

Math 184 Workshops - End of Term Survey Results

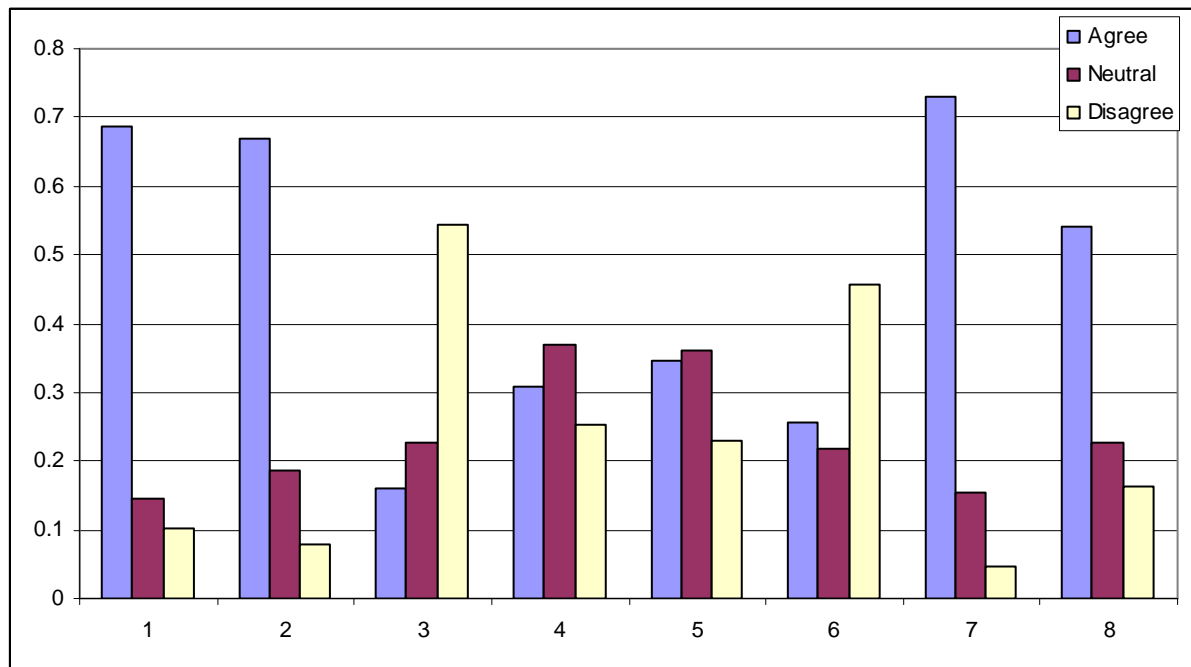
No. of surveys returned N = 350, 64% of registered students (Total enrolment = 543?)

Overall results

Set I: Students were asked to express to what extent they agree or disagree with the following statements using a 5-point scale (strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, strongly disagree):

- Q1. The workshop problems provide useful practice for solving problems on tests.
- Q2. The workshop problems are related to the material covered in class.
- Q3. The workshops are a waste of time.
- Q4. The workshop problems are too challenging.
- Q5. The workshop problems are interesting.
- Q6. I am often confused about the goal(s) of the workshops.
- Q7. I like working with my group members.
- Q8. I would recommend having similar workshops in this course again next year.

Results (all sections): Strongly Agree/Agree and Strongly Disagree/Disagree were added together as Agree and Disagree, respectively, for ease of presenting results.



Overall these results are quite good. The majority of students perceive the workshops as useful and would recommend having them in the future. However, a good number of students still find the workshop problems too challenging (and not interesting). This is also in line with students' comments and feedback from TAs and has been brought up to the attention of the workshop coordinator.

Improvement over the term

Some negative perceptions measured on the midterm survey did improve at the end of the term.

	Midterm survey	End-of-term survey
The workshop problems provide useful practice for solving problems on tests.	Disagree: 24%	Disagree: 11%
The workshop problems are related to the material covered in class.	Disagree: 17%	Disagree: 7%
The workshops are a waste of time.	Agree: 23%	Agree: 16%
Students expressed unhappiness with their group	23% (think their group doesn't function well)	5% (dislike working with their group members)

I would hope these improvements are due to a more careful selection of problems, but it could also be due to a change in the student population answering the end of term survey. It's likely that students who think the workshops are a waste of time will stop attending workshops once they earn a reasonable score! Data do show a 10% drop in attendance between the week of the midterm survey and the week of the end of term survey.

Comparison with past years

This year students' answers aren't as positive as last year, but they are still better than or equal to answers collected two years ago.

2008 N = 292, 54% of enrolled (administered in week 11)

2009 N = 387, 76% of enrolled (administered in week 11?)

2010 N = 350, 64% of enrolled (administered in week 11)

Note: This year 62 surveys were discarded because of some confusion on how to fill in the Scantron form (if we included the discarded surveys, the response rate would increase to 76% of enrolled students, which suggests similar attendance compared to last year).

Q.1.1	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	17%	36%	24%
<i>Agree</i>	42%	45%	44%
<i>Neutral</i>	25%	13%	15%
<i>Disagree</i>	10%	4%	8%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	5%	1%	3%

Q.1.2	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	17%	40%	28%
<i>Agree</i>	44%	49%	39%
<i>Neutral</i>	27%	9%	19%
<i>Disagree</i>	9%	2%	5%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	2%	1%	2%

Q.1.3	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	5%	3%	5%
<i>Agree</i>	12%	4%	11%
<i>Neutral</i>	22%	19%	23%
<i>Disagree</i>	40%	43%	36%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	20%	29%	18%

Q.1.4	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	3%	2%	5%
<i>Agree</i>	25%	14%	25%
<i>Neutral</i>	45%	46%	37%
<i>Disagree</i>	25%	30%	22%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	2%	7%	3%

Q.1.5	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
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Q.1.6	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
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<i>Strongly Agree</i>	5%	4%	5%
<i>Agree</i>	32%	33%	30%
<i>Neutral</i>	42%	47%	36%
<i>Disagree</i>	17%	10%	17%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	4%	6%	5%

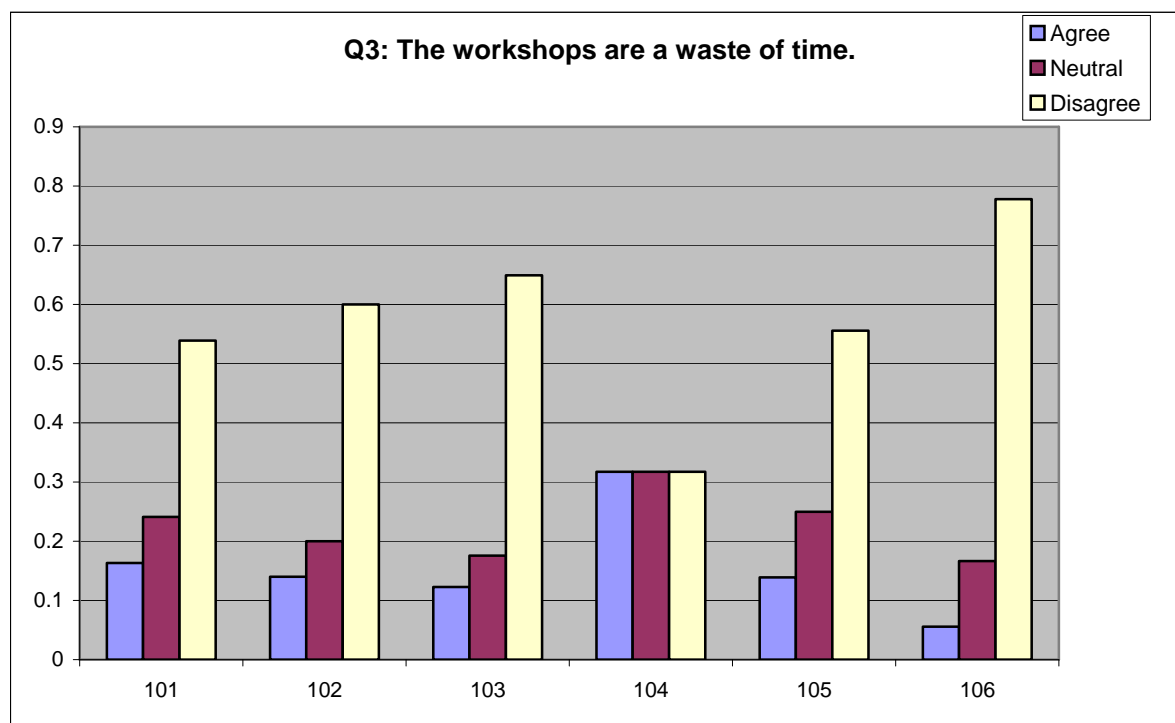
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	7%	3%	8%
<i>Agree</i>	14%	12%	18%
<i>Neutral</i>	34%	21%	22%
<i>Disagree</i>	35%	46%	35%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	10%	18%	11%

Q.1.7	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Strongly Agree</i>		45%	30%
<i>Agree</i>		41%	43%
<i>Neutral</i>		8%	15%
<i>Disagree</i>		3%	2%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>		2%	3%

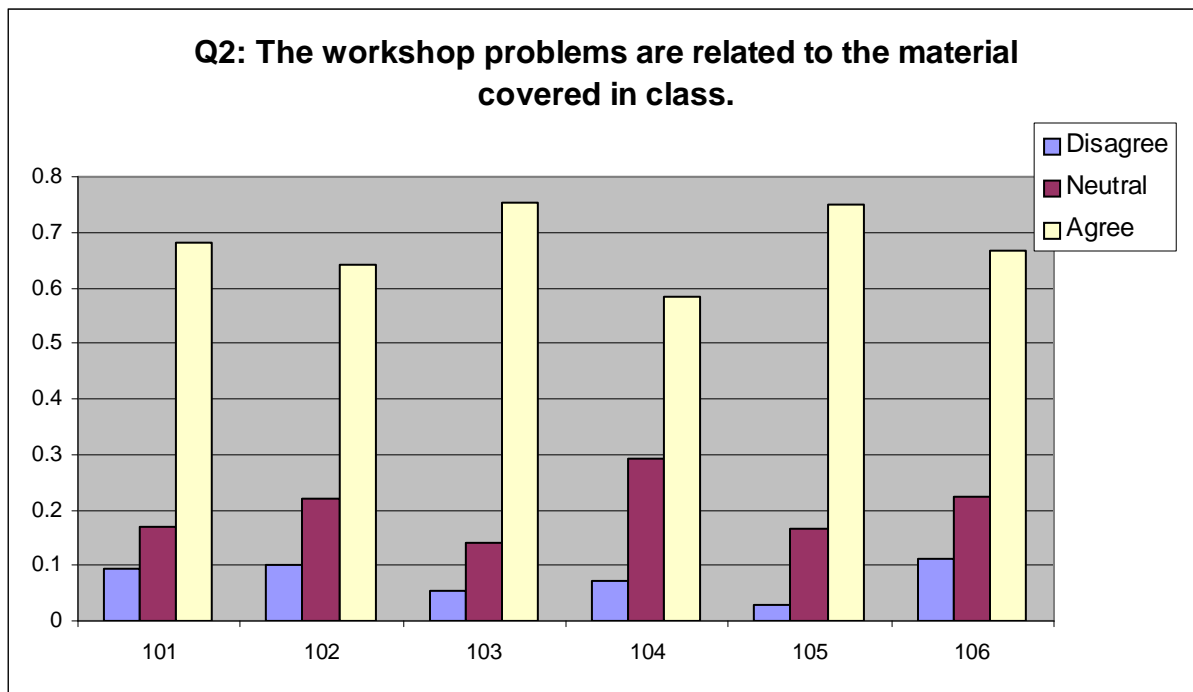
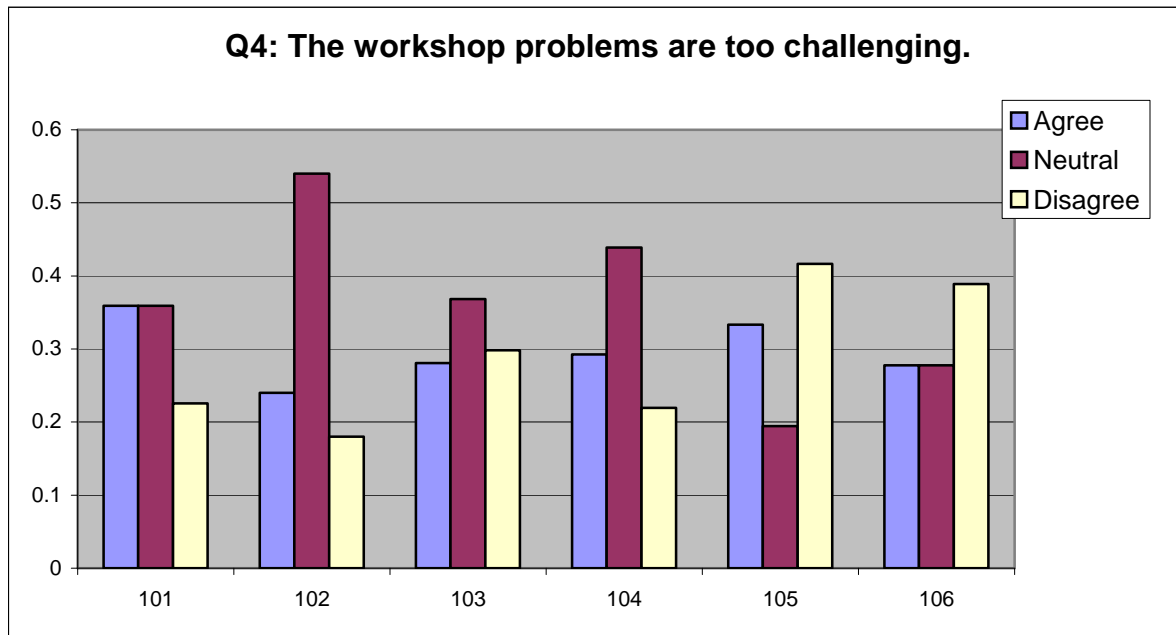
Q.1.8	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
<i>Strongly Agree</i>		30%	21%
<i>Agree</i>		38%	33%
<i>Neutral</i>		20%	23%
<i>Disagree</i>		7%	9%
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>		3%	7%

Instructor effect

If one analyzes survey responses based on what lectures students attended, it seems that students' perceptions of the workshops aren't as good in section 104 as in other sections.



It's not obvious to me why students in this section should be unhappier. The level of difficulty of workshop problems was perceived somewhat equally in all sections, and so was the relation of workshop content to lectures.

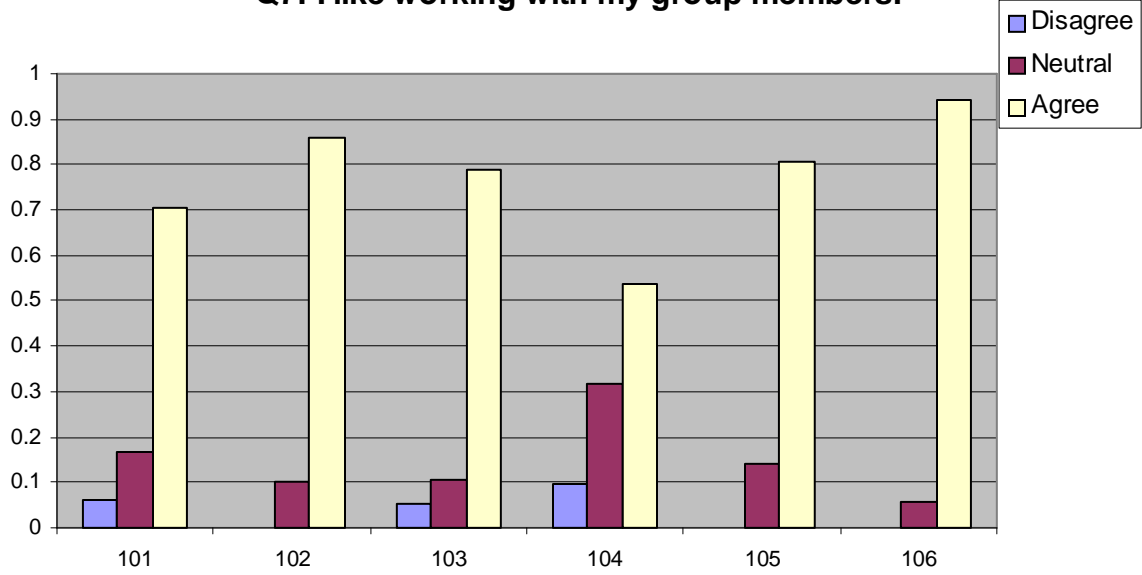


What seems different in this section is perhaps a higher number of people unhappy about their group and confused about the goals of the workshops. Without knowing what the instructor did in class, it's hard to determine what caused this unhappiness and confusion.

As for workshop schedule, section 104 had workshops on Wed (9am and 11am) and Thu (2pm), while lectures were on Tue and Thu at 8am.

Students' comments: ??

Q7: I like working with my group members.



Q6: I'm often confused about the goal(s) of the workshops.

