

Evaluation KJM5310/9310 - 2022

In 2022, the course was held in the middle of the semester (17/10-3/11) to avoid overlap with other intensive courses, which was stressful for the course responsible due to other responsibilities that emerged with short notice. For the students, the timing overall worked well, although their wish was to have the exam closer to the end of the course (i.e., within 3 weeks).

We received both oral feedback at the end of the course, and written (anonymous) feedback to a questionnaire by BioCat. Overall, the course was much appreciated by both Master's and PhD students, and no major changes should be made. There was very good contact between teachers and students throughout the course. The students liked being teamed up with other students with complementary expertise, which we tried out for the second time. Exam format: Most students were in favor of an oral exam; a few would have preferred a written exam. Some groups staged mini-group try-out exams.

One change that we implemented this year for the first time was to spread the student seminars over two days. This was much appreciated. The drawback was that there was one day less in preparation time. Implementing both would require extension of the course by one day. This will have to be considered, and possibly decided together with the students. The individual feedback for each of the presentations (by individual mails) was highly appreciated by the students.

Two other concrete suggestions were to clarify even better at the outset of the course that lecture handouts from previous courses are available online (a message in Canvas was not read by all students). It was also pointed out that the numbering of questions in the second exercise needs to be corrected for a better match. Technically, there were problems with recording podcasts at the beginning of the course, since the server, on which the podcasts are saved, was full. It would be helpful if IT could monitor this automatically in the future to prevent this from happening.

A minisymposium with international speakers was held at the end of the course, just before the student presentations (financed by BioCAT). This worked very well and was appreciated by the students. The integration of this event in the course (and a joint lunch with the lecturers) was considered very valuable and motivating for the students.