

Student self-reported workloads comparisons

How much time do
students spend on
coursework, outside
of class?

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Data Collection

- For each assignment during the second half of EOSC 340, we asked students to report how much time they spent on it. All assignments (and answers to this question) were collected electronically in VISTA
- The answer (for EOSC 340)?

~ 6.5 hours/week outside of class

- On middle-of-term, or end-of-term surveys in several courses, we asked students to compare their workload in that course to EACH of their other courses. Here's what the questions looked like:

Please enter one of your OTHER courses here (e.g. ENGL 100) _____

Rate the time you spend on EOSC 340, compared to the course you entered above

- a. I spend MUCH MORE time on EOSC 340 than I spend on the course listed above
- b. I spend a LITTLE MORE time on EOSC 340 than I spend on the course listed above
- c. I spend about the same amount of time on EOSC 340 and the course listed above
- d. I spend a LITTLE LESS time on EOSC 340 than I spend on the course listed above
- e. I spend MUCH LESS time on EOSC 340 than I spend on the course listed above

...repeated for up to 5 "other" courses

Courses with comparative workloads data

(though not necessarily analyzed yet...)

EOSC 112

ENVR 200

EOSC 333

EOSC 424

EOSC 114

EOSC 211

EOSC 340

EOSC 472

EOSC 116

EOSC 212

EOSC 355

EOSC 474

EOSC 211

EOSC 220

EOSC 372

EOSC 212

EOSC 373

APSC 160

Many, many other courses from all over UBC are listed in the responses, and therefore also have some comparative workloads data.

How much is too much?

Comparative workloads

RED in **top** row = *this* course was **more** work

RED in **bottom** row = *this* course was **less** work

Values are percentages within columns.

EOSC 1XX

EOSC 112				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
14.7%	23.3%	26.3%	13.8%	M
23.2%	21.7%	17.5%	6.9%	
21.1%	15.0%	15.8%	6.9%	AI
29.5%	23.3%	22.8%	27.6%	
11.6%	16.7%	17.5%	44.8%	M
95	60	57	29	N

EOSC 114				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
9.8%	14.9%	4.8%	1.1%	Much more time on EOSC 114
19.6%	4.6%	7.8%	5.7%	
24.0%	18.4%	18.8%	12.6%	About the same amount of time
26.5%	28.7%	27.2%	32.2%	
20.2%	33.3%	41.5%	48.3%	Much less time on EOSC 114
521	87	335	87	N

- EOSC 1xx are **MUCH LESS** work than 3rd & 4th year science (as one might hope)
- EOSC 114 is generally **LESS** than all except 1st & 2nd year arts
- EOSC 112 is **MORE** work than EOSC 114

EOSC 2XX

ENVR 2XX

ENVR 200				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
55.6%	53.8%	50.0%	57.1%	M
22.2%	30.8%	36.1%	23.8%	
22.2%	15.4%	13.9%	9.5%	AI
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%	
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	M
18	13	36	21	N

EOSC 212				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
22.2%	16.7%	10.0%	0.0%	Much more time on EOSC 212
22.2%	33.3%	18.0%	33.3%	
22.2%	50.0%	16.0%	33.3%	About the same amount of time
33.3%	0.0%	24.0%	33.3%	
0.0%	0.0%	32.0%	0.0%	Much less time on EOSC 212
9	6	50	3	N

- ENVR 200 is **MORE** work than most other courses taken by those students
- EOSC 212 is generally **MORE** work than most Arts courses, and a **LITTLE LESS** work than other 1st & 2nd year Science

EOSC 3XX

EOSC 372				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
51.5%	46.5%	44.1%	35.1%	M
15.2%	25.4%	18.6%	23.8%	
21.2%	12.7%	23.7%	21.4%	AI
6.1%	8.5%	8.5%	13.1%	
6.1%	7.0%	5.1%	6.5%	M
33	71	59	168	N

EOSC 340				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
66.7%	54.2%	43.5%	43.4%	M
22.2%	22.0%	25.9%	25.3%	
11.1%	16.9%	18.8%	19.3%	AI
0.0%	5.1%	8.2%	8.4%	
0.0%	1.7%	3.5%	3.6%	M
18	59	85	83	N

EOSC 355				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
50.0%	31.6%	50.0%	21.0%	Much more time on EOSC 355
33.3%	28.9%	18.8%	25.8%	
16.7%	21.1%	18.8%	25.8%	About the same amount of time
0.0%	13.2%	6.3%	16.1%	
0.0%	5.3%	6.3%	11.3%	Much less time on EOSC 355
12	38	16	62	N

- All three EOSC 3xx science electives are **MORE** work than 3rd & 4th yr science and arts
- All these courses have been involved (somehow) in CWSEI

EOSC 4XX

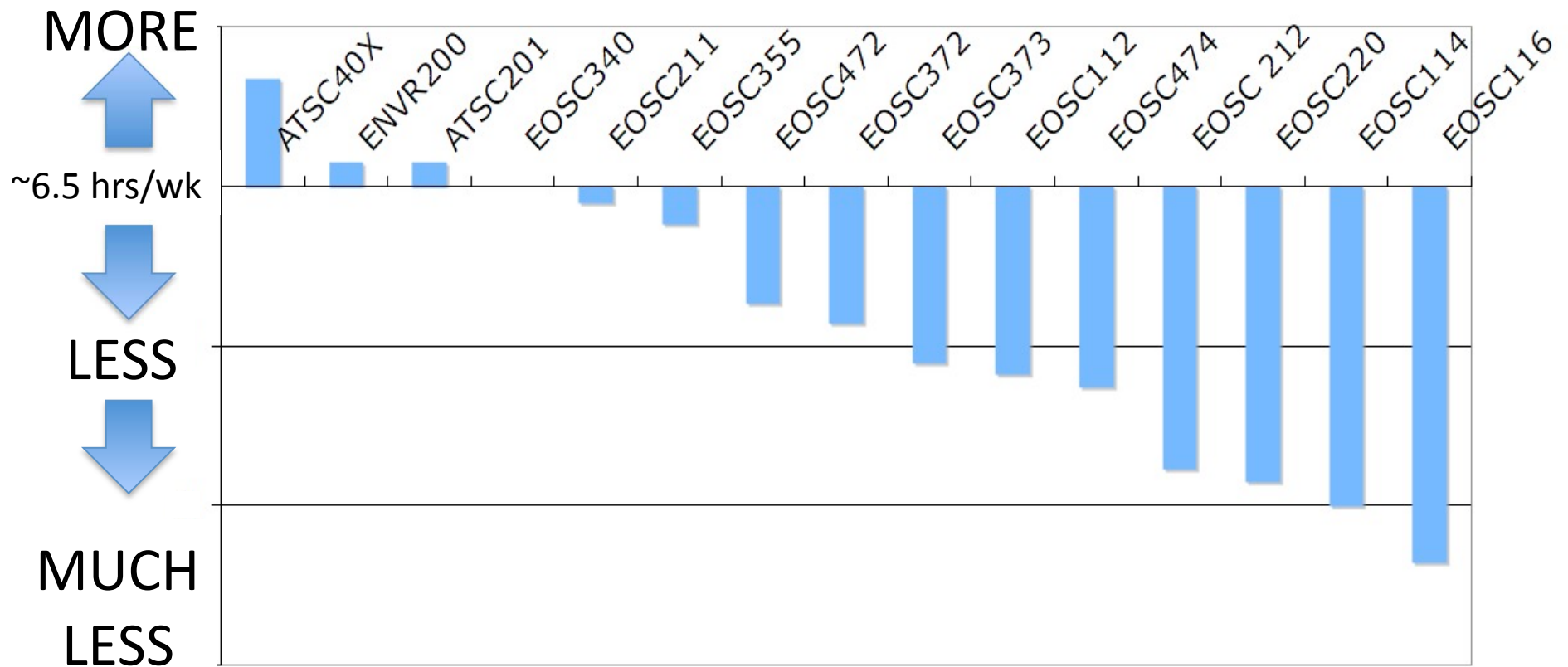
EOSC 474				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
25.0%	5.6%	0.0%	2.3%	M
25.0%	22.2%	0.0%	18.2%	
25.0%	38.9%	50.0%	18.2%	AI
0.0%	11.1%	37.5%	43.2%	
25.0%	22.2%	12.5%	18.2%	M
4	18	8	44	N

EOSC 472				
Arts 1/2	Arts 3/4	Sci 1/2	Sci 3/4	
66.7%	58.3%	33.3%	24.1%	Much more time on EOSC 472
0.0%	16.7%	33.3%	17.2%	
0.0%	20.8%	33.3%	44.8%	About the same amount of time
33.3%	4.2%	0.0%	10.3%	
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.4%	Much less time on EOSC 472
3	24	3	29	N

- EOSC 474 is **SIMILAR OR LESS** work than most other courses (this course has not been involved in CWSEI)
- EOSC 472 is **MORE** work than most other courses (this course recently became involved with CWSEI)

Rough Comparison among workloads in different courses

Time reference from EOOSC 340



Qualitative data about EOSC 340 perceived workloads

ANONYMOUS FEEDBACK ON VISTA DISCUSSION BOARD:

17 of 91 postings say or imply “too much work” (~19%)

MIDDLE-OF-TERM SURVEY:

18 of 100 comments say or imply “too much work” (~18%)

END-OF-TERM SURVEY:

What works well?

25 of 65 (38%) say “the assignments” (most say “clickers”)

4 of 65 say/imply “too much work” (6%)

3 of 65 specifically expressed support for the work load (5%)

What could be improved?

16 of 65 say/imply “too much work” (23%)

Some quotes about workload

(from EOSC 340, an average of 6.5 hours/week)

they need to reduce the amount of homework and assignments they issue, especially within the week of midterms. - they need to take into account that the student has other commitments other than this class including other courses and midterms and more respect needs to be given to the student's time -

Despite a lot of complaints from students, I think that all of the assignments and readings have helped me stay on track and get a better sense of what is expected on the exam. They also provide great practice on days leading up to the exam.

...if I wasn't taking 3 other EOSC classes, I wouldn't be making that type of comment, but with the EOSC "reform" now reaching the many corners of the department, I'm having more and more frequent assignments in all my EOSC classes. Don't get me wrong, I really love the approach and I think it is working very well in all of my classes, it's just becoming a little insane keeping up with so many little assignments due all week (eg. 4 from this class, plus at least 2-3 from each of my other 3 EOSC).

I've never been so well-prepared for an exam - it's astonishing. I know people were complaining that there were too many [assignments] and they were too frequent, but I STRONGLY disagree. I even think you shortened/weakened/briefed them too much by the end of the term. The length and difficulty of them by the end of January was perfect. I sincerely hope you do not change this aspect of the course for next year, as it was pivotal in my success in this course.

Overall the expected weekly workload for this class is far too high. I love the material but I am not doing nearly as well as I would like to be doing in this class as I honestly just don't have the time to put into it.