



FACULTY
OF SCIENCE

COURSE ANALYSIS

Date 2021-03-18

Main Teacher: Jörgen Ripa

Number of students: 40

Number of answers: 26

Grades: 11 G, 26 VG

Department of Biology
Education- Bachelor's and Master's
level

Course Analysis BIOS13 Modelling Biological Systems, autumn 2020

Summary of the course evaluation

The students were overall very satisfied with the course (average 4.3 out of 5), in particular they had increased their subject knowledge (4.7) and were happy with the communication from the teaching staff (4.6). Some found the course (too) challenging, whereas others would have liked more in-depth material.

Overall, the students found the course level appropriate (4.2), but some thought their pre-knowledge in math or programming was insufficient. Regarding the exam, most replies were genuinely positive (“one of my favourite exams”), but a couple of students found it too difficult. All responding students had increased their ability to analyze and solve problems. The (live online) lectures seem to have been the most popular part of the course.

Regarding what should be changed, the responses were quite disparate and hard to summarize. Three students found the part on genetic algorithms and artificial neural networks unclear and asked for more in-depth explanations.

Comments from the teachers team

It is nice to see such overall positive responses. The problem with the different students' background, especially in math and programming, remains. The course is designed such that no knowledge above high school level is required, which gives some students the feeling of wasting their time at the beginning of the course, and other students feel stupid because they forgot

a lot since high school. This is a hard nut to crack, other than by splitting the course into two – one basic and one advanced. Not without other problems, though.

Evaluation and changes made since the previous course

The major change since previous year was to move everything online. This seems to have worked well, at least judging by the students' response. The bioinformatics part was given earlier in the course than before, which also seems to have worked well.

Suggested changes for the next course

It is probably a good idea to keep extending the catalogue of programming exercises, especially on the basic level, preferably with suggested solutions. Some students really struggle with the programming and need a lot of practise to get into the right way of thinking.

Other teachers involved in the course

Anders Brodin, Jacob Johansson, Per Lundberg, Mikael Pontarp