Course Report AS7005 HT18

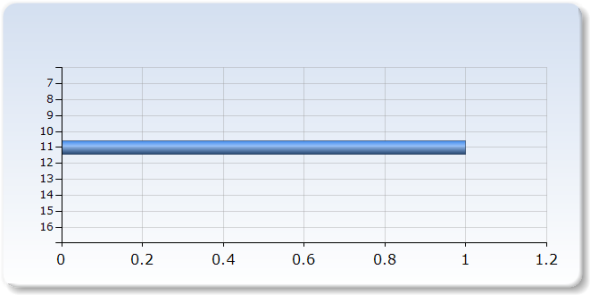
Respondents: 1
Answer Count: 1
Answer Frequency: 100.00 %

. Teacher

Teacher
Evan O'Connor

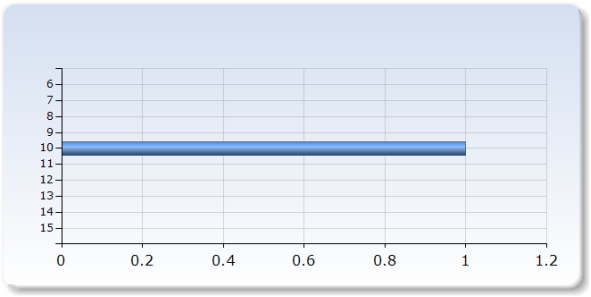
. Number of students who took the exam

Number of students who took the exam	Number of Responses
7	0 (0.0%)
8	0 (0.0%)
9	0 (0.0%)
10	0 (0.0%)
11	1 (100.0%)
12	0 (0.0%)
13	0 (0.0%)
14	0 (0.0%)
15	0 (0.0%)
16	0 (0.0%)
Total	1 (100.0%)



. Number of students who passed the course

Number of students who passed the course	Number of Responses
6	0 (0.0%)
7	0 (0.0%)
8	0 (0.0%)
9	0 (0.0%)
10	1 (100.0%)
11	0 (0.0%)
12	0 (0.0%)
13	0 (0.0%)
14	0 (0.0%)
15	0 (0.0%)
Total	1 (100.0%)



. Description of changes since the previous time the course was given.

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This year the course teacher was changed from previous years. The course retained the same textbook, course content, and learning outcomes, the latter two defined in the course syllabus. The course was taught using a flipped classroom approach. For each of the 12 lectures the teacher recorded lectures, varying in length from 30-40 minutes with 5-10 minutes segments. The lectures were combined with interactive content (quizzes, surveys, free text questions) and allowed for inline questions via the Scalable Learning platform. In class we first addressed outstanding questions from the lectures and then proceeded to work in groups and answer exercises related to the lectures content. Examination was done on the basis of take-home exercises, a laboratory report, and a final examination.

. What are the course's strong points according to the students (summary based on the numerical results as well as their free text answers)

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The students that responded to the survey (4) were very positive towards the course with most numerical results being 4 or 5 out of 5. The questions which received all 5's relevant for this question were 'overall satisfaction' and 'course content and teaching methods being relevant to the learning outcomes'. From the free text answers (as well as feedback received throughout the course), the flipped classroom style of teaching seemed to be a strong point for the students. Particular, the use of online lectures allowed the students to pause, rewind, and reflect on the content at their own pace. 4 out of 4 respondents noted they preferred the flipped classroom approach over traditional methods.

. What are the course's weak points according to the students (summary based on the numerical results as well as their free text answers)

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There were several improvements suggested. These include a refinement of the lecture presentation to correct for minor typos and inconsistencies that arose while recording. The average workload seemed on the high side (1 respondent said 15-25, 3 said 25-35) of the what was intended based on a 50% workload course, these could be improved too. One response to 'clear to me what I was expected to learn' was a 3 out of 5, I agree this is an area that can be worked on, I address this in the following section.

. The teacher's analysis of the course

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I think the course went very well. There was excellent attendance in class and as well on scalable learning, where more that 90% of students watched each lecture and answered the inline questions and quizzes. This format allowed for much more interaction between myself and the students. It allowed for through and direct discussions on specific problem areas in class, sometimes on an individual basis, while not taking away from the content being delivered. The recorded lectures allowed for a guarantee of content delivery and also allowed for the students to absorb the material at their own pace while the scalable learning platform also allowed for questions to be asked and shared between students.

The teacher's own reflect on the weaknesses is that the overarching goals and the astrophysical applications of the course could be more clearly tied into each individual lectures. This will keep students from wondering why we are doing what we are doing and therefore keep them engaged.

. Conclusions as well as suggestions for improvements

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First, some of the specific advice given by the students to future students (and not included in the numerical answers of the survey) are:
"Read, study"
"Always read the Chapter before watching the videos."
"Watch the videos before coming to class, and always add questions if anything is difficult to understand."
"Do the hand-ins, they're great for applying theory and they're on a good level."

In summary, I think this course was well delivered and the student obtained the desired learning outcomes.