



2022 Fall Individual Report FAS-NEURO 101VA-Sculpting Activity: How Inhibition Shapes the Brain in Health and Disease 001 Saad Hannan

Project Title: **2022 Fall Harvard FAS Course Evaluation**

Course Audience: **5**
Responses Received: **5**
Response Ratio: **100%**

Report Comments

Note:

The order that the questions appear on this report is not the same as the way the questions were displayed to students. The order has been changed to make the report more readable.

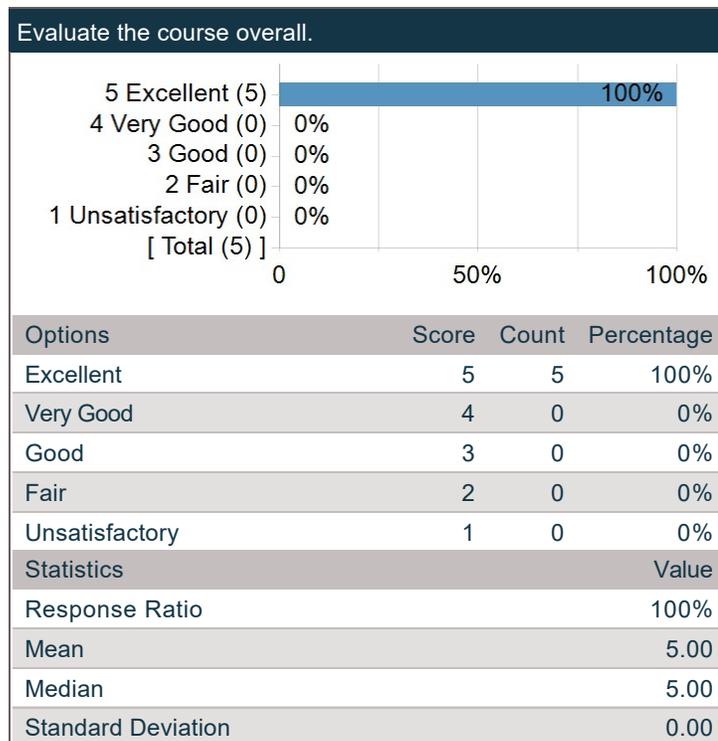
Creation Date: **Tuesday, December 20, 2022**

General Course Questions

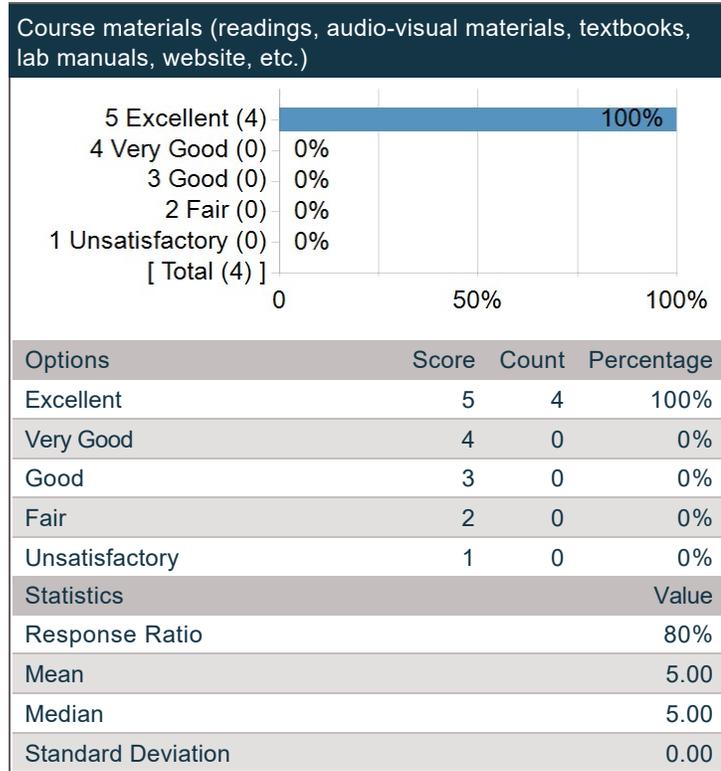
Course General Questions

	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Course Mean	Dept Mean	Division Mean
Evaluate the course overall.	5	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.42	4.08
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)	4	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.28	4.13
Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)	5	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	4.80	4.33	3.89
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course	5	40%	60%	0%	0%	0%	4.40	4.33	3.93
Section component of the course	1	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.41	4.13

Evaluate the course overall.



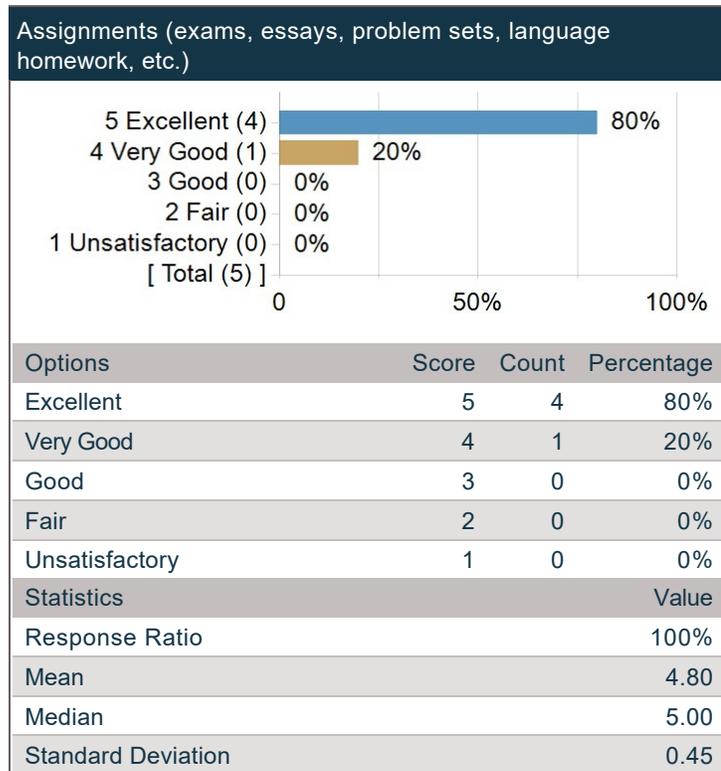
Course materials (readings, audio-visual materials, textbooks, lab manuals, website, etc.)



Add comments about course materials?

Comments
 Readings all build on each other and continually remind students of previously learned information to reinforce everything.

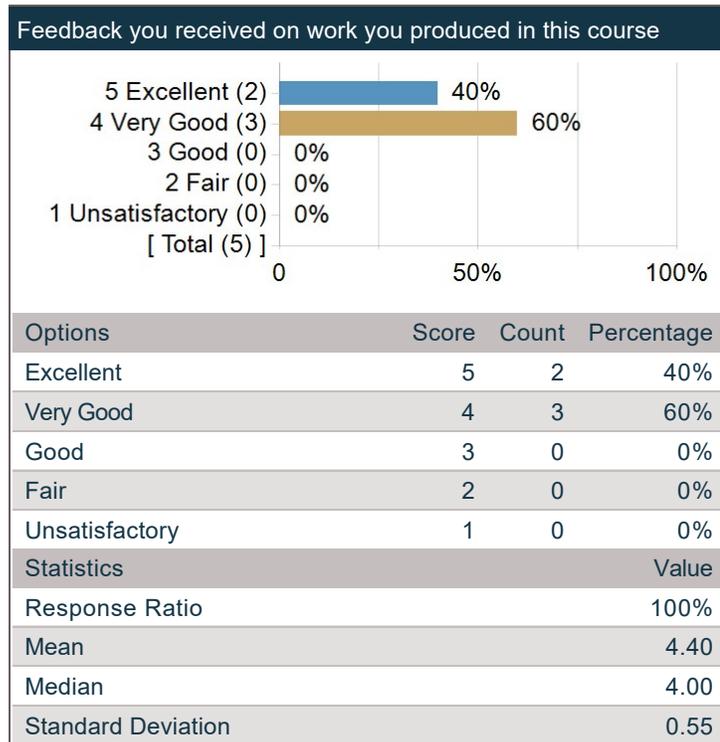
Assignments (exams, essays, problem sets, language homework, etc.)



Add comments about course assignments?

Comments
Assignments are low pressure and there is plenty of time to work on them around other coursework. However, extensions are granted when needed which is really helpful.
Course assignments are really fair and push me outside of my comfort zone while also allowing me to feel fully prepared.

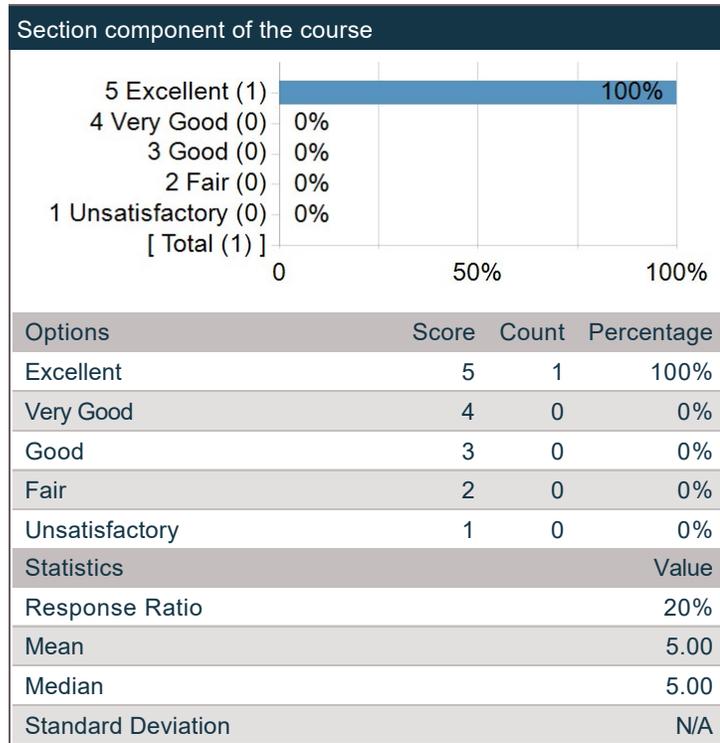
Feedback you received on work you produced in this course



Add comments about course feedback?

Comments
Saad is always willing to discuss coursework and your progress. He sent out an email at the end of the semester breaking down performance in the course by assignments and overall participation which was unusual for classes but a very welcome synopsis of how the course is going.

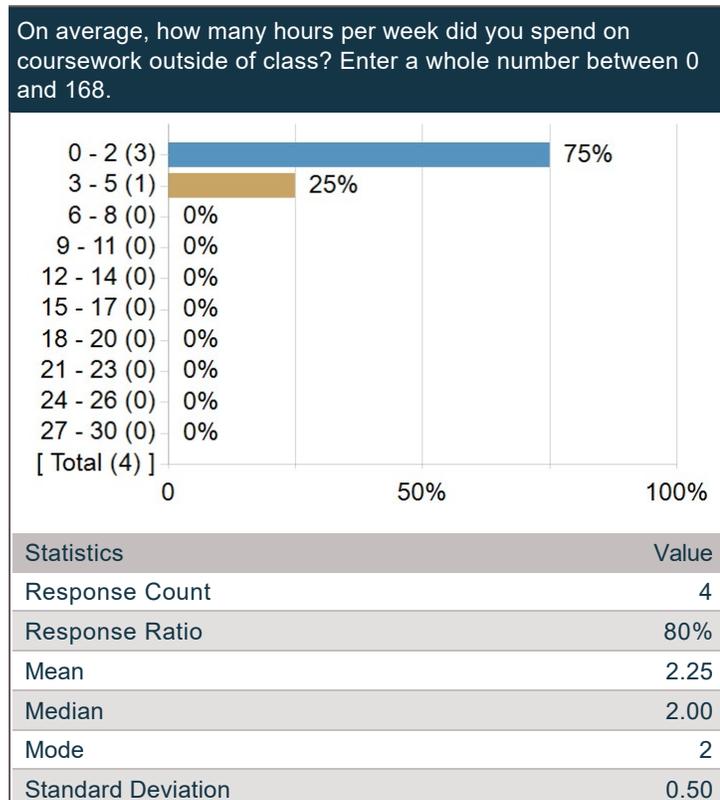
Section component of the course



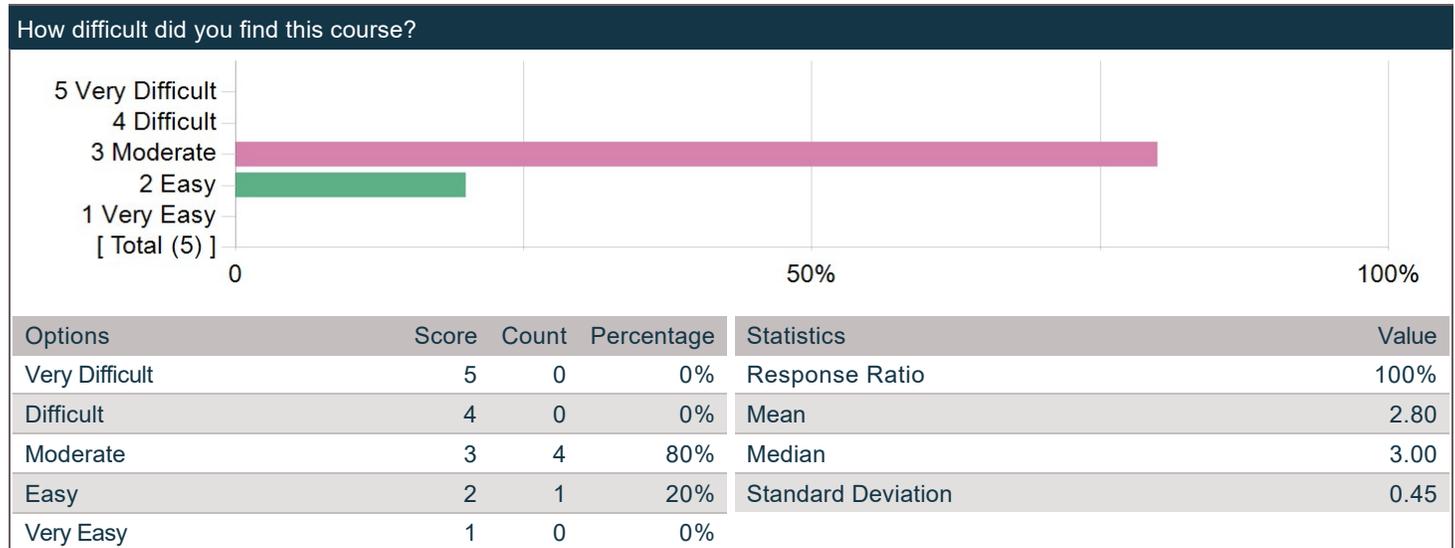
Requirements - What did this course require of you?

On average, how many hours per week did you spend on coursework outside of class? Enter a whole number between 0 and 168.

Frequency chart and mean excludes students who answered 31 or more hours.



How difficult did you find this course?

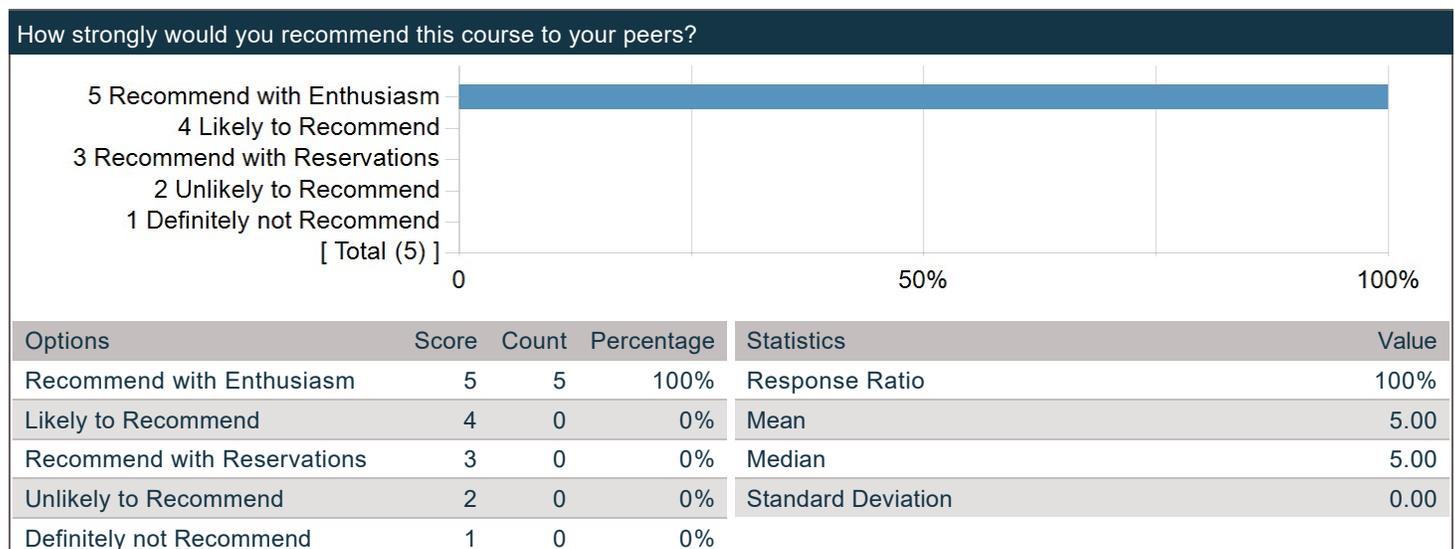


What was/were your reason(s) for enrolling in this course? (Please check all that apply)

Options	Count
Elective	2
Concentration or Department Requirement	5
Secondary Field or Language Citation Requirement	0
Undergraduate General Education Requirement	0
Expository Writing Requirement	0
Foreign Language Requirement	0
Pre-Med Requirement	0
Divisional Distribution Requirement	0
Quantitative Reasoning with Data Requirement	0

Recommendations - Would you recommend this course?

How strongly would you recommend this course to your peers?



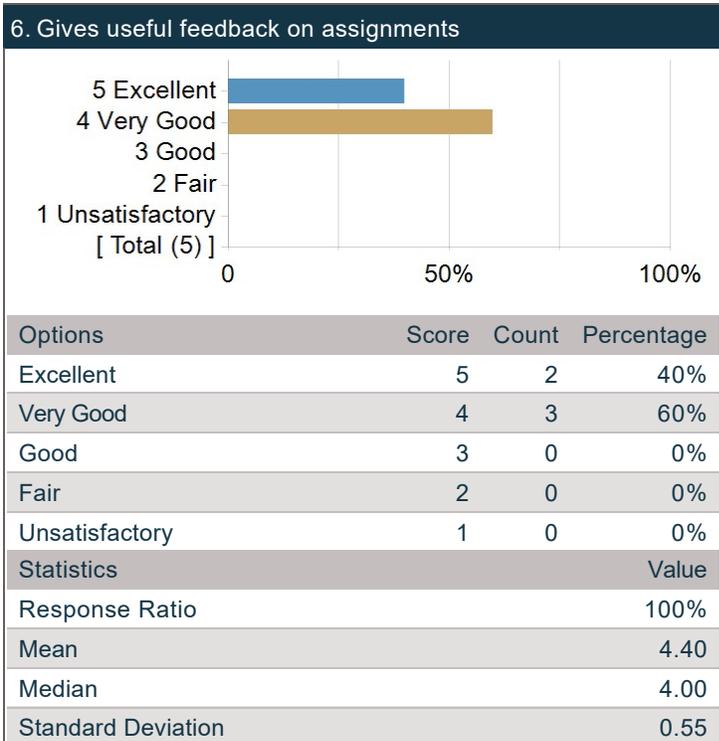
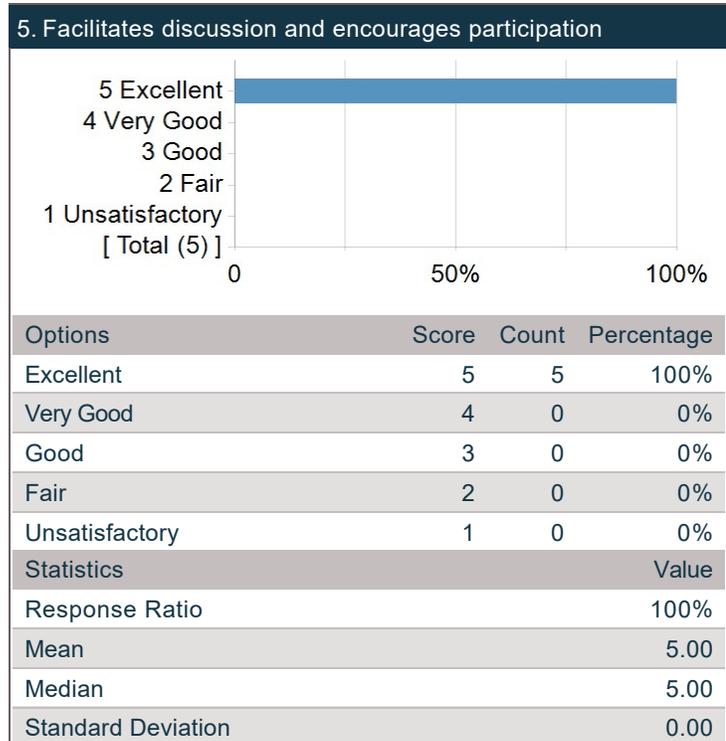
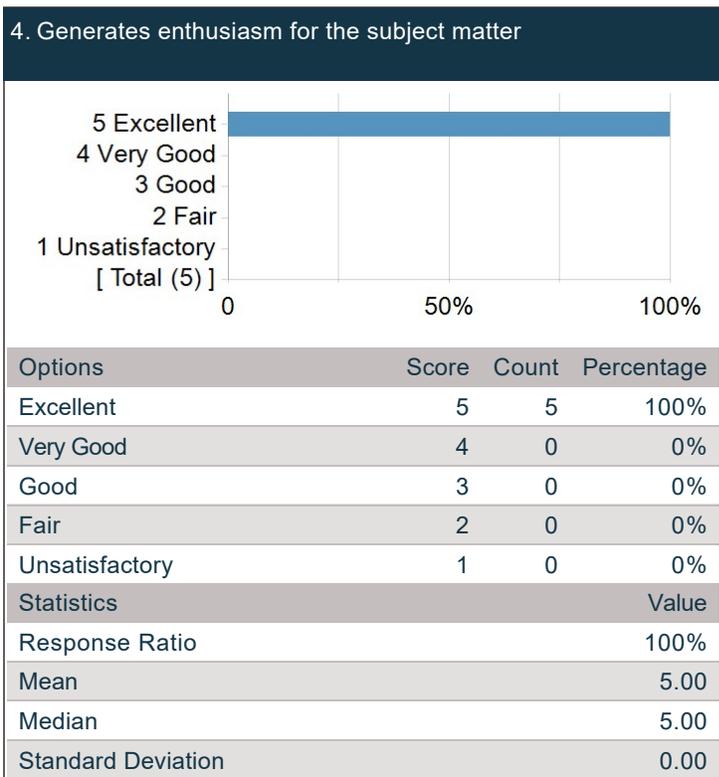
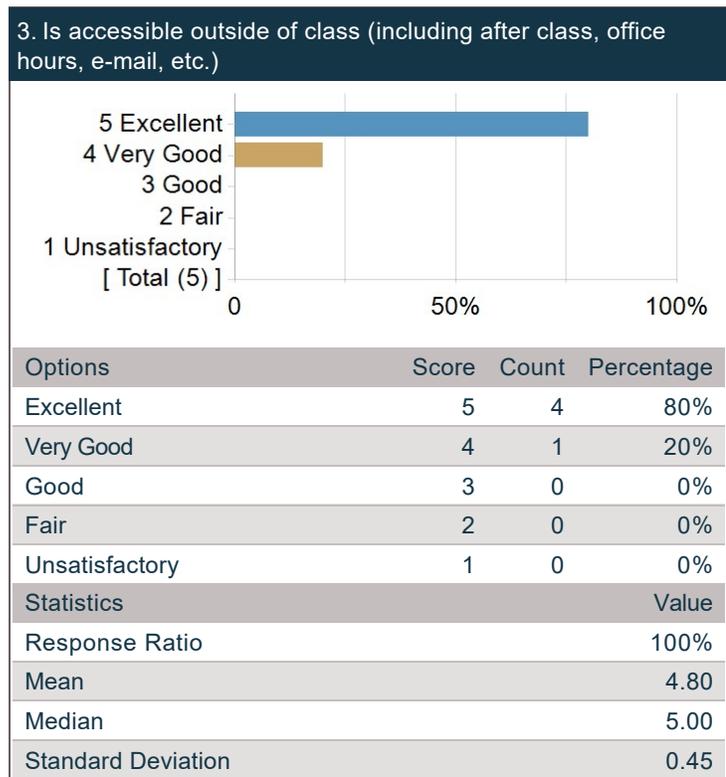
Evaluation of Instructors

General Instructor Questions

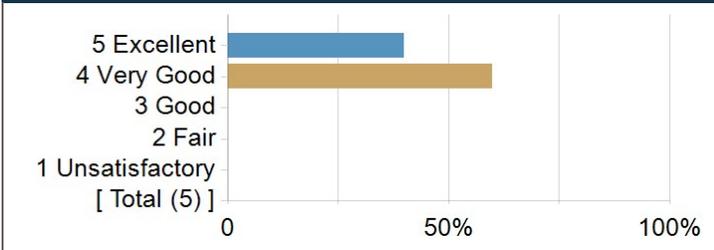
	Count	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Unsatisfactory	Instructor Mean	Dept Mean	Division Mean
Evaluate your Instructor overall.	5	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.56	4.44
Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable	5	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.41	4.31
Is accessible outside of class (including after class, office hours, e-mail, etc.)	5	80%	20%	0%	0%	0%	4.80	4.48	4.46
Generates enthusiasm for the subject matter	5	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.48	4.53
Facilitates discussion and encourages participation	5	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5.00	4.48	4.42
Gives useful feedback on assignments	5	40%	60%	0%	0%	0%	4.40	4.75	4.40
Returns assignments in a timely fashion	5	40%	60%	0%	0%	0%	4.40	4.61	4.40

Instructor

1. Evaluate your Instructor overall.					2. Gives effective lectures or presentations, if applicable				
<p>5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Unsatisfactory [Total (5)]</p>					<p>5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Good 2 Fair 1 Unsatisfactory [Total (5)]</p>				
Options	Score	Count	Percentage		Options	Score	Count	Percentage	
Excellent	5	5	100%		Excellent	5	5	100%	
Very Good	4	0	0%		Very Good	4	0	0%	
Good	3	0	0%		Good	3	0	0%	
Fair	2	0	0%		Fair	2	0	0%	
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%		Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%	
Statistics				Value	Statistics				Value
Response Ratio				100%	Response Ratio				100%
Mean				5.00	Mean				5.00
Median				5.00	Median				5.00
Standard Deviation				0.00	Standard Deviation				0.00



7. Returns assignments in a timely fashion



Options	Score	Count	Percentage
Excellent	5	2	40%
Very Good	4	3	60%
Good	3	0	0%
Fair	2	0	0%
Unsatisfactory	1	0	0%
Statistics	Value		
Response Ratio	100%		
Mean	4.40		
Median	4.00		
Standard Deviation	0.55		

General Course Questions - Comments

What were the strengths of this course? Please be specific and use concrete examples where possible.

Comments
The tutorial format is perfect and the classroom dynamic with the small group of students and Saad are excellent. The lectures and readings build upon each other well. Assignments also build upon each other well, allowing for a build up of knowledge prior to larger assignments (i.e. essay due next semester).
Amazing teaching, and really interesting material
The organization of this course is great! I really appreciated how the first few tutorials were overviews about the actual scientific concepts, preparing us well to dive into real current research about the subject material. I also think the papers selected thus far are really interesting and allow me to gain a deep understanding of inhibition in different contexts.
The atmosphere and overall structure of the class are great. Reading papers and presenting figures allows us to engage in the material in a relatively stress-free way that facilitates real learning.
The tutor's presentations and the creative assignments

How could this course be improved? Please use concrete examples where possible and provide constructive suggestions.

Comments
No suggestions really – I love this class and am learning a lot!
Only thing is that we go over time in class very often.
No suggestions for improvement! It's great!
This is my favorite course I've taken so far at Harvard...I don't have any suggestions for improvement!
I found it hard sometimes to remember the main takeaways of the different papers that we were assigned or make conceptual connections between them.

Requirements Comments - What did this course require of you?

In your opinion, what preparation or background is necessary to take this course?

Comments
Definitely some knowledge of genetics and neuroscience is important. Be familiar with reading papers and some experimental techniques – however, Saad goes through everything that students need to know in the first few weeks so that everyone is on a level playing field when moving into the course work.
Pretty strong understanding of basic neuroscience, specifically cellular neuroscience. However if you just have a basic Neuro introduction and nothing else, you will probably be fine (just a bit of a learning curve then).
Neuro 80

Recommendations Comments - Would you recommend this course?

What did you take away from your experience in this course? What did you learn? How did this course change you?

Comments
I have learned so much about GABA inhibition and have enjoyed talking people's ears off about it. Somehow this course has generated universal enthusiasm from all students about a very niche topic. Saad's expertise is undeniable and allows any and all questions or curiosities to be answered in detail and with the present opinion of the field.
I learned how to apply scientific concepts to research and use those concepts to analyze research methods and questions. I gained more confidence in how to read and present scientific papers, and how to use these papers to think about future research in the field.
I learned that there are a lot of cool neuroscience questions that I had not considered before like how does the inhibitory synapse form. I learned about different scientific techniques and have started to become more comfortable with reading molecular biology-focused papers and presenting figures.

What would you like to tell future students about this class? (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments
Take this course – it is way better than any other tutorial you may be considering. Saad generates enthusiasm about a niche field of neuroscience effortlessly with his undeniable expertise; he has never failed to answer any question or curiosity with incredible detail and with the present state of the field. The course material is specific and more relevant than you may think to studies of diseases, pharmacology, molecular and systems neuroscience. No other school in the country will have as in-depth a take on inhibition – pick your tutorial wisely and learn something in depth you won't have access to anywhere else.
TAKE THIS CLASS IF YOU CAN!! If you have ANY interest in neuroscience, specifically inhibition in the brain but really any interest in how different disorders or mental illnesses may manifest in the brain, I highly recommend the course. Saad is SUPER engaging and really facilitates discussion. If you are feeling behind or not on the same page, he really fosters an environment where you feel really comfortable in asking questions and clarifying your thoughts. The papers build on one another in a really interesting way, and the assignments are really relaxed/you have plenty of time to do them. I really cannot recommend this class enough it is GREAT!
This is the best course I've taken at Harvard. Saad is an amazing teacher and the discussions facilitate real in-depth learning. You walk out of every class with a wealth of new knowledge and the weekly time commitment is relatively low. Would highly recommend!
I would highly recommend taking a class with Saad. He is an extremely engaging and clear tutor. The class is interesting and not too stressful. I have learned a lot about various scientific techniques and am starting to become more comfortable with reading and presenting scientific figures. I didn't have much exposure to this area of neuroscience before taking this class.

Instructor Comments

Please comment on this person's teaching. (Your response to this question may be published anonymously.)

Comments
Saad does an excellent job sparking interest in a niche topic and creating an awesome classroom environment that you'll look forward to coming to. He gives great feedback when asked and sent out an email at the end of the semester giving a synopsis of how everyone was doing in the course broken down by participation and assignments. He has undeniable expertise in the subject that you have to respect – he never fails to answer a question and always has an astute answer often with multiple opinions and perspectives from those in the field. Take any course he teaches.
Saad is so engaging and a great tutorial lead. I learned so much due to his instruction and teaching style. He is always open to questions, and is always ready to engage in discussion with you and help you clarify your thinking. He understands that the material can sometimes be tricky, and will work to fit your needs in terms of your speed or comfort understanding concepts. Organized the class super effectively so we can feel as though our learning builds on itself each week. I LOVED working with him, and I can't wait for another great semester!
Saad is a very engaging, patient, and clear tutor.