed this course and the material I learned in this class. I felt like J. Margot did his best job demonstrating the material in lecture and by watching the movies it made the class more enjoyable than readings or other ways we can apply science. I liked the visual demonstrations in class that J. Margot would do and the I-clicker questions were helpful to keep me engaged. The in-class quizzes were good and low stakes in order to keep students accountable making sure they watched the movies but also low stakes so it doesn't negatively affect our grades. Overall the structure of the class and professor J. Margot was great and I recommend this class!

The teacher was really amazing. I loved how he brought in-class demos and really wanted to make the class and material engaging. His dedication to the subject material was very empowering. On top of that, his teaching style was very clear. Amazing class overall

I loved your class.

Prof. Margot is a great professor! He is straightforward, clear, and concise when lecturing and encourages student participation. His approach to lecture curriculum and communication is excellent because I understand what is expected of me to learn in each class. His use of timely announcements is great, and I find him incredibly respectful of the students' time and concerns. In the end, Margot made science more interesting to learn about, and I found his class to be a nice balance between learning and applicable entertainment.

Great Professor, always helping students and explains topics well!

Professor Margot is amazing. He is truly so kind and helpful, he only wants his students to learn and succeed. He gave great demonstrations in class and was always helpful to his students. He is clearly passionate about the field and has lots to teach. I have nothing bad to say about him.

## Comments

## Strengths:

- Margot is clear, concise, and direct when explaining key concepts.
- Margot is extremely approachable! On multiple occasions he has encouraged students to ask questions or attend office hours.
- Margot is genuinely likable. He is considerate of student concerns/time and will address these concerns in TIMELY course announcements! Not once were concerns ignored.
- Margot's very accommodating! He offers online lectures to students who are unable to make it IRL.

## Weaknesses:

- Sometimes lectures can feel long—this isn't much of a critique on Margot but the duration of the lecture. So much information is being taught, so sometimes it's easy to not pay attention. HOWEVER, Margot does a great job of bringing back student attention with his demos and use of movie clips during class.

## Overall:

Margot is a great professor. I'd recommend this class to anyone who wishes to fulfill this GE.

I really liked how different this class was with the movies. It gave me an opportunity to learn unconventionally, but also allowed me to be attentive and learn in a new way.

I really like how the slides are posted on BruinLearn.

strengths: good explaining and structured lessons

weaknesses: needs more familiarity with tech (zoom audio)

Strengths: Compassion, Understanding, Thoughtful.

Weaknesses: Slow Pace, Lack of examples during lecture.

I really enjoyed this class and taking it for a GE. Being able to watch movies and learn about the science in them was very interesting to me and it was a very fun class and I learned a lot.

I think this instructor may be packing a little too much information into a singular lecture. His slides are extremely long and dense with words. Perhaps shortening the slides/making it more note-like and focusing more on what he's saying would be a better teaching approach moving forward.

The hybrid format of the course is very nice and the generous missed quiz/discussion activity policies.

He would explain everything which is what I liked, but sometimes the live session zooms weren't always working!

Best professor ever.

yop

He is very sweet and very knowledgeable.

## Weaknesses:

- Not very engaging
- Too much content

## Strengths:

- Not too difficult
- Had some interesting discourse such as the ones involving climate change and conspiracy theories.

Strengths: great knowledge of the material, flexible, interesting course, offer both in person and online lectures, easy course to do well in if the effort is put in, good movie recommendations

Weakness: I believe that all discussions should be mandatory with 1 or 2 excusals since they helped me understand the course more.

The strengths of this instructor and course are that it is extremely easy to follow if you are a student that is not involved with science but still need to fulfill a g.e. No weaknesses, Great Professor!

## Comments

Dr. Margot is clearly passionate about the topics that he teaches which makes the classes so engaging! He is very flexible and understanding of students' lives, and makes this course very manageable for all levels of people — whether you are well-versed in science or not. His lectures and in-class demonstrations helped me to learn about interesting concepts in a digestible manner. I truly enjoyed my experience in EPS SCI 2.

The strengths would be the assignments, engaging presentations, and how the topics related to the movies. I wouldn't say there was any weaknesses just some times the movie quizzes would have trouble starting up besides that the class was great.

Professor Margot is so passionate about teaching science to students. He knows the material incredibly well, makes classes immersive and interesting, and I thoroughly enjoyed this class. Incorporating the science fiction movies into this class was such a fun twist. I love that the professor did experiments in class, and how he structures the class to be very flexible in terms of grades. Despite being a very humanities-oriented person, I liked this class a lot.

The course was really well put together, especially for a new course. Although the topic isn't very interesting to me, the professor did his best to make the class engaging, had great presentations, and the use of movies to teach key concepts was really cool. The professor was also always very understanding and made the course very doable, even for those who may struggle with science typically. Overall, a great professor and course!

This course was amazing. Professor Margot introduced science based concepts and always related them to the movies of the week, allowing us to understand the differences in actuality and Hollywood. It was amazing, and I would recommend this course to anyone looking to fulfill a G.E. requirement.

Great lecturer

Incredible professor. You can see how passionate he is about what he teaches and how important it is to him that his students are learning and enjoying the process at the same time. Genuinely no weaknesses whatsoever; he is the most accommodating professor I have ever had the pleasure of learning from.

Professor J. Margot was an excellent instructor and cared deeply for his students and their education, health, and time. The Professor was enthusiastic during class, always doing his best to keep us entertained, every lecture was easy to engage with and he was organized, funny, and amazing at teaching. There was never a dull moment in class. The professor was also very understanding, especially with the fires, person circumstances, and our well-being. I would recommend to every to take Professor J. Margot as you will come out of the class learning so much, and wanting to learn even more.

I loved this class

Professor Margot is a very good professor. He is very knowledgeable about his field, which is apparent from the very first lecture. He tries his best to make lectures enjoyable, engage his students, and make everything accessible and low-stress. I really enjoy this course and its uniqueness!

I loved the way he lectures, it is very entertaining and filled with information. I love how he implemented movies and science in a thought provoking way.

Professor Margot is a very clear and engaging lecturer, and has a very good way of engaging students through demonstrations and course material. My only comment is that the homework is more math heavy than the course material, which can lead to some confusion if a student is weaker in that area, as it is not taught in the class. Overall I have found this class very valuable.

I thought that the professor was extremely engaging and knowledgeable on the topics. He always made lectures interesting and kept us engaged through jokes, active learning, and fun demonstrations.

Really great presenter, made each topic easy to understand and showed a passion for the class.

Instructor made the material interesting, and you could tell he enjoys what he teaches. Class presentations were also pretty organized however I feel the readings sometimes could've been more enriched.

## Comments

Professor Margot was passionate about this class, and he was very sweet and would make little jokes throughout lecture. He wanted students to succeed. He would also proudly talk about his research, which was cool to hear about. I think the only thing that could be adjusted in this new class would be slowing down the lecture pace— he talked pretty quickly, and I would often fall behind typing notes (even with the slides provided) and wouldn't be able to follow what he was saying.

It was a great course! Very communicative and overall a stress-free class.

Very kind and caring teacher. I liked the live demos and incorporation of the movies into lectures. I thought that the slides were often too lengthy and wordy, and it was a lot of material to master and go over at times.

He was very responsive and genuinely cared about feedback and his students' success. I enjoyed the hands-on learning approach and the experiments he would do in class.

Prof Margot was very kind and passionate about the material he was teaching, and made coming to lecture fun and a valuable usage of time.

I loved the instructor's enthusiasm and I felt like everything in the class was very well structured and organized. The workload felt like the perfect amount for a class that is a GE for many students and I think the content of the course was very interesting. The only thing I have to nitpick is the fact that I felt like some of the content of the course went a little too far in depth. A good portion of the students in the course aren't majoring in physics or the sciences and as a result some of the content felt a little too intricate for a GE.

Great prof. Interesting course. Fair exams

he was a very engaging lecturer through his in-class demonstrations. he is also very knowledgeable and has a lot of hands-on experience of some of the things we learn in class.

Awesome professor, no complaints. Actual GOAT.

Professor is super responsible and has the enthusiasm for the content.

Professor Margot made a great effort to ensure that the course content and examinations were approachable for students. The BruinLearn page was organized well, and I appreciated being able to take notes on the lecture slides ahead of time so that I could listen and add to my notes during lectures. Communications made through BruinLearn announcements were prompt and detailed, showing Professor Margot's dedication to making sure that students are well-informed of upcoming events. All the movies were interesting and a fun watch, and I loved the connections drawn between the lecture topics and specific parts of the week's assigned movie – though some movies were tied more loosely to the course content than others. I also liked it when Professor Margot highlighted UCLA or his own research during lectures or conducted in-class demonstrations. I think that the textbook readings assigned for homework become rather redundant, as they are lengthy and the lecture notes capture the same information in a more digestible format. The quizzes on the movies did motivate me to pay attention while watching the movies, but I'm not sure whether I like how the questions are related to specific, niche details as they could easily slip my mind even if I did watch the movie thoroughly. Ultimately, I know that I wouldn't be able to pass this class if the exams were not open note – to score well on the midterm, I had to refer to my own notes from the textbook readings, the lecture notes, and the textbook itself. The course covers a wide range of content, as all the movies differ quite greatly, so it's extremely difficult to keep up with all the information from each week. For reference, the topics covered during week 1 Gravity are comparable to the topics covered in detail when taking ASTR 3 for 1 quarter. Truthfully, I retain a surface-level understanding of all the topics we have covered, which I don't think is a bad thing. I think this class is useful for gaining insight into the science underlying different movies and spending a short amount of time becoming accustomed to those topics. Overall, I appreciate the teaching team's efforts in organizing this class and attest that it was a fun experience!

I liked this class. it was the most interesting science ge and kept me very engaged.

Professor Margot was a knowledgeable and engaging instructor. The course was well structured with opportunities for active learning through quizzes and homework. The slides were informative and his lectures enhanced my understanding of what was on screen. I suppose the only thing is that class is very long so it makes it difficult to maintain concentration for long due to the overload of information.

## Comments

Professor Margot overall did his job on how to structure this class being able to allow all students to get something from the course but also being able to make the course not as rigorous as many took this class to fulfill a GE requirement. His lectures were straightforward and very easy accessible which is very appreciated from the student's point of view. Overall, the only problem I can think of is the technical issues that occasionally popped up so it would be better if the professor is able to become more computer literate.

I really enjoyed this course in that lectures were always presented clearly and professor was always enthusiastic to teach. It was nice to see how science correlates to great movies. The movie selection is also very entertaining. The slides were always well prepared. This course is very understanding and flexible with students schedules. Overall I really enjoyed this class and would definitely encourage others to take this class.

Professor Margot is great at keeping his students engaged in his lecture and is willing to prepare a demonstration each lecture for his student to enjoy.

Strength: teaching ability and care for students  
Weakness: none

This was a very well-organized course and I appreciated the Zoom interface and that the lecture slides were uploaded promptly after class

I appreciate the passion and the dedication of the professor. However at certain points the material can start to feel very dry. The movies are a positive for this class however, it is not really needed for the content of the class. The class focused more on the science aspects rather than the movie aspect which is fine but may cause some confusion due to the naming of the course. The accessibility of lectures and recordings was also very high and I do appreciate that. However, the way that tests are structured may have to be revised a bit as it does feel a bit too cheap. Overall, not a bad experience and would recommend this to others.

This class was an engaging way to be exposed to a wide variety of scientific topics, but understandably, due to it being the first time offered, there was a bit of organizational difficulty and the discussions were not ironed out.

I think the instructor was very engaged in the course, created interesting presentations, and helpful homework. I thought he did a good job of intertwining movies about science with actual scientific facts.

Professor Margot was a good instructor and was very enthusiastic about what he teaches. His lecture notes were well organized and I enjoyed watching some of his practical demonstrations during class. I thought the way the course was graded was very easy though and it made it so I didn't actually need to put in a lot of work to learn the materials (test was open book, only needed to pass 5/10 quizzes and go to 5/10 discussion sections).

His passion is his greatest strength.

Super great at explaining things and interacting with the class. I love the class structure and class content.

I loved this professor, he was amazing! He is very passionate about the material being taught and he made the class very exciting and engaging with his experiments!

I really enjoyed this class. The professor is always positive and enthusiastic. Pacing is well done for this academic level and concepts are interesting and relatively difficult enough to challenge students. I also think the experiments in class were amazing and really helped with me wanting to attend class. Clicker could be sometimes tedious, but the only change I'd recommend for this class is more time for quizzes or a type of written answer regarding the movies watched in class because I often found quiz questions too vague and not relevant enough to the movie that I remembered them despite watching and taking notes of the films. Overall this class was a great G.E and I'm happy I got to take it.

Professor Margot is an engaging professor and this class was structured well to help students succeed in it.

Professor Margot is one of my favorite professors and is very understanding, and is also very engaging in lectures and makes it very fun to learn.

Extra cred should be assigned. I appreciate the feedback that he requested from students.



Comments
<p>Professor Margot did an amazing job of creating a fun learning environment for every student involved. You can genuinely tell he is very interested in the course material he is teaching, and it shines through when he is talking about the subject. I loved his in class demonstrations of concepts. I also really appreciated the Zoom option for lectures, as it allowed me to better fit the course into my busy schedule. I thoroughly enjoyed this class and would recommend my friends to take any class taught by Prof. Margot, especially this one.</p>
<p>He was lovely, could give a bit more time on in class quizzes</p>
<p>Amazing professor, very understanding and great lectures that were engaging. The movies made the class more interesting.</p>
<p>I think the instructor is very engaging—he is someone that people want to listen to. However, I think sometimes he may move a bit too fast towards the end of class when we are running out of time, and I unable to fully grasp concepts.</p>
<p>Professor Margot is awesome! I particularly enjoyed the in-class demonstrations, implementation of the films into lecture, and his overall charisma and care for his students. I honestly wish that had attended more in-person lectures rather than on Zoom, however, I really appreciated the hybrid style as it allowed for attendance when I was ill. I definitely think that the movies are what brought me to the course, but I will say that the overall presentation of information was understandable and valuable, especially for me taking this course as a GE. This GE created a sweet spot in science for me as its grading policies made science content less scary, and I found myself enjoying everything more than expected.</p>
<p>Margot is very intellectual and clearly is a master of the material. However, I felt like we covered a lot of different topics and it was hard to keep up and retain any of the information. The slides were very scientific and used niche information that was hard to conceptualize at the pace we were going at. Margot is very understanding and very lenient with the grading scale. I think this class has a lot of potential but the structure needs to be heavily revised.</p>
<p>Instructor Margot did an excellent job introducing this new class to UCLA students. It absolutely engaged me very much even though I do not study physics. This class gave me an understanding of real world problems and how to better care of the atmosphere and environment. Instructor Margot is well rounded and passionate about the subjects in lectures which allowed me to be more interested in the field, to a point where I might consider minor in geology.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>A great professor that was flexible and willing to move around to accomodate students</p>
<p>Instructor: J.Margot is the best professor I have taken so far. He is consistently prepared, effective in getting through his main points, welcoming, friendly, and an expert in his field. He has made learning about EPS at the most fun it can possibly be. I will be looking forward in taking more classes from him. Best professor!</p>
<p>A strength of prof Margot was his ability to keep people engaged with the topics. He brings in a bunch of little experiments to show help us grasp the concepts which I found very interesting.</p>
<p>This class was excellent. I found the topics interesting and Professor Margot made the class simple and entertaining for non-science majors. Would definitely recommend this class.</p>
<p>The instructor was very knowledgable with the course material and presented it in an easy to understand way. He sometimes struggled with managing zoom lectures, but other than that he taught the class in a fun and engaging way. The course itself was stress free and interesting, and I enjoyed all the movies that we watched for it.</p>
<p>Strengths: engagement, excitement about the course, cared about students' learning. Weaknesses: lectures were sometimes a bit boring but it was overall great.</p>
<p>It's evident he cares about what he is teaching, as well as the students he teaches. Overall a very nice professor who lectures well.</p>
<p>The instructor was really passionate about the course material as he personally showed active demonstrations.</p>
<p>great fun professor loved him</p>

## Comments

I really appreciate the professor's effort to make sure students were well updated about any notes, quizzes, or assignments coming up. His passion for the material really shows through his lectures and his demonstrations in class made the course more memorable.

Great teaching, very interesting; movies are great

The connection between movies/visual application and the content of the class was successful and in depth. Some of the lectures were content heavy and it was difficult to absorb all of the information being taught, but the sections did a good job of cementing the concepts.

I enjoyed this class because I learned a lot about science that I never knew, ranging from so many different fields. I really appreciated the in class demonstrations because they were always engaging, and I found the iClicker questions helpful for reinforcing lecture material and ensuring that I understood the concepts correctly. I also really enjoyed how Dr. Margot would incorporate his research in relation to some of the material we learned because it was always really interesting and fascinating to learn about the research he conducts. I also loved watching the film movies and found it interesting to learn the science behind the plot. After this class, I not only am more knowledgeable in science but have also gained a greater appreciation for the scientific field. Altogether, I enjoyed learning from Dr. Margot and am grateful I was able to get the first experience of this class.

Very friendly, communicative, and clearly wanted the students to learn and succeed in this class.

I loved the enthusiasm Professor Margot had for this course. You could tell he was passionate about what he was teaching and I greatly appreciate that. The leniency was also very nice considering it is a G.E. class. However, the pace during lectures seemed too fast. It was very hard to process all the material, which made it stressful studying for exams. The discussions were not helpful. Additionally, the quizzes on the movies were a bit unfair. Even when I watched the movies (intently) I couldn't answer the questions at the beginning of the quarter. I liked having the zoom option for the class because I injured myself halfway through the quarter and was not able to walk very well, but I didn't have to worry about this class.

I love this professor, he is very passionate about science and that radiates through this course. His demonstrations were super engaging and he made this class incredibly fun and informative.

Very kind and knowledgeable, I would just recommend that the movies be integrated more so in the class rather than showing short clips, as it would make the content a lot more memorable.

Our instructor is really nice and cares a lot of his students. I really enjoyed this class and would definitely recommend it to other people.

Strengths: Communication, Weaknesses: Effectiveness

The professor was a good teacher. He was clearly knowledgeable on the course content and was passionate in class, often demonstrating scientific concepts with fun visuals. He showed he cared and made the class manageable for students.

Professor Margot is a great educator who makes all of his presentations very engaging and interesting. He also understands student's basic needs and support systems and helps cater to these through his various credit opportunities. He is an amazing professor who makes semi-interesting material very interesting.

Professor Margot was a wonderful professor. He was clearly very passionate about his class and the subject matter he was teaching us. He wanted everyone from all majors to get excited about science and his passion inspired me for sure to be invested in his class. This class moved quite quickly and he packed a lot of information into each lecture. I think that he was helpful in breathing down each concept discussed and going through his content quickly but thoroughly. I enjoyed the interesting twist of this course with the movies tying in course concepts and I thought that was a smart way to get people more interested in science. Professor Margot was clearly incredibly knowledgeable about his subject matter which was apparent in every lecture, it was an honor getting to learn from someone who is so passionate and knowledgeable in their field.

## Comments

Professor Margot is very knowledgeable and approachable. Very accomplished in his field and likes to share research with the class. Interesting course w/ engaging lectures  
 Weakness: lack of connection between movie and course concepts; would like to see movies more integrated into homework, quiz, etc.  
 Course is too lenient. Pass/Fail quiz and discussions are fair but exams should be in person to motivate honesty and active learning.

Professor Margot was engaging and understanding of the college experience stress levels. This class was manageable and enjoyable.

Some strengths of the course are the fact that it is very direct and well presented to us. the students. This allows many of us to grasp the concepts without complexity. I also really liked how he made the midterm online and gave us a long timeframe to take the exam!! A weakness of this class was it being recorded and on Zoom. Many students stopped attending lectures as they opted for the online version, which made the classroom very empty—lack of participation and sad because, well, it was empty, and Professor Margot put a lot of effort into making this class. I would recommend not recording the lecture.

I feel like there needs to be more of a clear pipeline between the lectures and homework.

Professor Margot is clearly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about what he does, and is perhaps the perfect teacher for this class. He cares about student learning and always makes a point to raise awareness about the subjects he's teaching. I have only two small issues with the course. The first is that in-class quizzes are given far too little time to complete. They're often given two minutes, whereas I think five minutes is more appropriate. There were many times where a bit of extra loading time to enter the quiz and answer each question (3) nearly meant I didn't have time to finish the quiz, causing rush and panic. My second issue was the pace and content of the lectures. The professor spoke quite quickly, moving between slides jam-packed with info with little time to take down notes and absorb the new material. Simply put, it was a case of going through too much information in too little time. In future quarters of this course, if the talking pace was slowed down somewhat and there was slightly less information to get through, I think there would not be any glaring flaws at all. I know this was a brand new course, and I definitely think it is one that should stay for future students to enjoy.

The instructor was excellent at explaining key concepts. I really enjoyed the variety of scientific topics we learned. I wish the films from the course had been incorporated more, as there was not a direct emphasis of it.

Professor Margot was passionate about the content taught in the class, which was apparent whenever he would conduct in-class demonstrations. He presented information and allowed unique opportunities such as iclicker and clips from the movie of the week for students to thoroughly understand the content taught. One area for improvement would be resolving any technical difficulties surrounding the in-class quizzes as an issue would often occur, preventing students from completing the quiz within the given 3-minute time period. Another improvement would be providing more flexibility with his office hours as he was uncompromising on meeting at any other time, even when office hours greatly conflicted with students' schedules.

It was hard

Strengths: one of the standout parts of this course is the in class, live demonstrations that the professor conducted. This was one of the best ways I could learn science  
 Weaknesses: some of the questions on the quizzes were very specific, and I would sometimes get stumped on them even though I watched the movie

Overall this course had a good structure and I really enjoyed the movie choices.

I think the integration of the movies was very poor. This really soured my opinion of this course which is otherwise ok in every aspect.

## Comments

Instructor was amazing! So passionate. His attitude is what made me keep going to class. Very engaging and always incorporated active learning into his class with iclicker. Very good at explaining topics and made sure everyone was on the same page! Honestly one of the best professors at UCLA. This course was so interesting to me. I love movies and have a hard time understanding science, this class made the science part easy! The material dives into a little bit of everything. Instructor is strong in explaining difficult concepts, showing examples of the scientific laws he is explains (live demonstrations), mathematical examples, and movie clips. Hit all his learning goals and the pace was perfect. Only weakness was his late emails! Ex: A schedule movie-related quiz on Tuesday, professor would send emails reminding students to watch the appropriate movies at the earliest, 11pm Monday night. By then I was already in bed, and forgotten about the movie I was supposed to watch. Fortunately, I used the well-formatted syllabus to keep track of the moves, however, it happened once or twice where i forgot to watch the movie and had the gotten the "reminder" email while I was already in bed. I suggest sending those emails a bit earlier because most movies in the syllabus were 2+ hours. Other than that everything was great. The discussions aligned with the lectures, the homework was manageable, the in-class quizzes were fun, the lecture even more fun, and the professor was funny at times. Loved this class so much, I wish i can take it again just for fun.

He explains things well, passionately, and does a good job relating the movies into the course even though it is more science focused. As someone who hadn't taken a science course in 3 years, I had little difficulty keeping up or understanding the concepts and they all really interested me.

I appreciated how Professor Margot was a very knowledgeable and genuine instructor with a clear passion for his field of expertise. I attended nearly every lecture, as I found in-person learning much more effective than the Zoom option. Anyone reading through Professor Margot's slideshows could tell that he has put a lot of effort into compressing a plethora of material into accessible, bite-sized chunks for non-STEM majors (like me) to understand.

That said, due to the sheer volume of information (with no connecting themes), I sometimes felt that I was only able to retain surface-level concepts while simultaneously feeling slightly overwhelmed. I've taken AP Physics E&M, and I noticed that the first few units of material were fed to us without the practical labs or demonstrations that helped me truly internalize key ideas the first time learning them. In addition, it's difficult for me to tell what will actually appear on exams, as the professor and TAs have stated that we won't be tested on complex calculations, but some equations still appeared on the midterm; the exam details say no memorization of irrelevant information is needed, but there were still some minor numbers or statistics tested.

Because of this, I think it would be helpful for future classes to have slightly less material covered, but more in-depth explanations for each core concept. I would also love if Professor Margot could set a harder line for what's complex or minor enough that we don't need to worry about preparing for.

But overall, I enjoyed this course—it was a fun GE! My favorite movies were Gravity and Interstellar, and it was always interesting to see which scientific premises were accurate or inaccurate. At times, I would not have been able to guess it at all.

And this is a tangent inspired by the lecture today, but I wonder if the extraterrestrial life could somehow include mentions of Liu Cixin's sci-fi series, Remembrance of Earth's Past. While it sadly doesn't have a movie adaptation yet, I kept thinking about the dark forest hypothesis (that he coined the term for) during the section about the Fermi paradox. Was really fascinated by this last unit!

Wonderful lectures that were fun, engaging, and informative. A perfect way for non-stem majors to relearn their love for science related fields.

I think that despite a slight lack of question-answering availability, the course was taught very well by the professor.

At the beginning of the course, I really enjoyed the live demonstrations of scientific concepts like the Doppler effect. I wish there had been more live demonstrations, as they helped me visualize concepts better. I liked the clips of movies played in class and the explanations of what the movies got right and wrong it was fascinating to learn about. I suggest doing more with the movie aspect of the class it would have been interesting if we were able to discuss the movies more, maybe in discussion sections there could be a portion of the class where students discuss scientific concepts in the movie in some way.

The strengths were that he included personal research or work in lecture that was related to the topic we were learning, and I felt that it was informative and thoughtful. I also liked how he was able to present himself as a very knowledgeable and trustworthy person on the topics and motivated myself to pursue more interest in the topic. A weakness would be a little less lack of effort to bridge the movie and topic together in terms of quizzes.

Excellent prof, thank you for a good quarter.

## Comments

I appreciate the professor's effort in incorporating movie material into the lectures. I enjoyed the inclusion of in class demonstrations by the professor. I liked how this course had flexible examination periods that can accommodate our other in-person finals or our own schedules. I also appreciated the availability of recording/zoom. However, I found the lectures to be dense in material that was a lot to cover in a short period of time, and I think the complexity and nature of the material required more background knowledge/practice in the subject that wasn't provided. I often found the homework difficult and didn't match with the most recent lecture material gone over.

Dr. Margot was an excellent professor. He led lectures by making sure to engage the students with the material with experiments and movies. He was able to keep the course interesting to a lot of students who were taking the class as a GE.

great lecturer was always interesting

The strengths of Professor Margot were that he was very knowledgeable about the course material and his grading was very generous. I liked when he showed us examples in lecture and provided clips of the movies to show what he would talk about. His quizzes were vital to the course because of the movies, but I think it would've been better if the quizzes were more about science rather than trying to remember which drink was in which character's hand. I think that was a weakness in the quizzes. Other than that, I enjoyed this class and I would definitely recommend.

I enjoyed the professor. He as kind and knowledgeable, and clearly cared about the material and that we as students learned something. I just wish that the class was tailored a little more towards the movies and explaining their specific science, whether it was accurate or not. It may just be me personally since I'm rusty with my math, but the amount and the level of math caught me by surprise. I thought it would be a little bit more basic than the amount we had to do. Thankfully I retained some knowledge of math but it felt like the math was glossed over instead of being explained. Like it was assumed we were all on the same level, and maybe I was slower than others to grasp but I did get intimidated by this from the beginning, which I felt hindered my enjoyment of the class and didn't motivate me to ask for help. I felt dumber than others as a result. Maybe it would have helped to go over more word problems in discussions with everyone instead of reading it in a book or it just being presented in discussions. I don't feel like we were ever really taught how to do the math part as much.

I feel like adjustments need to be made to the quizzes

Professor Margot was very passionate about the course and would do whatever he could to make things interesting and exciting- very cool class!

Professor Margot was very concerned with our learning, and would constantly check in to see how valuable different activities were for us. His in-class physics demonstrations were great, and I felt like he was a great professor!

The course was good in regards to the material that was being taught, every lecture talked about several topics that were presented in each movie and clips were shown to back up the importance of those topics. I liked how the professor used iClicker during the lecture to ask questions because those made me understand what we learning better and even allowed collaboration during class time. It was nice that we were given many good opportunities throughout the quarter, like having an open-book midterm and final. This class was something new and fun as the professor even brought physical objects to present an idea of what we learning about, but I feel like it could have been done more during the last lectures as they stopped entirely. Although, this class was still interesting just like I expected it to be!

I really enjoyed the in class demonstration of Newtonian laws and other scientific principles. These demonstrations made the class more memorable, and it allowed me to memorize the material better.

I truly enjoyed this course, as it encompassed a different type of learning that felt much more engaging and active. The fact that the course was centered around learning science through movies rather than the usual textbook/lecture-based learning made it much more impactful and interesting. The course is organized in a very comprehensive and flexible format that I enjoyed.

This class was overall one that I was very happy to take as a science GE. As I am sure many students can agree, being able to learn concepts related to science fiction films was a large contributing factor to this course, and I genuinely enjoyed the vast majority of the selected films for the course. They tied very well into course content during lectures, as well. If anything, I just wish that the movies were incorporated more into discussions and homework, as right now the class feels more disjointed and disconnected in regards to the movies/lectures versus the homework/discussion.

Comments
<p>Very passionate about the subjects, interesting material. Good that lectures are on Zoom. However, only having 5 required discussions can cause some people to lose motivation.</p>
<p>An amazing start to a new class at UCLA, Dr. Margot is clearly passionate and communicated science ideas / concepts really well. I'm sure with time this class will become further refined and an even better experience for future students.</p>
<p>This professor was okay great overall I loved the tricks he did in class and experiments</p>
<p>All good</p>
<p>I loved my professor I think he did a great job at keeping us all engaged and worked hard for us to feel like we knew what to do in the course.</p>
<p>It was a great course, although a bit messy at times because it is the first time being taught. I think the incorporation of movies could be better, but Profesor Margot was very engaging and entertaining !</p>
<p>Professor J. Margot is very excited about the topics he teaches. I appreciate the experiments and examples he provides in class. I feel, however, that the subjects are sometimes not as thoroughly integrated as I would hope, into the movies, into the broader context of the class and coursework, and that if the test had not been open-note, I would have struggled with the knowledge that I feel as if I am arbitrarily receiving sometimes. Professor Margot does provide many resources and leniency in our class, with many helpful opportunities to do well and get course credit!</p>
<p>super kind professor and accomadating. understanding as well.</p>
<p>I thoroughly enjoyed this course, and I found Professor Margot to be an amazing instructor. His lectures were engaging and insightful, and he showed genuine care for students by being supportive, responsive to emails, and attentive to their needs. The only challenge I encountered was with some homework questions that were difficult to interpret due to their wording, but this wasn't a major issue. Overall, it was a great course with a fantastic professor.</p>
<p>Margot was an outstanding professor. He was amazingly invested in the course. My favorite thing about the course were the in person demonstrations they were quite entertaining. I loved this class!</p>
<p>Professor Margot is clearly knowledgable and passionate about all the topics we touch upon in class, which also helped me feel more engaged with the content. The film choices and active demonstrations during lecture were also interesting, and made science feel much more approachable. Though the sheer amount of different topics covered across the course can feel to be a lot, exams and homework clearly show that the course is friendly even to those without a science background. Overall, I highly enjoyed the course and would definitely recommend to my friends!</p>
<p>Strength is definitely the drive to teach about a subject he's so passionate about. As a non science major, I truly feel like I learned a lot.</p>
<p>Margot is a wonderful professor, I think the course should place more prioritisation towards attendance. Whether this be section or for the lectures.</p>
<p>As art student who loves STEM and is looking to explore my interests this was a great introduction to the STEM classes offered here at UCLA. I really found. this to be an amazing class. Though it was clear things were still in works with this being a new class and all I was excited to come to class everyday and always learned something new.</p>
<p>Probably the most entertaining lecturer I have had so far at UCLA. Really cared and knew a lot about the material, and he struck a good balance making the class fun and highly informative. I truly did learn a lot and got to watch a lot of great movies along the way. I also really enjoyed the fact that we had the option to tune in via Zoom, because that allowed me to have a lot of flexibility. If I could offer a critic, it would probably be that the class felt a little disorganized at times, which is maybe just par for the course with a brand new class in a term that started the way it did. Apart from that though, I had a really great time in the class.</p>



## Comments

Professor J. Margot is an amazing professor that loves to teach about his subject matter. I loved the way that the movies we watched in class is related to what we read about and learned about for class. The slide presentations were engaging and made great use of the iClicker application. I really liked the way that in the middle of the slides there was an active learning section that let us discuss with our partners. It was very useful as not only does it prevent students from spacing out but it helps us retain information as well. The way the professor would include his own research in the slides was very inciteful and I know a lot of us appreciate it because we see how what we learned in class is applied in the real world. The professor had a fun and welcoming attitude and it made me excited to come to class! The way he would also have live demonstrations of various laws and principles was also good to see. Overall, the professor was amazing and I will defiantly recommend his classes in the future to anyone looking for a fun science class.

I enjoyed Professor Margot's lectures because its clear that he is passionate about science and I felt like he was really coming from a place of wanting to make science accessible for students who aren't majoring in STEM. Overall, I think he succeeded in his wish! I think this course has a bright future and it's clear that a lot of effort was put into it. As far as weaknesses go, I think one shortcoming of the course was that textbook didn't feel particularly relevant to a lot of the subjects covered. I also think that the course could be reworked so that it incorporated the movies a bit more, something I know Professor Margot has been considering as well. I think one way this could happen is if the movies were discussed more in section (perhaps clips were played and then met with a group discussion about how it agrees with or deviates from what we would expect to happen from a scientific standpoint?). I've taken other classes at UCLA wherein the TA's got a group together in a big hall to watch a movie for the course in the evening (maybe having an option where attending X amount of in person showings would provide extra credit might encourage more students to watch the movies?) Overall, I enjoyed the class and feel like it strengthened my understanding of a lot of different areas of science.

Very kind and helpful, very good at explaining and very organized. Made the topics entertaining and the visual examples were incredibly helpful.0

Professor Margot is clearly extremely passionate and knowledgable in all regards of earth and planetary science. I loved that this course was structured with different topics every week to reflect the film we watched. No topic was investigated too thoroughly but also not simply brushed over. It felt like a refresher of my high school science classes I thought I had left behind. To be honest, it was an amazing confidence booster to see how quickly that prior knowledge came back to me in theories and equations. I missed doing science! This is an excellent class for liberal arts majors looking to experience a science course they can really wrap their heads around.