

DS2002 (Programming for Data Science, HT 2023, Halmstad, H3104)

Number of possible respondents: 28

Answers: 13

Response rate: 46,43 %

Study pace: 50 %

Examiner's course analysis

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

Having challenging but fun 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. 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 more than 60% passed, and almost 25% got a grade of 5.

Balance in terms of effort and time spent was also good: close to half the students spent the expected amount of time on the course, and the number of those who spent more time was just one higher than those who spent less time.

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 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 professional lives.

The biggest weakness seems to be the lack of detailed examples. Many students perceived a gap between how new concepts were introduced and how they were supposed to use them later. One comment said, "in Rafiks' lectures there was a lot of example code similar to the assignment, but it instead required you to understand how to modify the code to fit the new assignment" – which is understandable since this course is progressing beyond the "Introduction" course. Now you must learn not only to modify the code but also to write it from scratch. That said, there is definitely room for us to be more clear in the future. Yet, even if 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 are still revising the material in the course, which is the main reason why lecture slides and lab assignments appear when they do. We have tried to make them available earlier, but it has proven difficult and did not work very well. Hopefully, the third time we give this course, next year, it will work better.

Other comments



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

We understand that the majority of the students found the course challenging. 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.

Gender

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)
Female	2	15%
Male	11	85%
Do not want to define	0	0%
Total	13	100%

I am overall satisfied with the course.

	Number of responses	Distribution (%)	Index (%) I am overall satisfied with the course	32
0 = I definitely do not agree	5	38%		
1	0	0%		
2	4	31%		
3	3	23%		
4	1	8%		
5 = I definitely agree	0	0%		
No opinion	0	0%		
Total	13	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	3	23%
Corresponding to the course study pace	6	46%
More time than the course study pace	4	31%
Total	13	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 (%)	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.	32
0 = I definitely do not agree	4	31%		
1	2	15%		
2	3	23%		
3	3	23%		
4	1	8%		
5 = I definitely agree	0	0%		
No opinion	0	0%		
Total	13	100%		

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 (%)	Index (%) During the course examinations, I have had the opportunity to show that I have achieved the learning outcomes in the syllabus.	
0 = I definitely do not agree	3	23%		
1	2	15%		
2	3	23%		
3	3	23%		
4	2	15%		
5 = I definitely agree	0	0%		
No opinion	0	0%		
Total	13	100%		38

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	31%		
1	0	0%		
2	2	15%		
3	5	38%		
4	1	8%		
5 = I definitely agree	1	8%		
No opinion	0	0%		
Total	13	100%		43

Course satisfaction index

Satisfaction index % (summary of all statements)	37
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What do you think about lecture contents? Were there any important topics missing/not covered? Were there any topics covered in the lectures which should not be there?

What do you think about the labs? Did the lab material and in-class support provide enough information for you to be able to perform the tasks?

Did you find various parts of the course (lectures & labs) to be well connected? Did they complement each other? What do you think about the exam questions? Were they well-covered during the teaching?

What part of the course was the most difficult? Is there anything we can do to make it easier? Are there any parts of the course that are too easy?

Do you feel that you had sufficient prerequisite knowledge to handle the material in the course? If not, what was missing?