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## Not All Lawyers Read John Grisham: An Exploration of the Reading Habits of Pre-Law Students and Attorneys

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# Not All Lawyers Read John Grisham: An Exploration of the Reading Habits of Pre-Law Students and Attorneys

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## Introduction

This project explores the reading habits of pre-law students at USU and three attorneys. Pre-law students and lawyers are expected to read a lot.

- Do their intensive reading schedules influence their desire to read for pleasure?
- What do pre-law students and lawyers read for pleasure?
- Do these people even have enough time to read for pleasure?

This research questions if the amount of required reading diminishes the participants’ desire to read for pleasure.

This research fills a gap as studies about how reading demands affect individuals’ desire to read for pleasure do not exist.

## Methods

This research was performed using a mixed methodology.

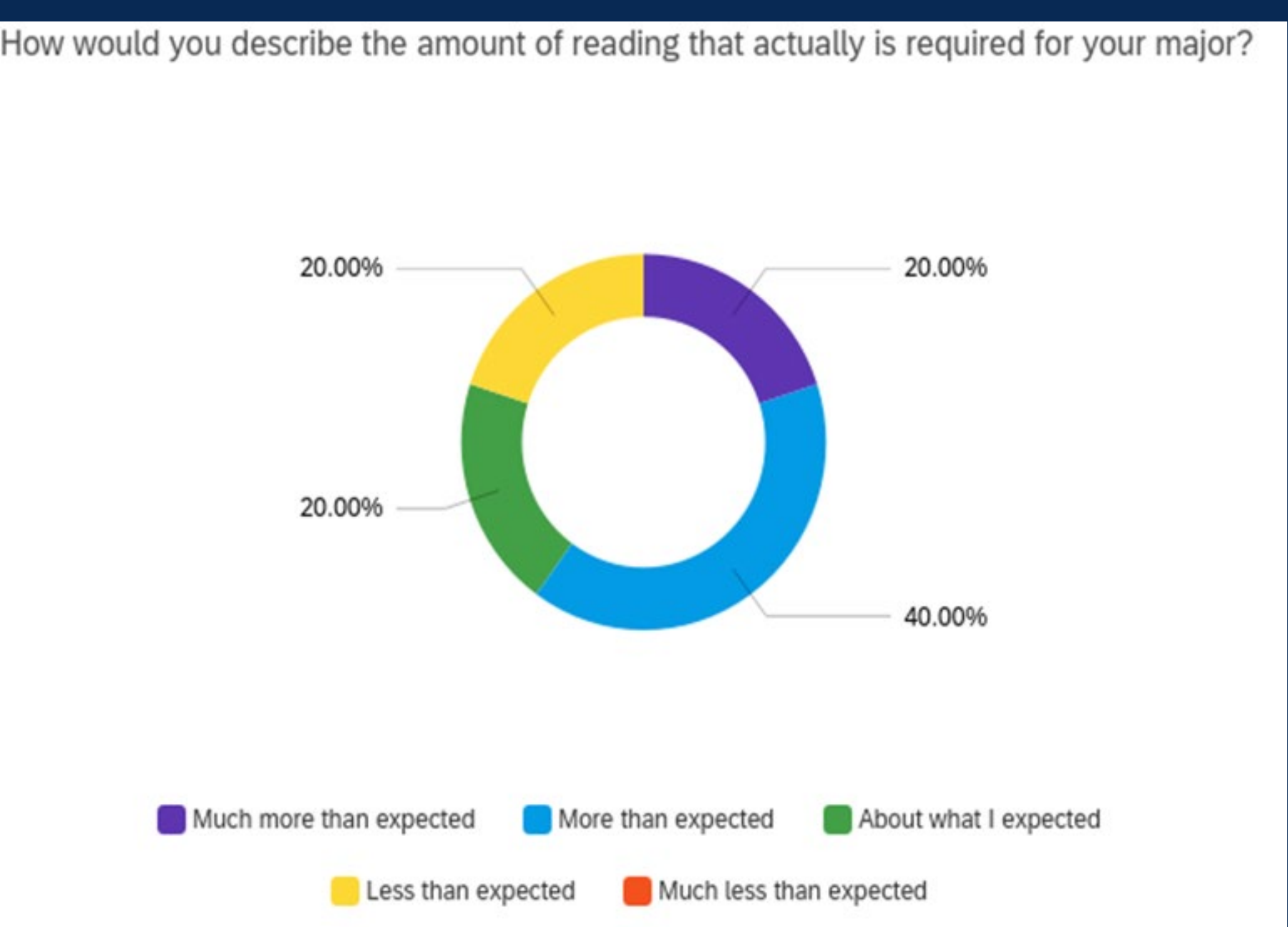
1. Pre-law students took a Qualtrics survey.
2. Interviews were conducted with the lawyer participants.

Research questions asked about academic, professional, and personal reading habits.

## Results

- 40% of students noted the amount of required reading is “more than expected.”
- Students read an average of 1-2 hours a day for pleasure.
- Lawyer participants read a variety of genres and authors.
- Student and attorney participants continue to enjoy reading.
- No participants have considered switching their focus because of reading requirements.

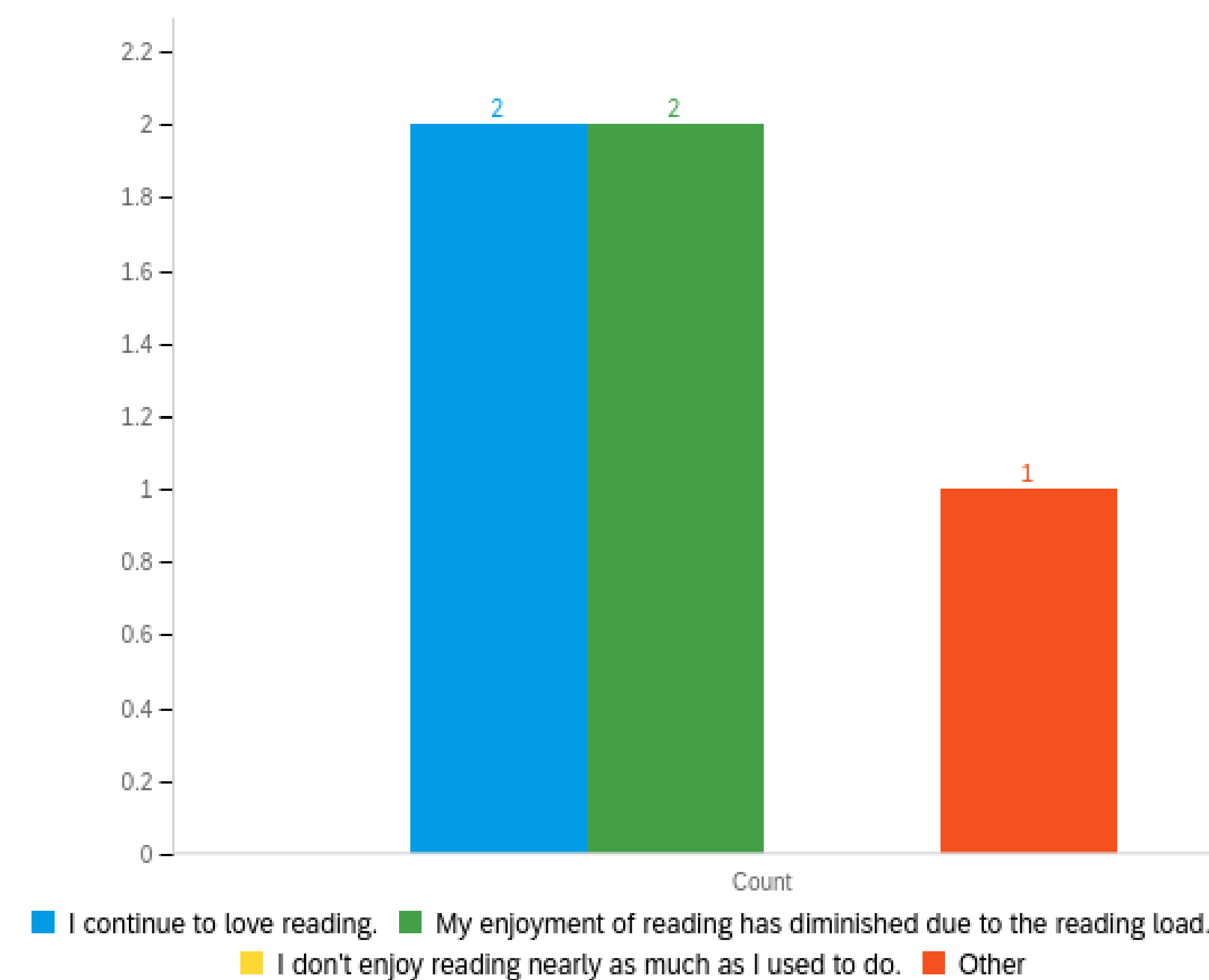
## Figure 2 – Student expectations of required reading



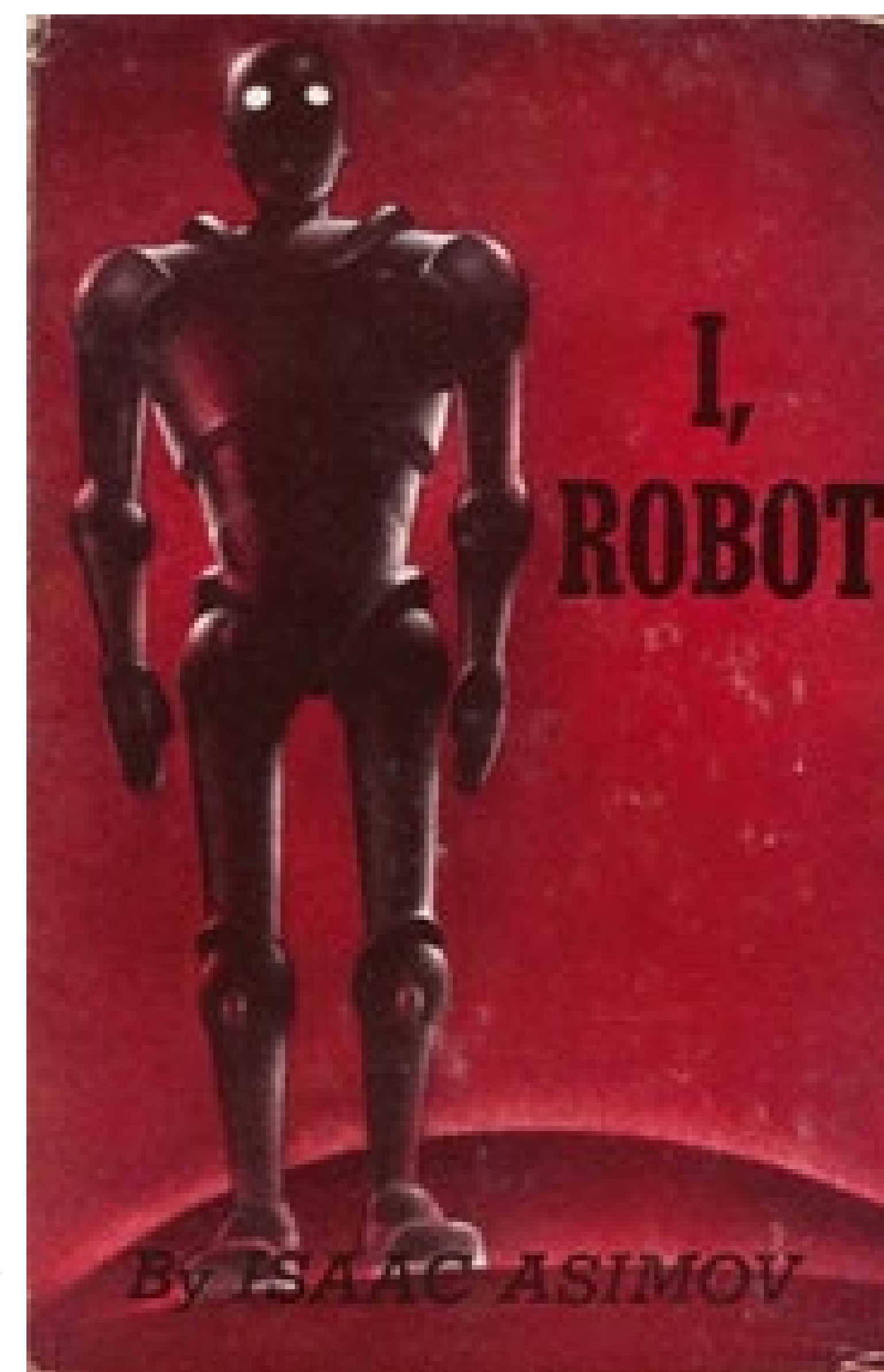
Expectations of the amount of reading required for major.

## Figure 1 – Student enjoyment levels of reading

How would you describe your enjoyment level of reading as a college student?



Enjoyment level of reading as a college student at USU.



Asimov, Isaac. (1950). *I, Robot*.

This study is in compliance with USU’s Policy 584: Protection of Human Participants in Research.

## Conclusions

Pre-law students and lawyers enter the field knowing that they will read a lot.

- Student and lawyer participants wish they had more time to read for pleasure.
- The reading load for participants is intense, yet they still enjoy reading.
- “I wouldn’t have become a lawyer if I didn’t like reading.”
- Lawyer participants enjoy reading science fiction. None mentioned John Grisham.