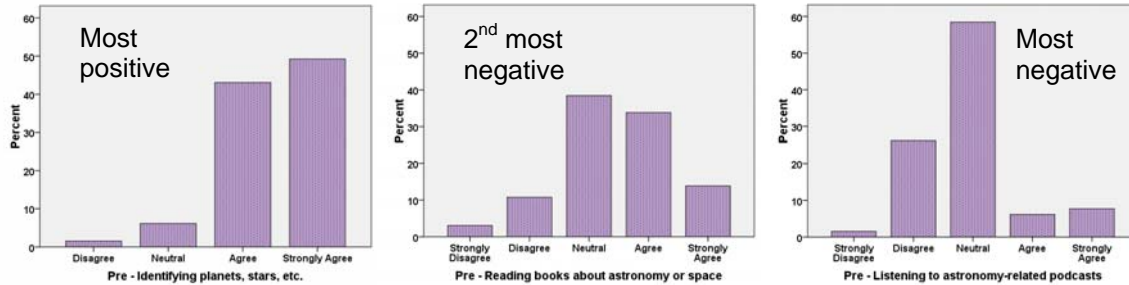


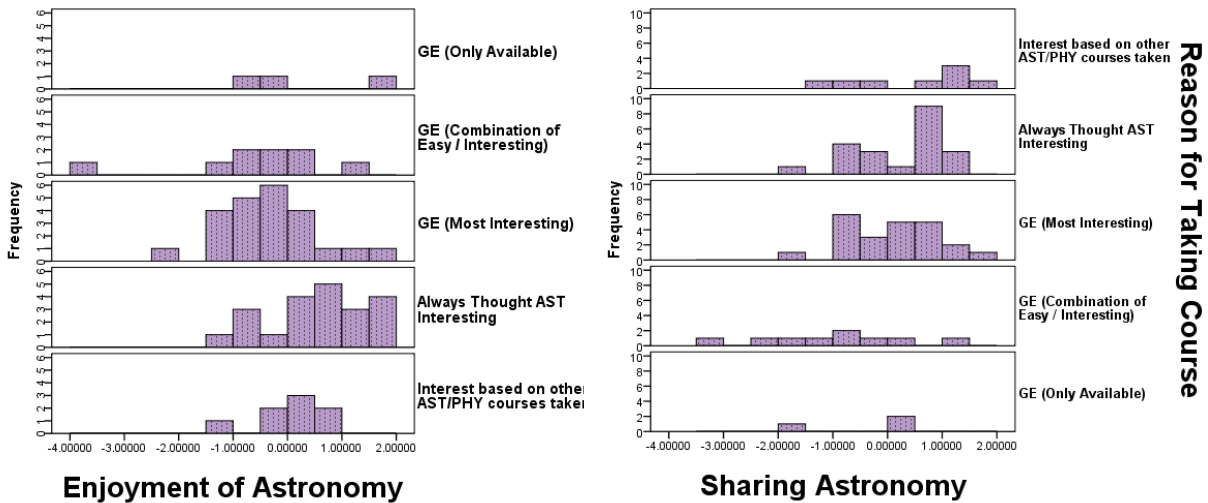
# Trends in Attitudes & Content Knowledge as the Course Begins

## Importance of Astronomy to Students

- Students generally rated “I like / would enjoy...” questions quite negatively.
  - Only one item had a mean below neutral (mean = 2.92, Std. Dev. = 0.84)

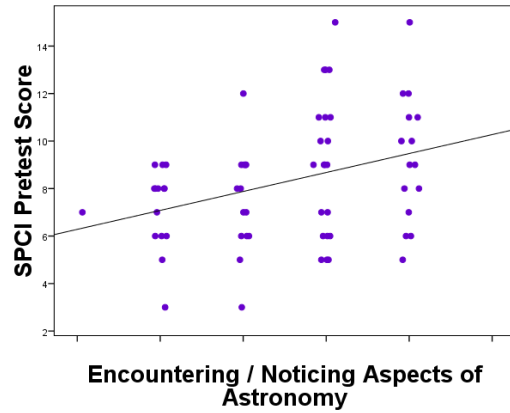
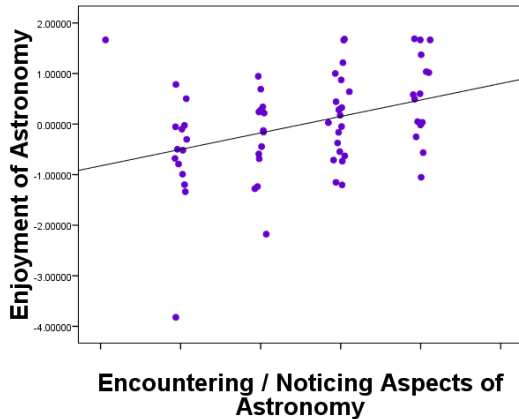


- Factor analysis suggests all 12 items are well-described by two dimensions
  - Sharing / Using Astronomy* and *Personal Enjoyment of Astronomy*
  - Both factors significantly related to “Reason for Taking course”
  - Neither related to issues like how well students could see night sky as children

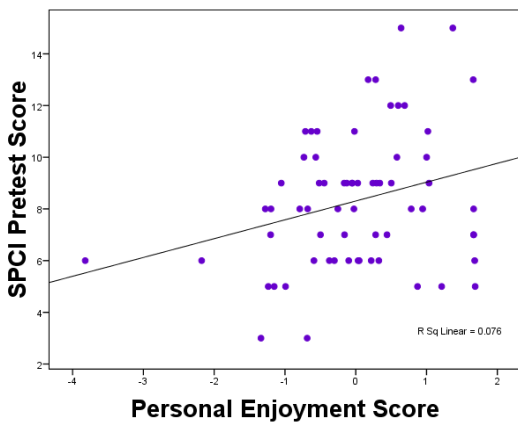


### How often students notice aspects of Astronomy

- Significantly (but weakly) associated with both SPCI Pretest Score (p-value = 0.006) and *Personal Enjoyment* score (p-value = 0.004; shown)
- Students who enjoy astronomy are also those who are more aware of its presence in their lives
- These same students also tend to score more highly on the SPCI pre-test



### SPCI Pretest Score:



- SPCI pre-test scores significantly correlated (p=0.026) with *Personal Enjoyment* score
  - Students who score more highly on *Personal Enjoyment* also scored higher on the SPCI Pre-test

- Marginally significant (p = 0.072) relationship with Formal Astronomy Background
  - Students who score more highly on the SPCI pre-test also tend to have had more formal training in astronomy

