

Feedback + Research Meeting

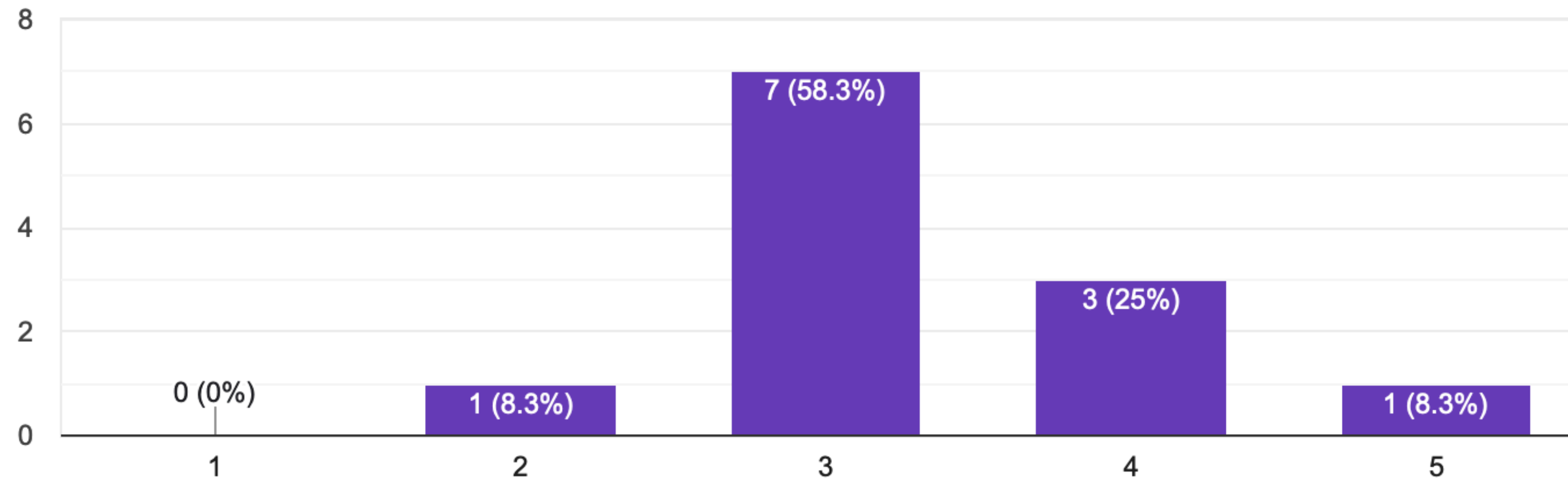
CS499/579 :: Empirical Computer Security

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Content difficulty

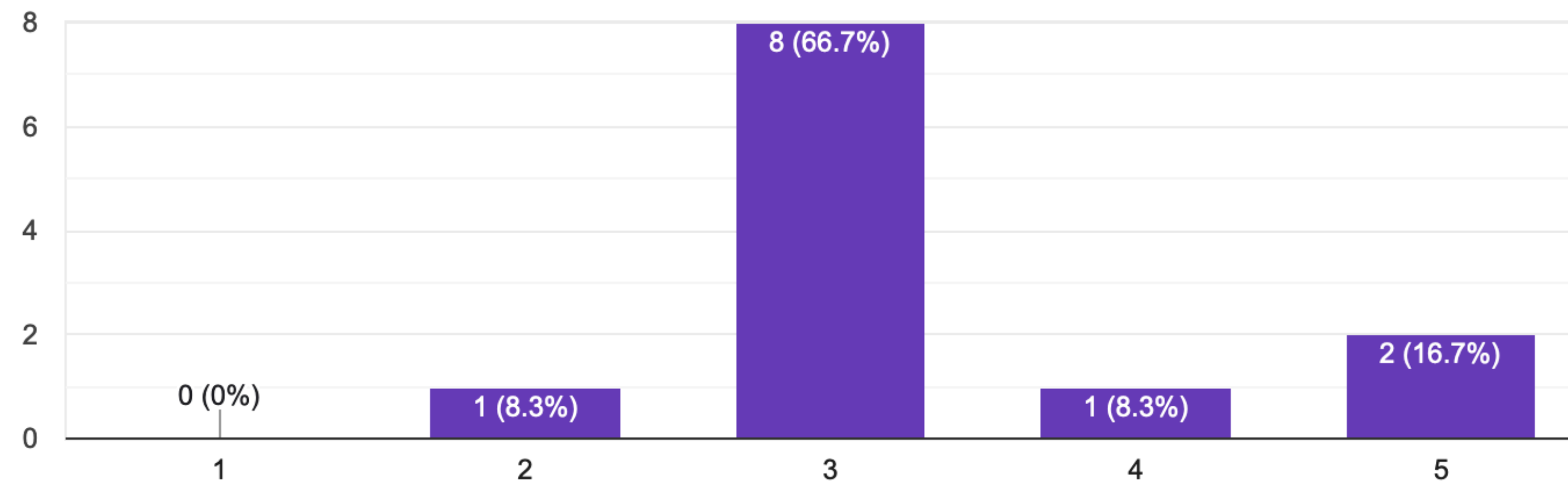
Papers



Too easy

Too difficult

Presentations



What people enjoy

Reading and discussing a wide range of security papers (8)

- understanding different research methodologies
- learning how papers are written

I appreciate how welcoming the class is (1).

The papers that include videos are extremely helpful (1)

Learning obstacles

Unclear research project expectations (3)

Papers are too time-consuming / difficult (3)

Questions are difficult (2)

I would [like more] background knowledge (1)

Presentations are difficult to follow / understand (1)

Unclear grade distribution; difference between undergrad / graduate grades (2)

Suggested improvements

Change grade distribution (3)

- reduce focus on research project (3); replace with projects / assignments (2)

More background information (3)

- short intro at the beginning of class about presentations (1); more technical concept discussion (1)

Reduce workload (1)

Clear guidelines on the project part of the course at the start (1)

Reading questions on the canvas assignment calendar (1)

Actual improvements

1. I will clarify project expectations today (and during research meeting); I will publish a rubric for the final project presentation + report by Wednesday
2. I will work with presenters to spend more time on background explanation and technical knowledge
3. I will drop one more reading question grade for undergrads (total of 4); still 3 for graduate students
4. I will upload reading question grades to Canvas at the end of every week.

No change in grade weighting (60% project) - this is a research project-based class. CS578 (offered this winter) is non-project grad class.

Please come to office hours or email me to discuss how to improve paper reading skills, coming up with questions, additional background knowledge, project help

Research Paper Expectations

6 or 9 page research paper, depending on group size

Examples on website

Motivation: Why is this topic interesting / useful? Broader impact? Intellectual merit?

Background + related works: Explain technical details, gap in existing research

Threat model: What is the threat/attack? What is the scope / attacker constraints?

Methodology: How did you study the problem or answer the research question(s)?

Initial results: What did you find? Or what challenges did you face?

Research Meeting Expectations

3-4 slides total

1 slide with recap from last meeting

1-2 slides with progress - what have you actually done?

1 slide with tasks + timeline for remaining weeks

I will outline specific research tasks for each group and expectations for what you should aim to accomplish

TODO: sign up for research update meeting!