Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating
Fall 2021

Schmidt, Ryan - rjs424
Dendrology - 11:216:272:01
Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 24
Responses Received: 17

University-wide Instructor Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
The instructor Ryan Schmidt was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	0	0	0	0	17	17	**5.00**	4.92	4.57	4.54
The instructor Ryan Schmidt responded effectively to student comments and questions.	0	0	0	1	16	17	**4.94**	4.92	4.52	4.50
The instructor Ryan Schmidt generated interest in the course material.	0	0	0	1	16	17	**4.94**	4.90	4.61	4.53
The instructor Ryan Schmidt had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	0	0	1	16	17	**4.94**	4.92	4.55	4.56
The instructor Ryan Schmidt assigned grades fairly.	0	0	0	2	14	17	**4.88**	4.86	4.60	4.53
The instructional methods of Ryan Schmidt encouraged student learning.	0	0	0	1	16	17	**4.94**	4.90	4.50	4.44

Teaching Effectiveness

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor Ryan Schmidt as:	0	0	0	2	15	17	**4.88**	4.84	4.54	4.46

University-wide Course Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I learned a great deal in this course.	0	0	0	2	15	17	**4.88**	4.88	4.54	4.40
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	0	3	1	1	12	17	**4.29**	4.29	4.07	4.01

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
Given the content and level of the course, the course workload was manageable.	0	0	0	7	10	17	**4.59**	4.59	4.55	4.36
The course site used for this course, whether in Canvas, Sakai, or Blackboard, was well organized.	0	0	3	5	9	17	**4.35**	4.35	4.38	4.39
The instructions given for assignments, exams, quizzes, and other course activities were clear and easy to understand.	0	0	2	5	8	15	**4.40**	4.40	4.31	4.22

Course Quality

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses
Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the overall quality of the course as:	0	0	0	2	15	17	**4.88**	4.88	4.50	4.32

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
Lots of field trips and diverse range of locations were visited
Lab! Learning all the trees was the best part, as one would expect.
I enjoyed the practical quizzes and exams.
I like the fact that this course was based around excursions. I feel like much of what I've missed as a plant biology major at this school is field work/exploration. Much of my time has been spent at a desk, studying pages, documents, and slides. This is an effective way to learn, of course, and learn very much I have. That being said, this class' format was remarkably refreshing. Independently, I've foraged (unsurprisingly alone) around this city quite a bit, never having anyone with which to share my passion. Having a class full of students ready, willing, and able to distinguish tree species (and have a snack here and there!) was an incredible experience I don't think I'll ever forget.
Lab I need to be outside and hands–on active learner, sitting still kills me.
The hands on approach. Walking around and identifying species really helped me learn my tree species. The on–site quizzes were nice, too because it was challenging and fun at the same time.
best course I took this fall
How engaging and hands on it is
I liked being able to makeup two quizzes.
This is a truly unique class at Rutgers. It combines a light bit of classroom background with truly awesome field experience.
everything, this has had to be the best college course I have taken.
The tree ID was the most rewarding part. I felt so proud of myself whenever I did well.   But maybe it was actually the friends that we made along the way :') (the photos were cute)
I liked actually walking around outside and looking at the trees in real life rather than just studying pictures of the important characteristics. It was good to see how a single species can display so much variation depending on where it is growing and what the conditions are.

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
The transition between summer ID and winter ID was difficult. I would start teaching about bark and terminal bud differentiation earlier instead of closer to winter.
It's all awesome, but maybe some extra native trees?
I would give some leniency on the spelling of the Latin names.
I don't suppose I would change much of anything.
Not sure.
Learn less trees per week
I would post slides before lecture
I might provide more powerpoints for the various trees. During the first 6 weeks of the semester, I found those powerpoints immensely helpful, and being able to use them as a refresher and study tool was irreplaceable and a big reason I did so well on the first exam. After they went away, my comprehension of the material definitely went down. From what I have heard, these were never a part of the class until the pandemic happened. Coming from someone who GREATLY benefited from them when they were available, I would recommend making them a permanent fixture of the class, and expanding them across the whole year's worth of trees.
nothing.
I would maybe make the assignments and discussion posts an alternating weekly assignment rather than putting them both on the same week. It was kind of annoying rushing to get them both done in the same week, especially when I found out I did the wrong thing for an assignment.   As an FYI, there was one assignment for the plant keys where I spent about an hour doing silver maple when I was actually supposed to do red maple because I read "Acer saccharum" as "Acer saccharinum", and then I had to spend another hour for the actual key.   There were also some parts where the assignment wording was kind of ambiguous – like there was one time when there was confusion about describing the needle as a column rather than as a cylinder during the math assignment.   Overall, I think the assignments were helpful to learn, and the discussions were helpful to understand the material (and even fun). I would just refine the wording for next year if you were to reuse them.
I feel like having some lectures focus on identifying the different families and explaining the differences between different trees of a genus would be useful. Such as explaining the differences between the oak species, or between hickory species.

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor Ryan Schmidt encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?

These comments are unique to the instructor Ryan Schmidt.

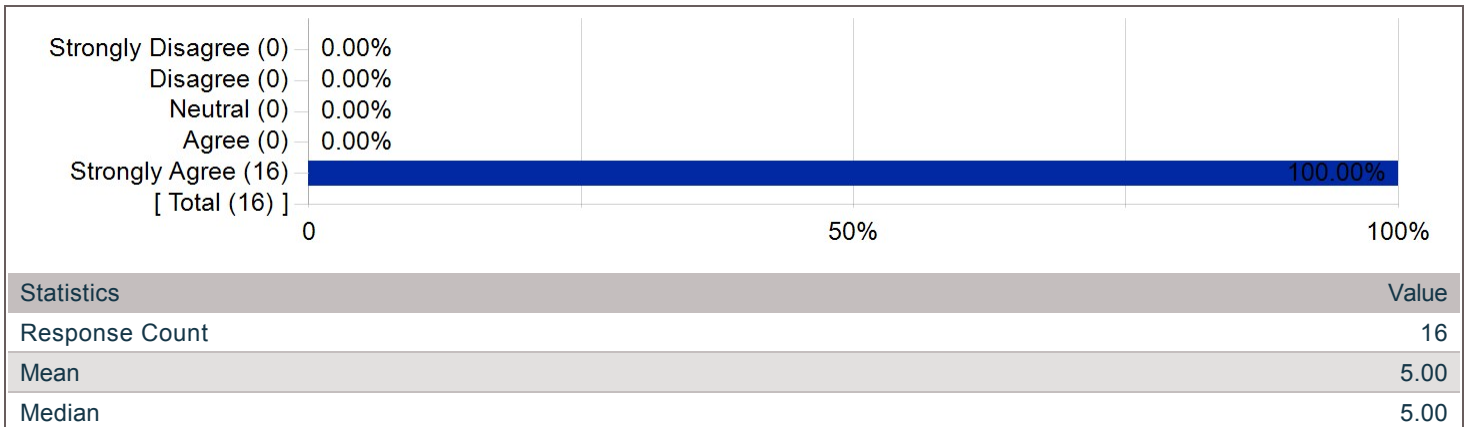| Comments |
|---|
| Ryan greatly facilitated student learning by providing additional tips on tree identification and encouraged us to ask questions. |
| He's awesome! |
| I learned how the local environment can help determine the tree species. |
| Ryan is hands down one of the most passionate and effective instructors I've had at Rutgers. Not only did he manage to maintain a consistently positive attitude (even at 9am on a Tuesday), he is also incredibly knowledgeable. As someone deeply interested in plant morphology, he was a great person with whom to discuss the difference between thorns and spines, among other obscure technicalities. |
| Always ready to go and is excited to spread his knowledge to others! |
| By far the BEST TA I've had in any course. Ryan is someone who is deeply passionate in trees, and he is a wealth of knowledge. He went over and beyond to help me identify trees. I appreciate everything Ryan has done this semester. |
| Ryan was very effective in explaining tree ID, and giving good answers to student questions, all while having a great attitude :) |
| We love Ryan! |
| Ryan is very knowledgable and is approachable. He is able to explain the difference between two similar species. |
| We truly couldn't have asked for 2 better TA's to fill in for Dr. Grabosky. I think Ryan is an undergrad? That's incredible. His dearth of knowledge about trees is astounding, and he is very approachable for questions |
| encouraged the interest of the topic at hand. |
| Ryan was very helpful during the tree ID quizzes and really tried to help us learn how to identify trees. He gave useful metaphors and tips, and he is very smart and approachable. I appreciated his cheerfulness on the cold days of labs to counteract the miserableness of the weather. |
| Ryan was a very fun TA and understood the material very well and was able to convey information to students very effectively. The review of past trees we learned was helpful in remembering them, and his teaching style was very effective. |

Other comments or suggestions:

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
N/A
N/A
N/A
Truly, the powerpoint issue that I mentioned above is my only complaint; what a truly wonderful class!!!
amazing course!
Boy, I STRUGGLED on the midterm, and I am STRUGGLING on the final currently. They're tough, but I'm gonna persevere. Thursday night's gonna be rough for me. Anyway, thanks for a great semester! It was nice to meet you all.
I feel like there is a slight disconnect between the lecture and lab parts of the class. I feel as though the lecture needs to support what is learned in lab by going over characteristics of the different families and such.

Questions Chosen by Instructor

I would recommend this professor Ryan Schmidt

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (0)	0.00%
Strongly Agree (16)	100.00%
[Total (16)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	16
Mean	5.00
Median	5.00

The course was intellectually stimulating.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (1)	5.88%
Strongly Agree (16)	94.12%
[Total (17)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.94
Median	5.00
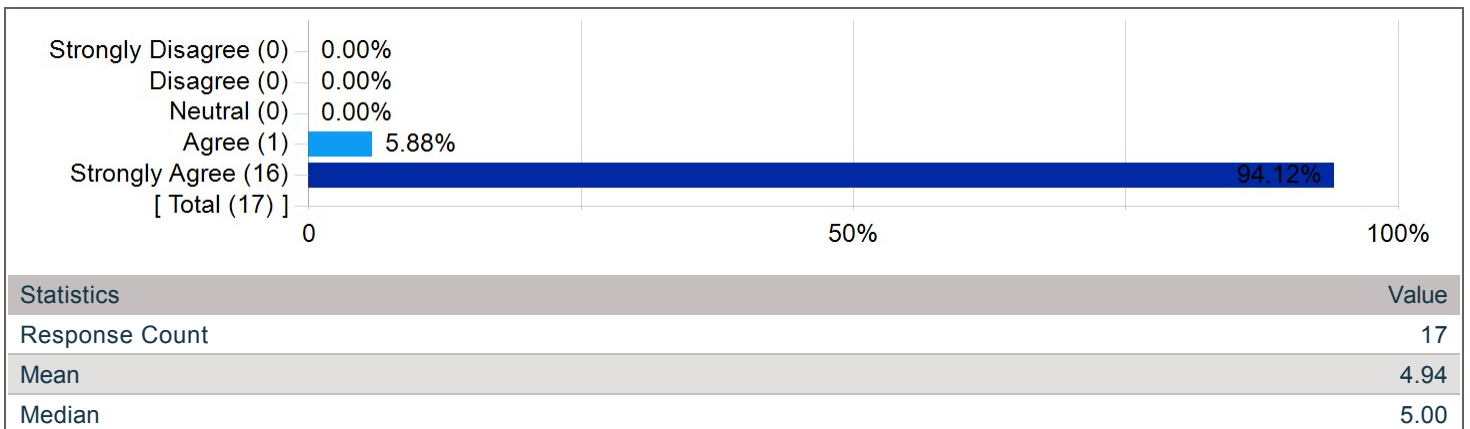
I wanted to take a course with this instructor Ryan Schmidt.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (2)	13.33%
Agree (3)	20.00%
Strongly Agree (10)	66.67%
[Total (15)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	15
Mean	4.53
Median	5.00
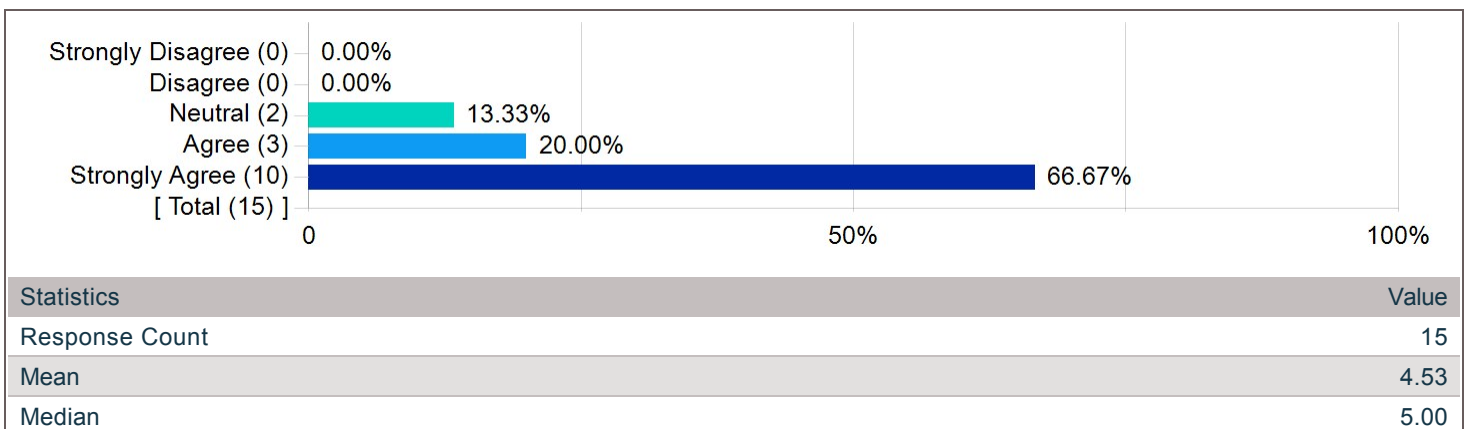
The classroom environment supported my learning.

1 Strongly Disagree (0)		0.00%
2 Disagree (0)		0.00%
3 Neutral (0)		0.00%
4 Agree (3)		17.65%
5 Strongly Agree (14)		82.35%
[Total (17)]		

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.82
Median	5.00
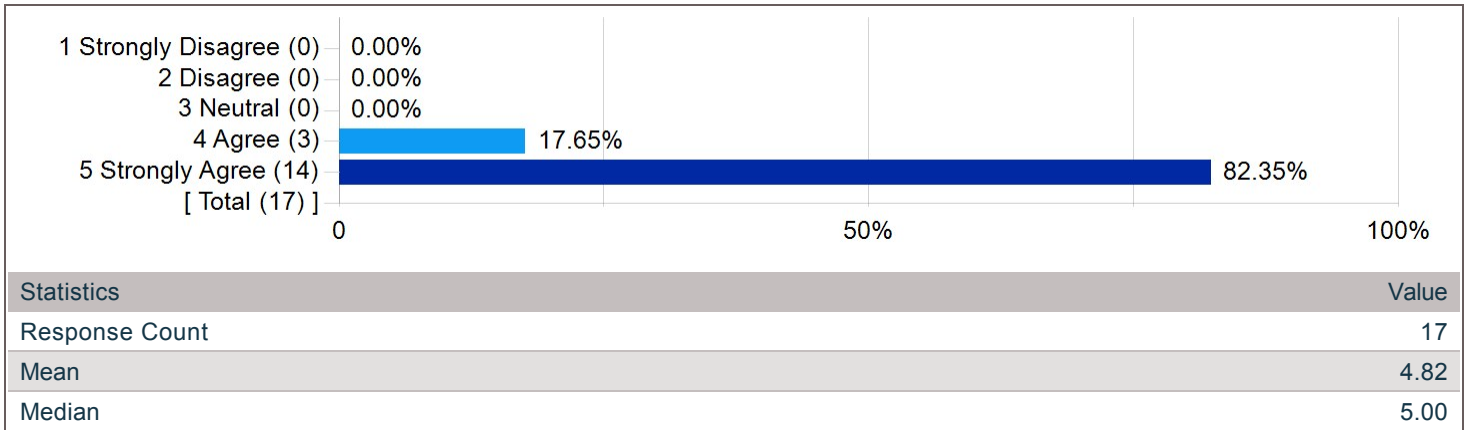
The instructor Ryan Schmidt suggested specific ways students could improve

1 Strongly Disagree (0)		0.00%
2 Disagree (0)		0.00%
3 Neutral (0)		0.00%
4 Agree (3)		17.65%
5 Strongly Agree (14)		82.35%
[Total (17)]		

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.82
Median	5.00
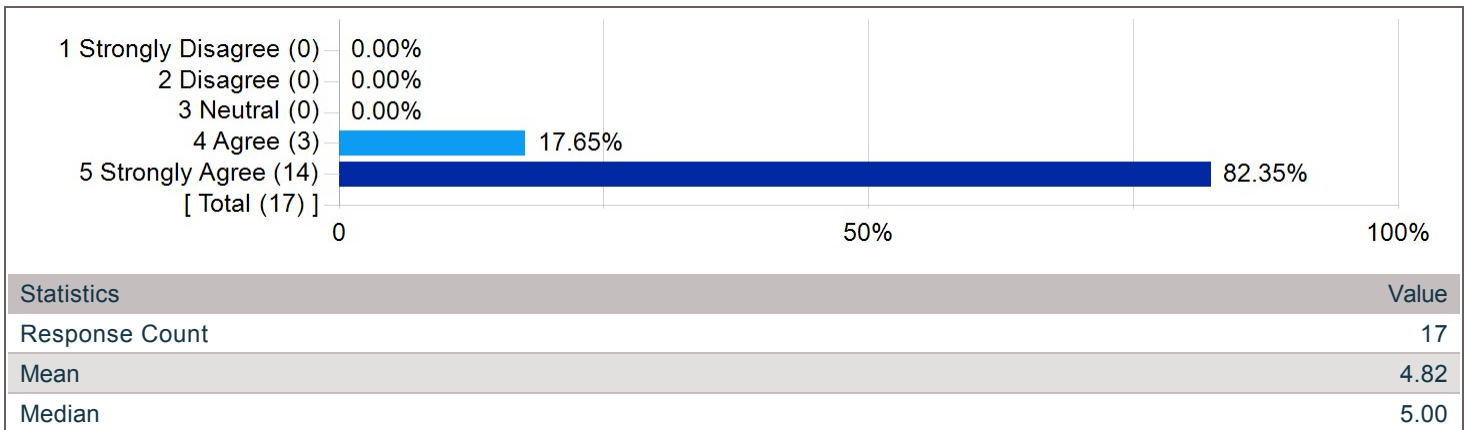
The instructor Ryan Schmidt was accessible to students.

Strongly Disagree (0)		0.00%
Disagree (0)		0.00%
Neutral (1)		5.88%
Agree (2)		11.76%
Strongly Agree (14)		82.35%
[Total (17)]		

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.76
Median	5.00
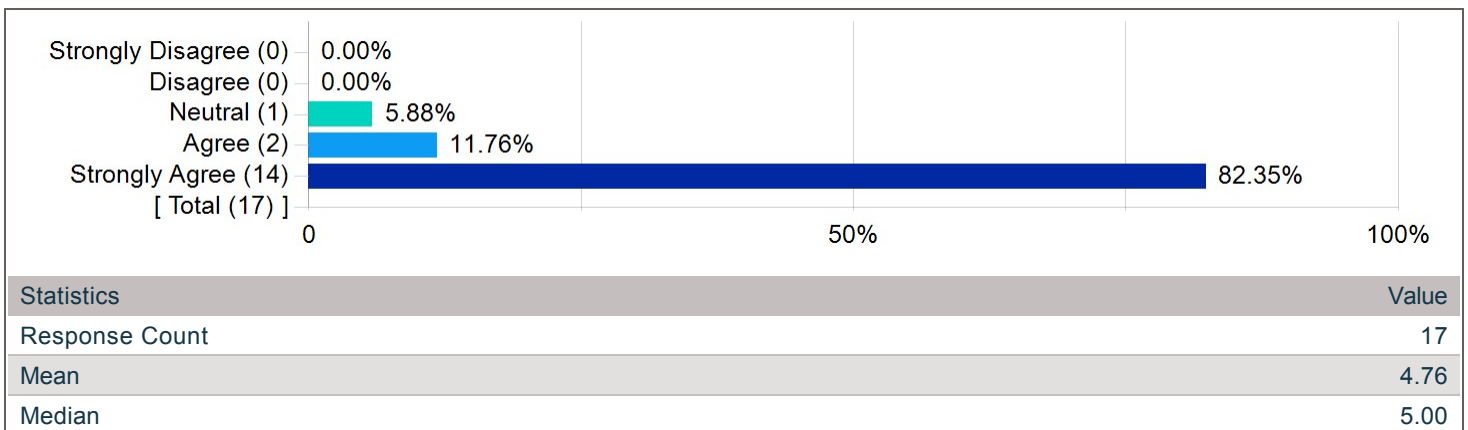
The instructor Ryan Schmidt was personally interested in student learning.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (1)	5.88%
Strongly Agree (16)	94.12%
[Total (17)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.94
Median	5.00
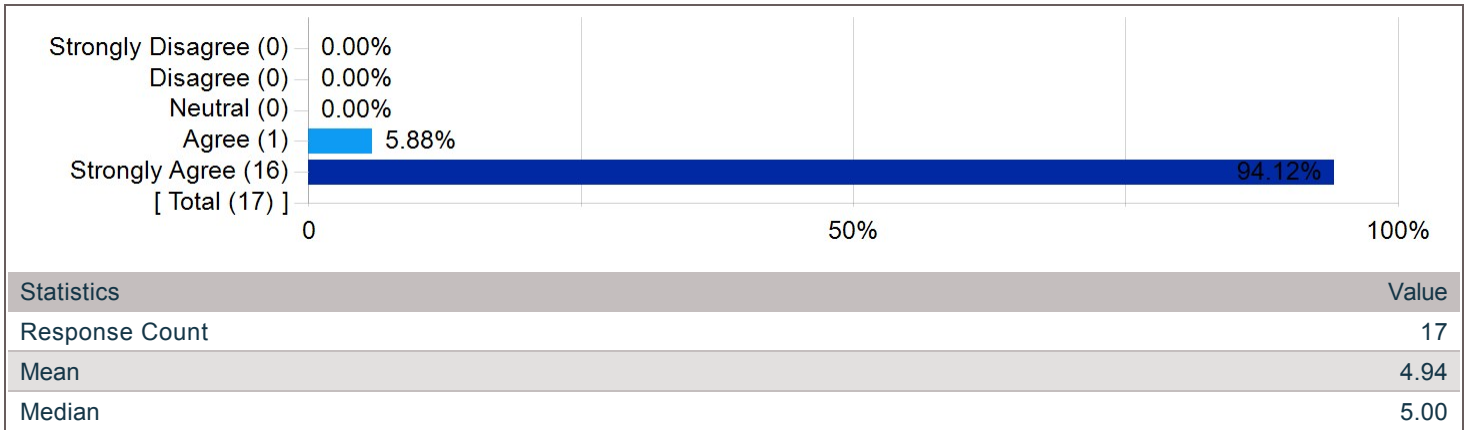
Course participation was encouraged.

Strongly Disagree (0)	0.00%
Disagree (0)	0.00%
Neutral (0)	0.00%
Agree (1)	5.88%
Strongly Agree (16)	94.12%
[Total (17)]	

Statistics	Value
Response Count	17
Mean	4.94
Median	5.00