12.01.24. Oslo

Course evaluation KJM 5310, Fall 2023

Course responsible: Nikolina Sekulić

Teachers: Nikolina Sekulić (main teacher), Bjørn Dalhus (OUH) (1 lecture); I also invited researchers from Oslo region that study structure/function of macromolecules to present their research to students in the last lecture (15 min presentation each). This year I got Ute Krengel (KI), Hans-Petter Hersleth (IBV) and Dirk Linke (IBV) to participate.

Help with practicals: Gabriele Cordara

Changes:

The course was running as usual in an in-person format. Lectures in the seminar room at KI (Berzelius) and practicals in the computer room a IBV (Hox 3205). I have started to record lectures on students request.

On-the-go evaluations:

I spoke regularly with the students. They were generally satisfied with the course schedule and lectures. Although I did not insist on regular attendance, most students showed up to class regularly and participated actively. Some of them were not able to attend some lectures and asked me to record these lectures so that all students would have access to them. They liked that and asked for more lectures to be recorded regardless of attendance, so lectures 6-12 were recorded.

What feedback did the students give in the mid-term evaluations?

They were satisfied.

Were any changes made because of the feedback?

No.

Summary meeting:

Exam results:

Oral exam in week 50 and 51.
Sensor: Paul Hoff Backe (Paul.Hoff.Backe@rr-research.no)
Total 10 students:

- 1 BSc student (international)
- 8 Master students (6 Chemistry + 2 Pharmacy)
- 1 PhD student (Theoretical Chemistry)
- 3 males + 7 females
- 5 answered anonymous survey in Canvas

Final grades:

Master and BSc:
A – 1/9
B – 4/9
C – 2/9
D – 2/9
E/F – 0/9

PhD student – pass (equivalent to A or B)

Do you have comments on the exam results?

The exam results agree with results in previous years.

Do you plan to make any changes next time the topic goes?

I will change the first practical (building models) to a more contemporary exercises where students learn to navigate protein database (PDB). I discussed this with students, and everybody agreed that this type of exercise would be more useful. This was also pointed out in the survey that I run at the end of the course but before exam (attached)>

Nikolina Sekulić

KJM5310 – Biomolecular structure and function Fall 2023

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Course evaluation – questions (5 anonymous participants):

1. Overall, how would you rate the course?
   - Excellent **(3/5)**
   - Good **(2/5)**
   - Average
   - Poor
   - Very poor

2. Did the course content align with your expectations?
   - Yes, it exceeded my expectations **(1/5)**
   - Yes, it met my expectations **(3/5)**
   - Somewhat, it partially met my expectations **(1/5)**
   - No, it did not meet my expectations

3. How effective was the course instructor in facilitating your learning?
   - Extremely effective **(5/5)**
   - Somewhat effective
   - Not very effective
   - Ineffective
   - Not sure / Didn't pay attention to instructor's role

4. How well did the course materials (e.g. readings, lectures, assignments) support your learning?
   - Extremely well **(1/5)**
   - Somewhat well **(4/5)**
   - Not very well
   - Poorly
   - Not sure / Didn't pay attention to course materials

5. How would you rate the accessibility and clarity of the course communication (announcements, emails, etc.)?
   o Yes, it exceeded my expectations **(4/5)**
   o Yes, it met my expectations **(1/5)**
   o Somewhat, it partially met my expectations
   o No, it did not meet my expectations

6. How helpful were the colloquia for evaluating your understanding of the course material?
   o Extremely helpful **(1/5)**
   o Somewhat helpful **(4/5)**
   o Not very helpful
   o Not helpful at all
   o Not sure / Didn't pay attention to assessments

7. What did you like best about the course?

   Student 1:
   The course built upon previous knowledge I had in molecular biology and biochemistry which I thought was very helpful and not overwhelming. It was interesting to go deeper in some topics that were in other courses only mentioned. Seeing your passion for the subject and the different topics was also very motivational and inspirational!

   Student 3:
   That we were able to go through important points in class and then actually being able to perform certain things in the data-lab.

   Student 4:
   I don't think i would have enjoyed the cours with another instructor, i also liked the assignments much. BIG FAN of recording lectures, even ones i attended i went back to the recordings for some parts i found hard in class or i lost my focus during them

8. What changes would you suggest to improve the course?

   Student 1:
   It would be very helpful if there were lecture recordings published after the lectures. Although the lectures, power points and book were a great learning tool, it would be extremely helpful for me to be able to re watch topics that I have forgotten/misunderstood or that were difficult. Other than that, everything was great :)

   Student 3:
   Although challenging, the syllabus for structure determination is outdated. I recommend replacing Datalab 1. However, PDB101 was helpful and should be kept.

   Student 4:
   I felt like the reading material was always overlapping, so I have read the same information in different books when studying. It would be nice to have more specific reading material because I have to admit it was a lot to read weekly.

9. Would you recommend this course to other students?

- o Yes, without hesitation **(5/5)**
- o Yes, with some reservations
- o No, I would not recommend this course

10. Any additional comments or suggestions?

Student 4:
It would have been nice to have discussion groups; some students and I ended up doing that on our own, but really at the end of the semester when we got to know each other. However, it would have been nice if there were an open group where a room is booked, and we can just use it.
Of course, I know this is a master's subject, and we are responsible for our own learning, but being social while doing that is also nice.
I really want to say thank you for an amazing subject. I want you to know I ended up buying a book about epigenetics after one of your lectures and another about medicine design after one of the guest lectures. This course has been inspiring, so thank you so much! i wish you the best <3 <3

Instructor evaluation - comments:

Any areas where your instructor did particularly well? Any areas of improvement for your instructor?

Student 1:
As I mentioned in the other quiz, it was very motivational to see Nikolina be passionate about the different topics and I appreciated the words of encouragement and the transparency when it comes to what we should expect from the examination.

Student 3:
I thoroughly enjoyed this course; I think I can safely say I love biology now. You provided an amazing representation of many topics. I'm very fond of your describing a lot of phenomenals as "AMAZING"; it's so nice to have an instructor who is fond of their subject.
I also want to thank you for recording lectures when requested! made it much easier
However, I believe the time management of the class could be better. I tend to lose my focus after a good 45 minutes, and incorporating a 15-minute break during the class would be nice! Otherwise, amazing job, Nikolina! <3 <3

Student 5:
Very knowledgable and enthusiastic about the topics. Also nice and caring, as well as flexible. Good feedback on exercises and seminar presentation.