Individual Report for John Girard (ITEC5100-01)

Spring 2017- MGA Student Course Evaluations

Project Audience 15
Responses Received 9
Response Ratio 60.0%

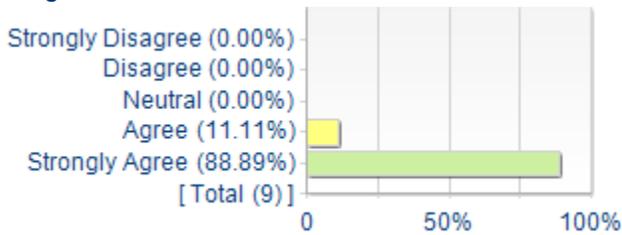| Subject Details	
Section	01
Department	IT
School	GS

Report Comments
Individual reports for faculty -Spring 2017

Creation Date Mon, May 15, 2017

Questions about Instructor

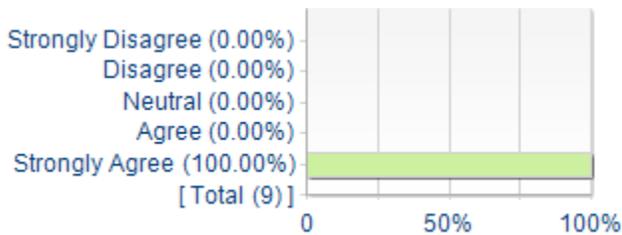### 1. The instructor maintained an appropriate pace through the material.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (11.11%)
Strongly Agree (88.89%)
[Total (9)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Standard Deviation	+/-0.33

2. The instructor was responsive to my communications in a timely manner.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (0.00%)
Strongly Agree (100.00%)
[Total (9)]
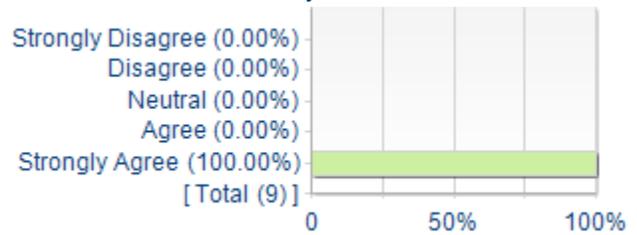
Statistics	Value
Mean	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.00

3. The online materials and communication clearly presented course content.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (0.00%)
Strongly Agree (100.00%)
[Total (9)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.00

4. The instructor evaluates in a fair manner.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (11.11%)
Strongly Agree (88.89%)
[Total (9)]
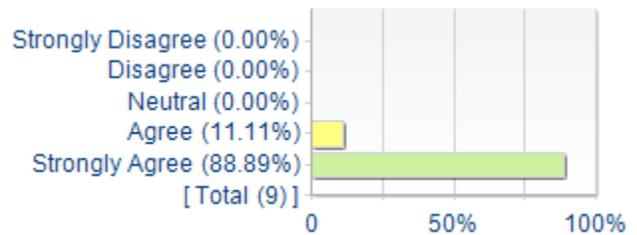
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Standard Deviation	+/-0.33

5. The instructor is willing to give individual assistance.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (0.00%)
Strongly Agree (100.00%)
[Total (9)]
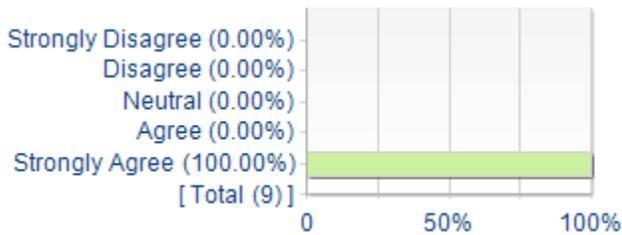
Statistics	Value
Mean	5.00
Standard Deviation	+/-0.00

6. The instructor treats students with respect.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (11.11%)
Strongly Agree (88.89%)
[Total (9)]
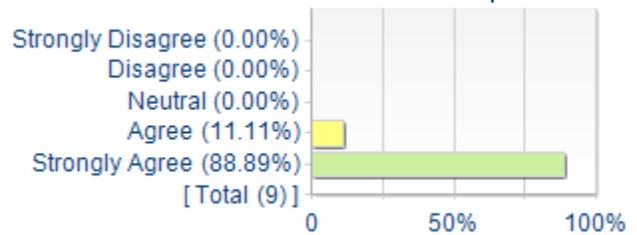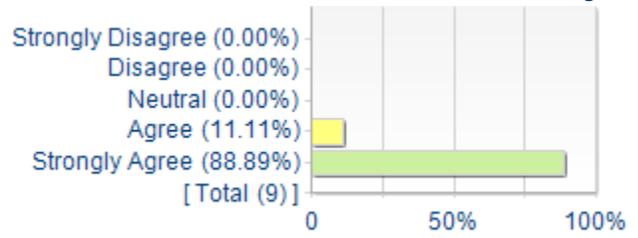
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Standard Deviation	+/-0.33

Questions about Instructor (continued)

7. The instructor is adequately meeting the goals/objectives of this course.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (11.11%)
Strongly Agree (88.89%)
[Total (9)]
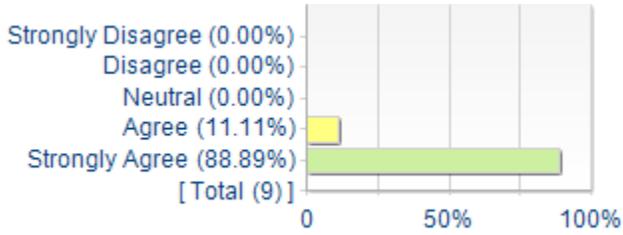
Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Standard Deviation	+/-0.33

8. The instructor teaches well in an online setting.

Strongly Disagree (0.00%)
Disagree (0.00%)
Neutral (0.00%)
Agree (11.11%)
Strongly Agree (88.89%)
[Total (9)]

Statistics	Value
Mean	4.89
Standard Deviation	+/-0.33

Instructor Questions: Comparative Scores

Overall
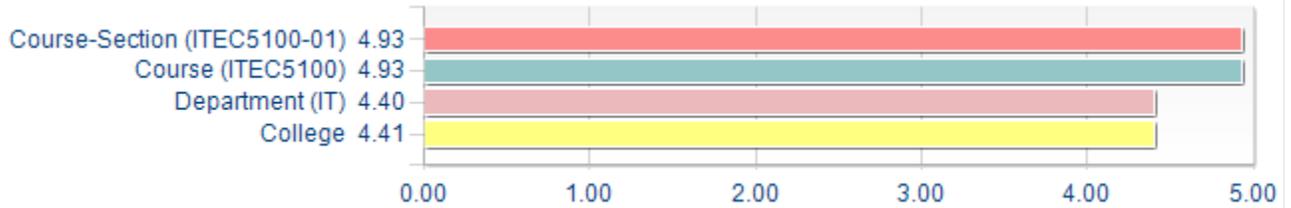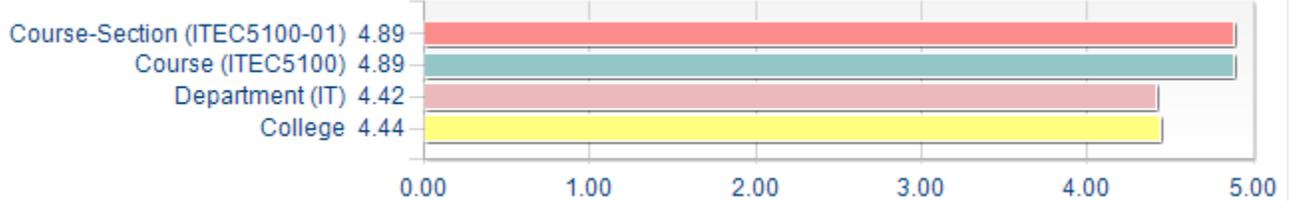
Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	4.93
Course (ITEC5100)	4.93
Department (IT)	4.40
College	4.41

1. The instructor maintained an appropriate pace through the material.

Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	4.89
Course (ITEC5100)	4.89
Department (IT)	4.42
College	4.44

2. The instructor was responsive to my communications in a timely manner.

Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	5.00
Course (ITEC5100)	5.00
Department (IT)	4.38
College	4.40

3. The online materials and communication clearly presented course content.

Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	5.00
Course (ITEC5100)	5.00
Department (IT)	4.32
College	4.37

4. The instructor evaluates in a fair manner.

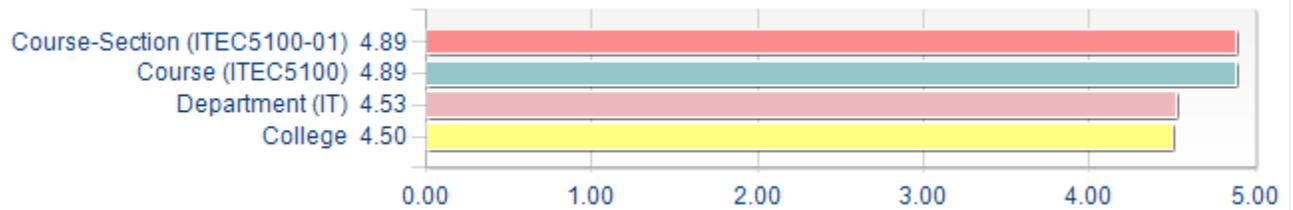|	
Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	4.89
Course (ITEC5100)	4.89
Department (IT)	4.48
College	4.42
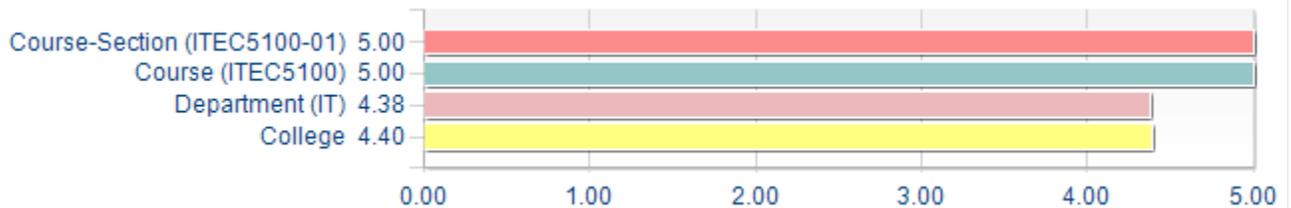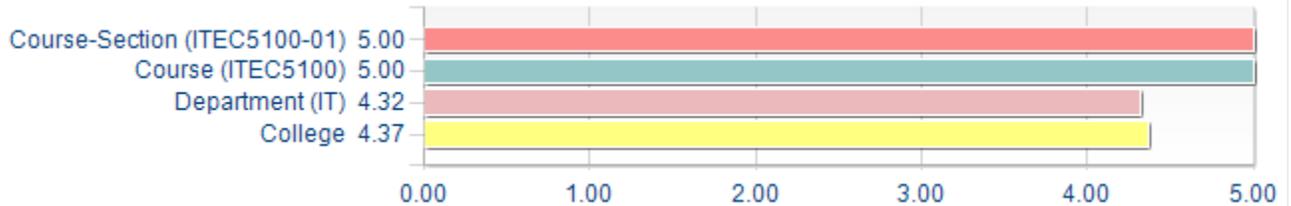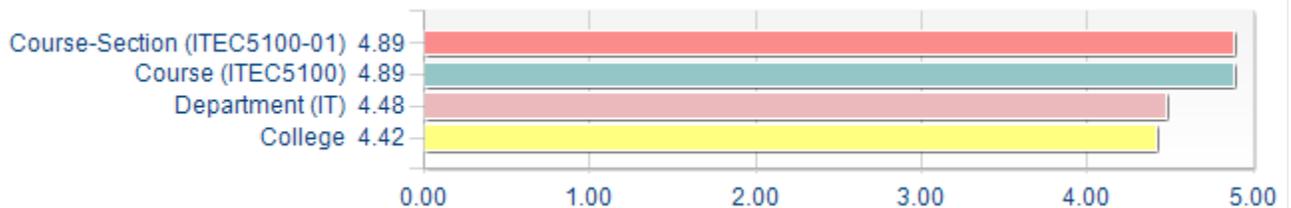
Instructor Questions: Comparative Scores (continued)

5. The instructor is willing to give individual assistance.
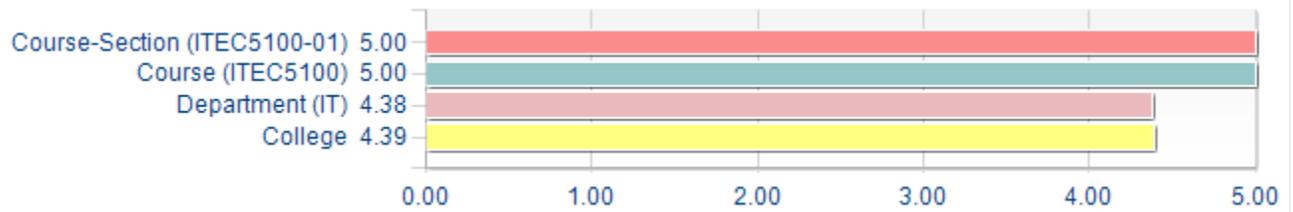
	Score
Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	5.00
Course (ITEC5100)	5.00
Department (IT)	4.38
College	4.39

6. The instructor treats students with respect.

	Score
Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	4.89
Course (ITEC5100)	4.89
Department (IT)	4.53
College	4.50

7. The instructor is adequately meeting the goals/objectives of this course.

	Score
Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	4.89
Course (ITEC5100)	4.89
Department (IT)	4.40
College	4.45

8. The instructor teaches well in an online setting.

	Score
Course-Section (ITEC5100-01)	4.89
Course (ITEC5100)	4.89
Department (IT)	4.30
College	4.31
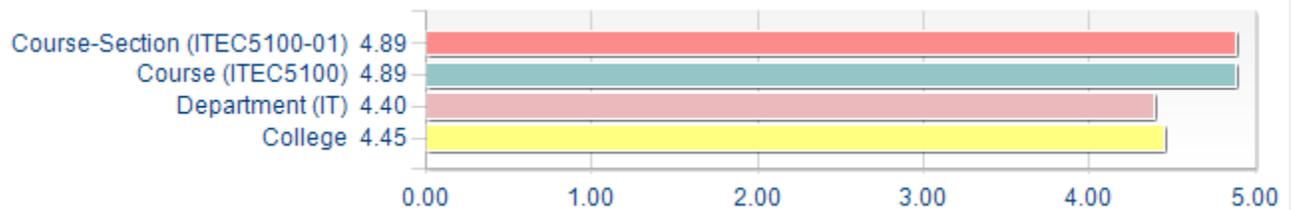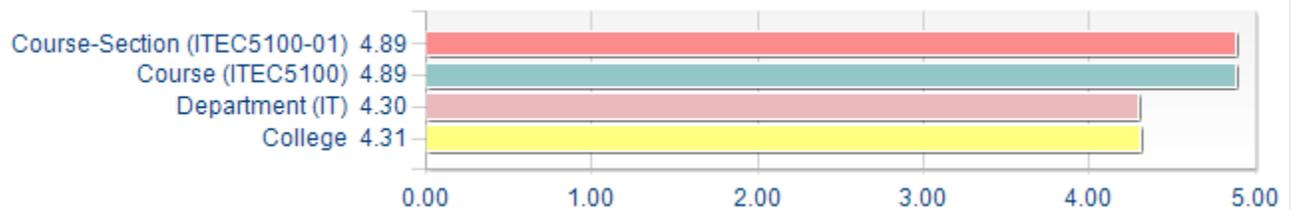
Comments:

Comment
I would recommend additional requirements and expectations for the team project. Some students have little to no experience with professional presentations with embedded audio/video components. Helpful guidance, small examples, etc. will do a lot in providing help without "smothering" the educational and research opportunity. Dr. Girard is an excellent professor, and I thoroughly enjoyed my class and learned a tremendous amount of knowledge with current and emerging technologies!!
I really appreciated the individual video feedback on the briefs. It helped me to correct my approach to providing a better brief later. Dr. Girard presented this class with a very clear purpose and direction in the online setting. He was also available to meet with us as individuals or as groups in either his office or an online setting. He created an environment and provided content that exceeded my expectations for this course.
ITEC5100 was a thoroughly enjoyable initiation for this student to the graduate IT curriculum at MGSU. Perhaps my most salient take-away from this course will be that a healthy sense of constructive skepticism regarding "new and revolutionary" emerging technologies is a very healthy trait to possess. For me, ITEC5100 helped illustrate that what often seems readily apparent to the casual observer typically comprises only a shard of the entire truth. This became very clear to me while researching all three of our technology papers, but nowhere more so evident than in our discussion topics. We've learned firsthand from these exercises to question the obvious and look far beyond the honeypots of marketing platitudes served up all too willingly by modern-day technology pundits, PR firms and the multitude of Internet bloggers and product vendors. Only those researchers that choose to put in the time and effort to look beyond the epidermal layers of an issue stand a chance of catching even a glimpse of reality. A perfect example of this can be found in the ungraded but nevertheless brilliant selection of the "Google Flu" discussion topic that served as our initiation to the course. I refer to this discussion often in my discussions with friends, family and colleagues as an example of the dangers of face value acceptance. Many of us learned quickly through this discussion that if the superficial facts of the matter sound just too good to be true, keep digging deeper! Another fine example was the discussion on leadership. After watching the assigned video several times over, I found myself searching beyond the thin veneer of superficial qualities so often touted by faux leaders, and chose to bring one of the more notorious examples of leadership chicanery to the attention of my fellow graduate students. And finally, there was the discussion group entitled "Are We Social". I can thank this particular discussion and its voluminous data for opening my eyes as well as my heart to a newfound area of interest. And that is to better understand the role of technology in solving a multi-tiered business, social and political problem that hopefully one day soon will allow us to bridge the global digital divide and transform our society.
As a student, I was very pleased to discover that the instructor, Dr. John Girard, possesses not only a strong understanding of what is required for students to become successful technologists within today's business enterprises, but also wields a powerful command of how to effectively motivate graduate students to broaden their horizons beyond bits and bytes. In the eyes of this student, Dr. Girard represents the epitome of the professor that understands the inherent value of not "catching fish" for his students and leading them into a life of dependence, but teaching them the lifelong skill of becoming expert anglers themselves. I was extremely impressed to see that the leadership of this university has attracted an individual of this quality to its faculty, one that has the ability to inspire students as both a business-savvy technologist as well as an effective and motivational educator. The two individual written assignments, and especially the research performed into emerging technologies, prompted me to deeply explore ideas and peer-reviewed research that I simply would not have had the opportunity to consider otherwise in my busy professional life. Coupled with the introduction he provided us with regarding the MSIT capstone project, I now find myself motivated to brainstorm new ideas on a regular basis, sometimes on the backs of napkins and business cards when at lunch or dinner with like-minded colleagues. I am also proud to say that I have now become a regular viewer of the TED Talks YouTube channel due in large part to this course. I find that TED opens my mind to new ideas and ways of looking at problems by thinking out-of-the-box and along lines that I might have disregarded as too far off the beaten path prior to taking this course.
The written assignments extended the concepts learned from reading, lecture and discussions, encouraging each student to not only research the mechanics behind their selected topics but to translate what they have discovered into language that actually matters to high-level business executives. I felt it was superb that Dr. Girard strongly encouraged students to consider not only the positive aspects of the technology behind their topics, but to dig deeper and uncover the sometimes intentionally cloaked negative aspects that some vendor shills would rather we not simply not be aware of. In my own research, I explored well beyond the low-hanging fruits of marketing brochures, public websites and specifications, and focused my research on peer-reviewed journals, lab research and less easily obtained documents such as obscure patent filings, FCC and ITU disclosures, the proceedings of developing nation government regulatory bodies, the minutes of standards body proceedings and even very scantily discussed court cases involving patent and product litigation.
The multimedia used throughout the course was very professional, with exceptional video quality and audio clarity. The weekly course videos were concise and very clear in their instructive messaging. Rarely if ever did I find myself confused regarding precisely what was expected of me and when it was due. For those students that function best with

regular reminders of their impending deadlines, or required more in-depth explanations of project requirements, the periodic update videos filled that niche quite effectively.

At the conclusion of each written assignment we were provided with a personalized video commentary with Dr. Girard's feedback, which I greatly appreciated and found worthwhile. Providing recorded video feedback in this manner as opposed to a face-to-face or live Skype session worked very well for me. I found that the video commentaries were clear, concise and on point, and since I was not required to schedule a time for a live conference, I could review them when it was most convenient for me, a big plus with my unpredictable work schedule. Again, very tactfully and professionally done, and nothing less than I would expect from a professor of this caliber.

In terms of suggestions for improvement, I offer that it would have been helpful to have had each student record a brief three to five-minute video introduction at the very beginning of the course. Nothing elaborate is required here, just the basics of who we each are, a little about our backgrounds and educational goals, and what we expect to achieve in this course. In almost every professional training course I have taken in my technical and managerial career, student introductions are performed the morning of day one without fail. I think that having better idea of your teammates by hearing and seeing them give a short background presentation in this manner would be a definite plus prior to being required to select team research topics and branch out into groups.

In conclusion, ITEC5100 was an excellent and very much worthwhile introduction to IT graduate studies for this student. Dr. Girard is obviously very accomplished both as an IT professional as well a seasoned educator, I applaud the university leadership for bringing an instructor of his caliber to this university and hope that they continue to do so in the future. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to attend this course and look forward to learning much more from Dr. Girard and other instructors in future courses. I would wholeheartedly recommend both ITEC5100 as well as Dr. Girard as an instructor to future graduate students that are interested in exploring the finer facets of technology and looking past the marketplace hype that surrounds us all in this day and age.

The videos I thought were the perfect balance with not being too much and giving a good amount of information. They provide good information and make the class seem personal. I think having clear requirements for the discussions are important so people know in the beginning what they need to do to get a good grade.