Laboratory Instructions as a Cause of Student Dissonance

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EE instructions vs. CS instructions

Two groups, Same lab ⇒ Different results ..... WHY?

Questionnaire

1) The lectures contained information that was relevant to the lab.
2) This information (see question 1) was easy to understand.
3) The laboratory instructions were easy to comprehend.
4) The instructions gave enough information to complete the lab in a useful manner.
5) I considered myself well-prepared when I arrived to the lab.
6) The teaching assistants did their best to help me through the lab.
7) I found the lab too difficult.
8) I had problems with the lab equipment.
9) Free-text comments.

EE students get to know what to achieve.

CS students get to know what to do.

Aiming too high

A deep approach to learning may be unrealistic under the given time constraints. Students revert to a surface approach – insufficient for completing the assignment.

EE and CS students shared views on information availability, but not accessibility.

EE students had a more diverse view on the difficulty of the lab.

Both EE and CS students felt well-prepared for their lab session.