UVic CES Instructor Report 201701 - John Volpe - ADV TPC:ETHNOECOLOGY - ES 481 - A01 (CRN 21592)

UVic Course Experience Survey - Spring 2017

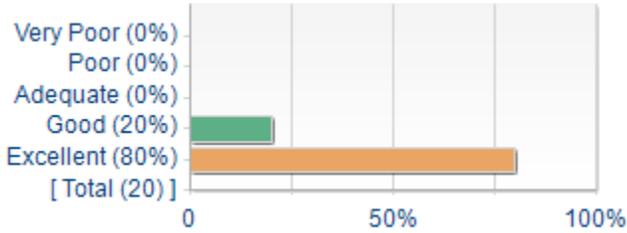Project Audience 25
Responses Received 20
Response Ratio 80%

Creation Date   Mon, Apr 24, 2017

I Instructor's Teaching - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

### 1. The instructor was prepared for course sessions

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (0%)
Good (20%)
Excellent (80%)
[Total (20)]

Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.80
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.41

2. The instructor's explanations of concepts were clear

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (15%)
Good (25%)
Excellent (60%)
[Total (20)]
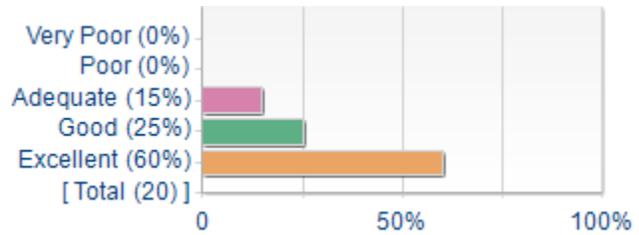
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.45
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

3. The instructor motivated you to learn in this course

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (5%)
Adequate (20%)
Good (5%)
Excellent (70%)
[Total (20)]
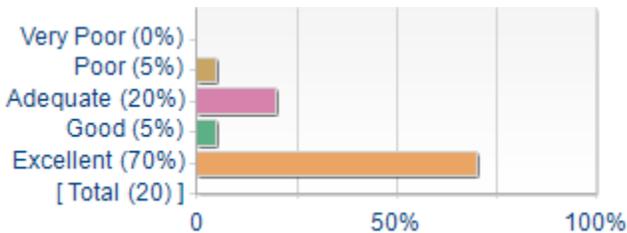
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.40
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.99

### 4. The instructor was available to answer your questions or provide extra assistance as required

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (10%)
Good (25%)
Excellent (65%)
[Total (20)]
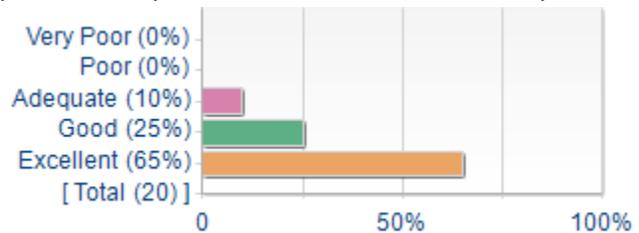
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.55
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.69

5. The instructor ensured that your assignments and tests were returned within a reasonable time

Very Poor (5%)
Poor (5%)
Adequate (5%)
Good (30%)
Excellent (55%)
[Total (20)]
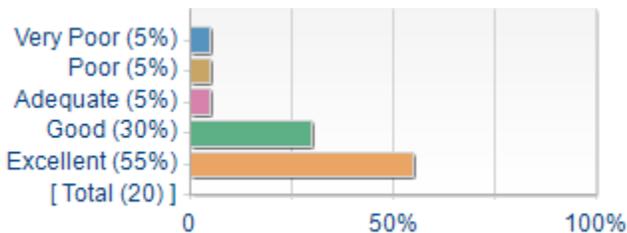
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.25
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.12

6. The instructor was helpful in providing feedback to you to improve your learning in this course
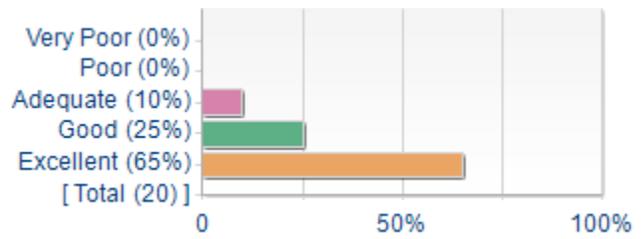
Very Poor (10%)
Poor (10%)
Adequate (5%)
Good (30%)
Excellent (45%)
[Total (20)]
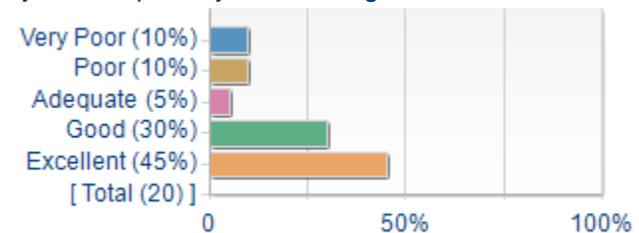
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	3.90
Median	4.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.37

7. The instructor demonstrated respect for students

### 8. Overall, the instructor was effective in this course

and their ideas
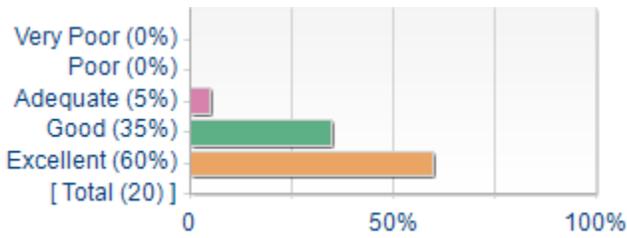
Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (5%)
Good (35%)
Excellent (60%)
[Total (20)]

Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.55
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.60

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (10%)
Good (25%)
Excellent (65%)
[Total (20)]

Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.55
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.69

## II Course Design - Students' Ratings on the Following Statements:

1. The course structure, goals and requirements were clear

Very Poor (5%)
Poor (5%)
Adequate (10%)
Good (30%)
Excellent (50%)
[Total (20)]
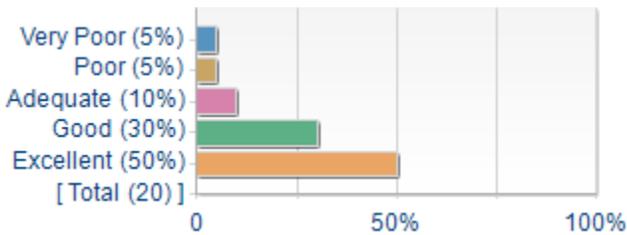
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.15
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-1.14

2. The materials provided for learning the course content (e.g. handouts, posted material, lab manuals) were clear

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (20%)
Good (25%)
Excellent (55%)
[Total (20)]
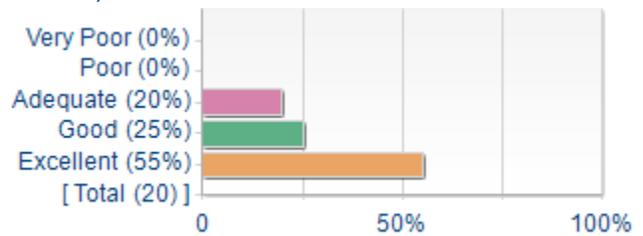
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.35
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.81

3. The assigned work helped your understanding of the course content

Very Poor (5%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (20%)
Good (15%)
Excellent (60%)
[Total (20)]
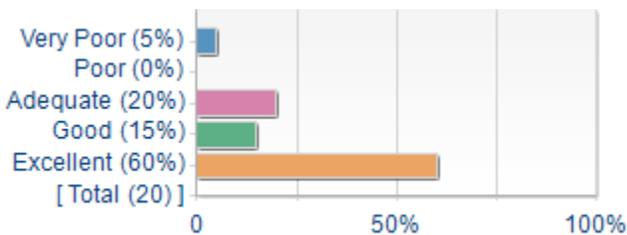
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.25
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.12

4. The course provided opportunities for you to become engaged with the course material, for example through class discussions, group work, student presentations, on-line chat, or experiential learning

Very Poor (0%)
Poor (0%)
Adequate (0%)
Good (20%)
Excellent (80%)
[Total (20)]
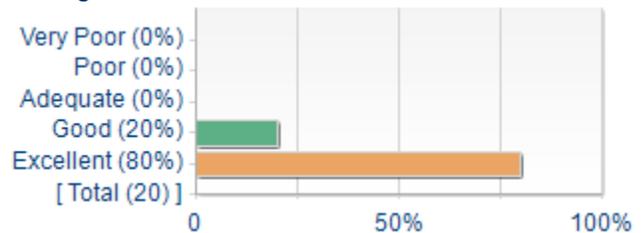
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.80
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.41

### 5. The methods of assessment used to evaluate your learning in the course were fair
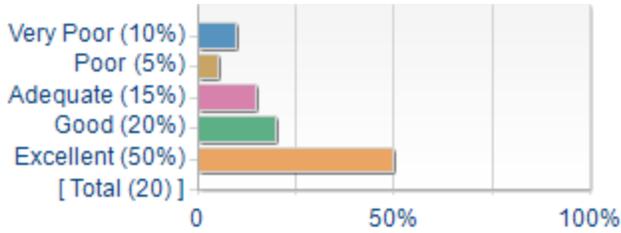
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	3.95
Median	4.50
Standard Deviation	+/-1.36

6. The course provided relevant skills and information (e.g. to other courses, your future career, or other contexts)
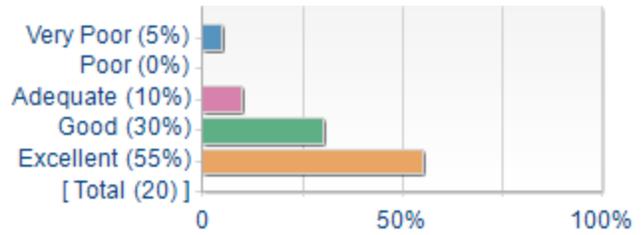
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.30
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-1.03

7. Overall, the course offered an effective learning experience
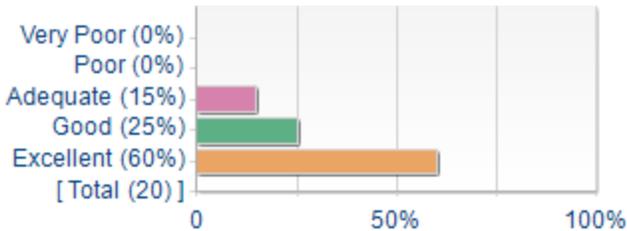
Statistics	Value
Response Count	20
Mean	4.45
Median	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.76

III Statements About The Students:

My primary reason for taking the course.
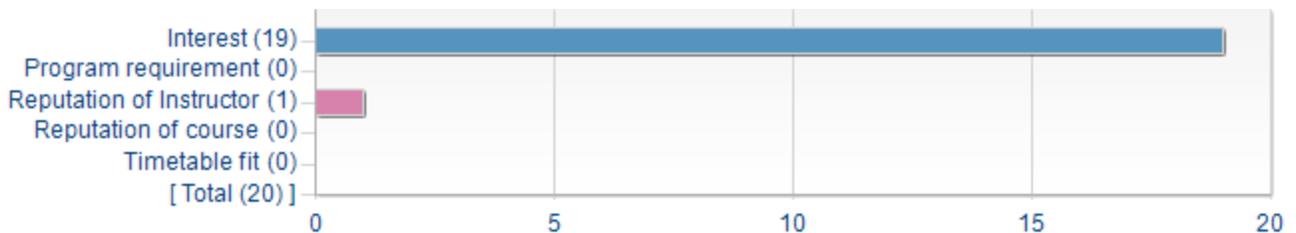
The approximate number of classes or labs that I did not attend

Relative to other courses I have taken at UVic, the workload in this course was

Extremely heavy (5)
Somewhat heavy (13)
Average (2)
Somewhat light (0)
Extremely light (0)
[Total (20)]
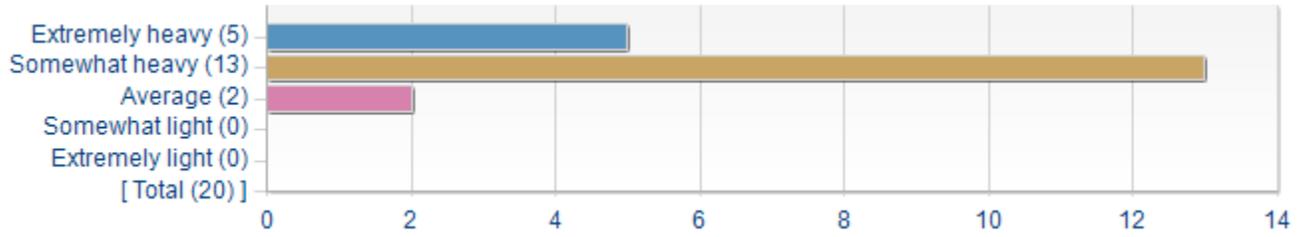
The approximate number of hours per week I spent studying for this course outside of class time:

Less than 1 (0)
1 to 2 (2)
3 to 5 (9)
6 to 8 (4)
9 to 10 (2)
More than 10 (3)
[Total (20)]
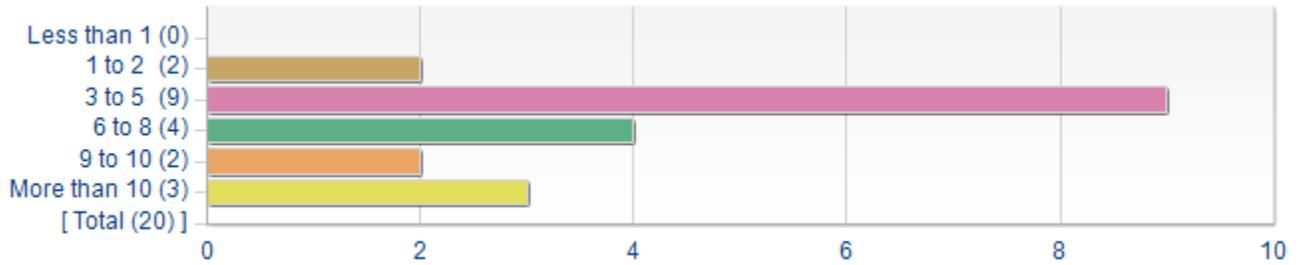
As a result of my experience in this course, my interest in the material:

Decreased (1)
Stayed the same (3)
Increased (16)
[Total (20)]

IIV Student Comments:

What strengths did your instructor (John Volpe) demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?

Comment
He was passionate about the topic, which reflected in class. He really knew what he was talking about and did a great job of making sure the labs matched what we were talking about in the lecture that week.
Passionate about what he is teacher, inspires passion in the students. He is very knowledgeable, and reallys knows what he's talking about. The course structure was a constructive learning environment. As I student I felt respected and encouraged to ask questions/learn.
I thought that John did a great job of giving direction throuhgout the term
Literally everything. Volpe is incredibly passionate and knowledgeable about the course and its material, resulting in an amazing class experience overall. His forgivability and understanding in a wide variety of scenarios is incredible, leading to a classroom everyone feels comfortable to participate. His lectures are the best, they are interesting, engaging, and have life in them. Overall, this is one of the best professors i have ever had the pleasure of learning from.
very clear teching!
Dr. Volpe's lectures and labs were very engaging, and the emphasis on experiental learning helped me to get a good understanding of the material.
Well formulated labs connected to each weeks lecture
This was a brilliant course! John Volpe was a fantastic professor that was incredibly knowledgable and managed to impart that knowledge into the class. Each day we learned more, and we managed to get so much more knowledgeable regarding wine, its science, and its history! This was the best course in my university career, so much that I think anyone who can should take it.
Extreme knowledge on the topic! Was able to translate his own fascination/ love for the topic into lecture and course material
John was very knowledgeable in this area. He was very into teaching and spreading his knowledge and seeing us improve in our skills. This provided a good environment to learn and develop skills of deciphering between different terroir, climates, old world vs. new etc. John provided much extra work we could engage ourselves in outside of class, which helped increase my learning and knowledge of everything.
Very knowledgeable and helpful. Clear explanations of material and assignments.
VERY knowledgeable, funny and passionate
He was very knowledgeable about the material at hand. He was also able to make each lab unique and interesting so that we learned a new point every time.
John was very funny, and found lots of ways to engage us both in lecture and in the lab. He made sure to change up the format of labs frequently to avoid repetitiveness. He was obviously knowledgeable about the topic and could answer questions from his own knowledge of the course material.
Dr. Volpe clearly knows wine -- He's enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and well prepared for lectures. He is laid back, and understanding when students have concerns. I think he is very capable of teaching this course, and has a lot of practical experience and expertise to offer.
cool content, engaging labs
Clearly loves the topic of the course and interested in applying aspects of environmental studies discipline to the topic. Engaging materials, active student participation, fair methods of assessment all make for an excellent course. 100% would recommend and take again. Love having different options for assignments and exams, determining your own grade was fantastic.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor (John Volpe) could have helped you learn more effectively.

Comment
I think that John could have given more feedback on the assignments
Nothing. His methods are impeccable.
there was way too much work in this class, and ended up being really expensive in the end.
A little more feedback on how many points students have accumulated (e.g., an interim score before the midterm) would be helpful.
Less blogs, more long papers
... More wine?
nope
I can't think of anything, other than a few things that are below.
More frequent and precise breakdowns of marks achieved to date during the term.
I found the structure of this course to be extremely frustrating, inefficient, and inadequate. To write a 3 page research paper for a grand total of 1.8% of your overall grade is extremely frustrating and extinguishes all motivation -- to watch a film and write a 3 page report for the same % is a waste of time. If you are asking students for 50+ assignments, you must recognize the time involved in completing the requirements. I found, as a motivated and hardworking student, that the structure of this course frustrated me to the point i stopped caring about the quality of my work. When there are 1000 posts on a blog, it becomes very clear that no one is reading them and students stop caring. Furthermore, changing the structure of the class half way through the term is completely unfair. To structure a class based on points, to tell students to plan their points from the start of term, and then to change the grading 5 weeks from the end is not fair and completely violates the legally binding contract of the course outline. the lab reports were clearly stated to be "participation" and "a fun way to earn points" -- Dr. Volpe then announced the class he was deliberately trying to drop the GPA of the course and from there on out set the labs up so that the majority of the class failed. To me, this is not acceptable. Lastly, Dr. Volpe did not mark anything or give any feedback until the end of the course -- this does not offer any opportunity for learning, and doesn't give the opportunity for improvement. Frustrating.
the work load was slightly unreasonable. I would rather be graded on quality over quantity.
Did not expect labs in the second half of the term to be different than the first half, not a big deal but this should be in the syllabus. Would love a guest lecture or guest lab instructor.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Comment
We should spend more time on how wine is made, maybe over a couple classes. Also, there was way too many assignments each week and maybe the course should be graded more strongly on fewer assignments.
Nothing at all, i really enjoyed the build your own grade format, as it is possible to get a very high grade, provided you put the effort in.
have fewer assignments actually worth marks not points
Instead of so many blogs, maybe a more robust paper(s), quality over quantity
The only improvement that could be done is more wine, and maybe a visit to the Okanagan.
a little more on food pairing... other than that great class
I can't think of anything that needs improving, other than the usual development new courses go through while trying to figure out the best format etc to be based upon. It would have been nice if Sinclair did come in to teach us about wine and food, even though I still had a good time in the lab testing out simple foods with wine. It would have been nice if the cost of the Winery tours were included in the beginning of the semester chunk of money. Also I would have preferred to be able to do more varietal and appellation reports. I enjoyed those, and found they enhanced your knowledge of that specific region or varietal.   I really liked the unusual format the the course was graded on, I think this is a better reflection of the real world, and it allows you to put a lot of effort in to get the kind of mark you want. If it was just based off tests it would not allow you to necessarily put in a lot of effort and end up getting a mark you would like.   Overall, great course. I have learned so much, thank you!
- Increase the weight of writing assignments as the cost-benefit of completing writing assignments is disproportionate to tests and quizzes.

- The change in format for second half of semester lab reports severely affected my anticipated points calculated early in the semester, the result was an increase in material needing to be submitted at the end of term when all other classes are busy.

With the testing, I found that some of the questions were very specific, which is fair since these were open book, but did not really help my understanding of the course content, instead I felt I had to be finding these tidbits and facts that were not reflective of the important concepts of the course

The time required to do the blog assignments was not proportional to how much work it was to do them (e.g. 1.7% for a 3 page appellation research report). This really rewarded low quality work as it seemed better to spend a short amount of time and risk losing the points than to spend the time to do it properly. That said, I really liked that grades could be "built up" through the class based on how much each person was willing to take on.

rather than needing as many points to get a good mark, making higher quality blog posts. Less posts, more weight on the quality of post. i don't work fast and found the quantity of stuff to do overwhelming. I spent a lot of time trying to make good quality posts and i felt like that time was for nothing since everyone got 100%

Note to administration: lots of discussion in lecture about how the average course grade is too high for this course. It is not because the instructor is ineffective or methods of evaluation are too easy on students. This was a very challenging course and the high grades students receive reflect their work ethic and engagement with material.

My Instructor gave time in class to complete this survey.

Options	Count	Percentage
Yes	9	50%
No	8	44%
Does not apply (online course, field course, etc.)	1	6%