

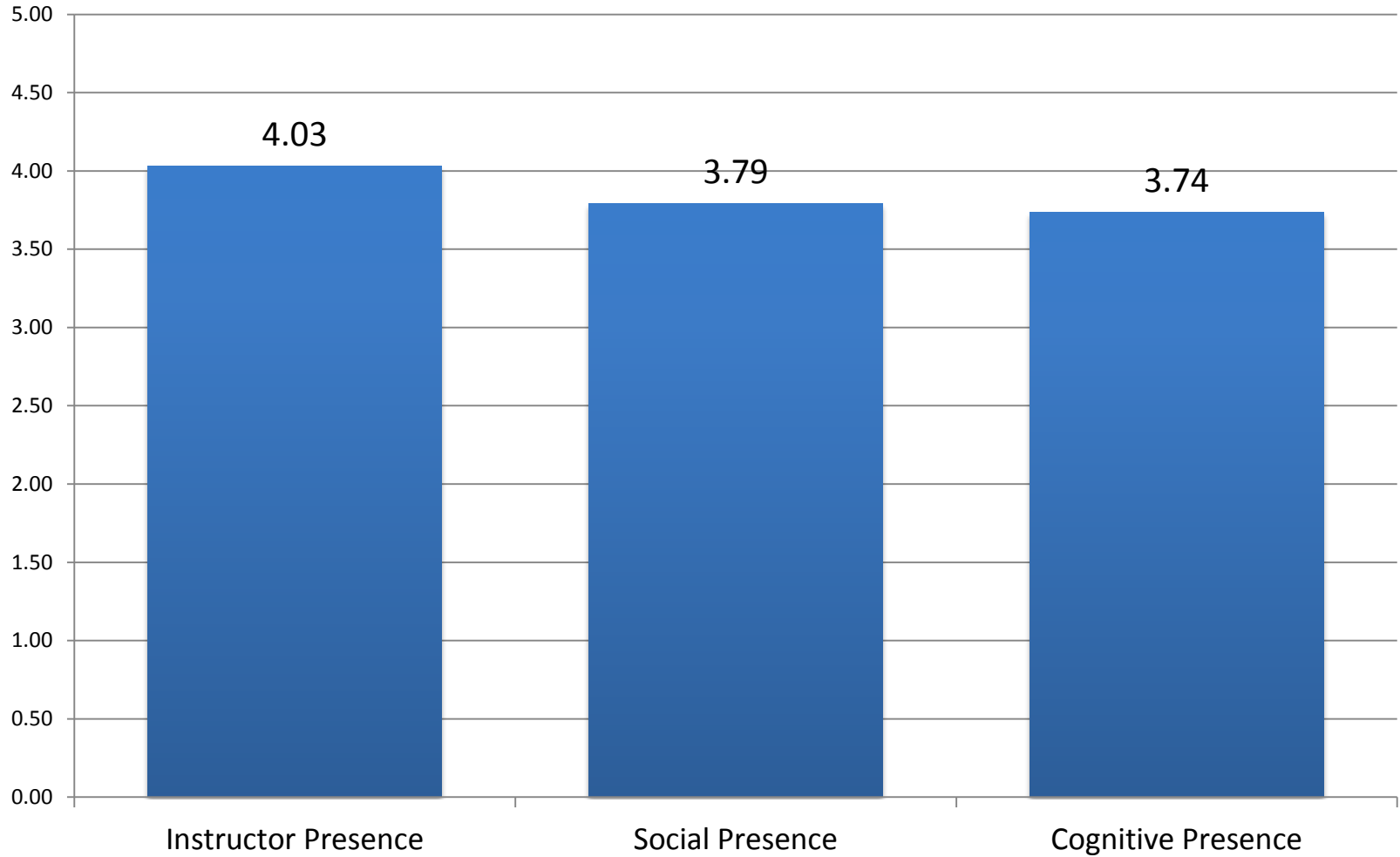
Research Purpose and Participants

- Better understand how to support students and instructors who are enrolled in large online courses by exploring protocols in online discussions

Data Sources

- 394 participants (88% of class)
- Community of Inquiry Survey (35 items, 5-point Likert)
 - Teaching Presence (13 items)
 - “The instructor and/or TAs provided clear instructions on how to participate in the structured discussions.”
 - Social Presence (9 items)
 - “In the structured discussions, I felt that my point of view was acknowledged by other participants.”
 - Cognitive Presence (12 items)
 - “Reflection on course content within the structured discussions helped me understand fundamental concepts in this class.”
 - Open-ended (1 item)
 - Additional comments
- Interviews with instructor and 2 TAs

Survey Findings



Nature of Protocol

- “The discussions helped me to break larger assignments down into manageable sections.”
- “The discussions are a great way to help make sure my assignments were the best they could be before submitting.”
- “The multiple step process was very different and useful. It left room for errors and to correct and refine mistakes and take other peers feedback.”
- “The parts worked well for discussion, reflection, and improvement of business ideas as well as piqued my interest.”

Peer Feedback

- “I loved the structured discussions because they brought great ideas to my attention and helped me think about aspects I hadn’t thought of.”
- “The feedback from classmates helped to assure that I was going in the right direction.”
- “I felt the feedback I received helped me boost my grade on certain assignments.”
- “I was able to get another person’s perspective of the assignments, and even if their feedback wasn’t good, I could see in their work how I could improve my own.”

Challenges

- Quality of peer feedback
 - “The only thing I did not like about the discussions was not always receiving feedback from group members, which harmed my learning.”
 - “It was clear from the feedback that some students did take it seriously but others were quite useless.”
- Multiple due dates
 - “I found it confusing to keep track of what was due.”
- Clarity of instructions
 - “The instructions posted at the top of the discussions could be more clear and easy to understand. Some don’t tell you exactly what to do or where exactly to post.”