

DS2002 (Programming for Data Science, HT 2022, Halmstad, H3104)

Number of possible respondents: 29

Answers: 16

Response rate: 55,17 %

Study pace: 50 %

Examiner's course analysis

Based on the course evaluation result - which are the strengths of the course?

Having challenging labs, asking the students to work in groups, and the lab interviews where we could have a discussion with each student about his solution were successful and can be considered strengths of the course. Most students agree that the course is interesting and provides relevant knowledge, which is very important. The study environment was evaluated as being good. There are many statements in the evaluation to the effect of "very interesting tasks and topics."

We believe that most students have managed to learn much more than even they themselves are aware of. For example, there are also many complaints about the exam being too difficult and without enough time, which we find somewhat surprising, given that almost everybody passed.

Based on the course evaluation result - which are the weaknesses of the course?

Overall satisfaction level from the course was very low, and it seems to be highly related to the fact that the course was relatively challenging and demanding.

Many students obviously could not keep up with the pace of the course and felt that the concepts covered were too much and perhaps a little advanced compared to their previous knowledge. However, as the only programming course in this program, it is designed to introduce the key programming and data structuring concepts -- they will be crucial for the students in their future academic and professional lives.

The biggest weakness seems to be the lack of clarity in terms of expectations. Many students perceived a gap between how new concepts were introduced and how they were supposed to use them later. We need to be more clear in the future that -- since this is essentially your first full-fledged University course -- the expectation of self-study is much higher than in high school.

Comments about the collaboration with the course ambassadors

Collaboration with the course ambassadors worked very well. We had several meetings, and multiple suggestions were implemented in the course.

Conclusion and suggestions for course development or already made decisions

We will organise a discussion with Rafik about the evaluation report and the possible changes to both courses. Hopefully, some of the material from PDS can be moved earlier.

We will also re-arrange some lectures, possibly moving visualisation to the end, and devote even more time to programming fundamentals. We will also revisit how different lectures and labs connect to each other.

Other comments

Thank you for the valuable comments -- even if relatively few students (barely more than half) answered the questionnaire, there are some important suggestions. We appreciate your feedback regarding the different aspects.

We can understand that the majority of the students found the course challenging and had to devote much more time than expected. At the same time, we believe the lectures and labs are connected rather well. We have tried to be clear from the very beginning that the students should not expect to find the exact solution to a programming lab in the lecture slides. The labs were designed in a stepwise fashion of increasing difficulty; they are a crucial learning experience by itself.

It is also important to mention that most students who attend lectures and labs on a regular basis were eventually able to complete and submit the labs.

During the course, we had many discussions with students and based on their feedback, many changes have been made to the course, reorganising various contents and extending the lab submission deadlines.

Gender

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)
Female	2	12%
Male	12	75%
Do not want to define	2	12%
Total	16	100%

I am overall satisfied with the course.

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)	Index (%) I am overall satisfied with the course	28
0 = I definitely do not agree	4	25%		
1	5	31%		
2	5	31%		
3	1	6%		
4	1	6%		
5 = I definitely agree	0	0%		
No opinion	0	0%		
Total	16	100%		

How much time have you spent on the course in relation to the course's study pace?

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)
Less time than the course study pace	1	6%
Corresponding to the course study pace	4	25%
More time than the course study pace	11	69%
Total	16	100%

The design of the course (teaching methods, literature, pedagogy, etc.) has been well adjusted to help me achieve the learning outcomes in the syllabus.

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)
0 = I definitely do not agree	9	56%
1	5	31%
2	0	0%
3	1	6%
4	1	6%
5 = I definitely agree	0	0%
No opinion	0	0%
Total	16	100%

Index (%) The design of the course (teaching methods, literature, pedagogy, etc.) has been well adjusted to help me achieve the learning outcomes in the syllabus.

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During the course examinations, I have had the opportunity to show that I have achieved the learning outcomes in the syllabus.

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)
0 = I definitely do not agree	4	25%
1	3	19%
2	3	19%
3	2	12%
4	2	12%
5 = I definitely agree	2	12%
No opinion	0	0%
Total	16	100%

Index (%) During the course examinations, I have had the opportunity to show that I have achieved the learning outcomes in the syllabus.

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I have experienced the social study environment as good during the course.

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)	Index (%) I have experienced the social study environment as good during the course.	
0 = I definitely do not agree	4	25%	43	
1	0	0%		
2	3	19%		
3	5	31%		
4	1	6%		
5 = I definitely agree	1	6%		
No opinion	2	12%		
Total	16	100%		

Course satisfaction index

Satisfaction index % (summary of all statements)	31
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