Slutrapport kursutvärdering, MIE090

Basfakta

Kursnamn	**Automation för komplexa system**
Kurskod	MIE090 Kursplan
Läsår	2007_VT
Kursen slutade i läsperiod	VT_LP2
Program	samtliga
Antal registrerade på kursen	12
Antal godkända/andel av registrerade	10 / 83 %

Arbetstid enligt läro- och timplaner

Föreläsningar	42 h
Övningar	0 h
Laborationer	50 h
Projekt	20 h
Självstudietid	70 h

Kommentarer

Kursrepresentantens kommentarer

Föreläsningarna var överlag bra, många av dom var gästföreläsningar vilket beskrev mycket av problematiken på ett konkret sätt. Projektarbetet med en sorteringsalgoritm visade sig vara mer problematisk än vid första anblicken och visade på lite av problemen man kan råka ut för. Inlämningsuppgiften var till stor del abstrakt och guidad vilket gjorde att den inte gav så mycket. Över lag har kursen varit intressant och givande.

Kurslärarens kommentarer

Comments by Dr Ulf Jeppsson, course examiner AKS 2007

The course Automation in Complex Systems (MIE090) has a fairly small number of students and therefore a simplified CEQ procedure is allowed. However, in this case the complete CEQ form was handed out to the students after the exam, and the results have then been calculated and will be commented upon below, question by question. In total 12 students were registered on the course and the number of CEQ forms returned was 9 (75% of all students) of which were 2 females and 7 males. Consequently, the feedback should fairly well represent the majority of the students. The course is a continuation of the course Automation (MIE080).

The answers have been transformed to numbers using a 5-grade scale where 1 = FULLY DISAGREE and 5 = FULLY AGREE. Standard deviations have not been calculated. To transfer the numbers into the tradtional CEQ values (-100 to +100) use the formula (x*50-150) where x represents the average I have calculated. Forget it, I will provide the traditional (-100 to + 100) in () after each question.

Q1) It was easy to know the standard of work expected: 3.11 (+5)
Comment: we try to be clear on this but the course covers so many areas. However, as this is an advanced course we expect the highest standards and hopefylly the students want to achieve the same level.

Q2) The course has developed my problem-solving skill: 4.0 (+50)
Comment: nice feedback for us. We try to focus on understanding probelms rather than just learn how to solve specific problems using some standard calculation tools.

Q3) The teaching has motivated me to do my best: 3.78 (+39)

Comment: we are happy to hear this. Obviously the small number of students on the course makes this easier.

Q4) The workload has been much too heavy: 2.33 (-34)
Comment: is this good or bad???

Q5) The course has sharpened my analytic skills: 3.33 (+17)
Comment: this is not good. It is something we need to improve since it is an important part of the overall course goals.

Q6) I usually had a clear idea of where I was going and what was expected of me in this course: 2.78 (-11)
Comment: goes back to Q1. We try to be clear but we have not made it all the way.

Q7) During the course I have received many valuable comments on my achievements: 3.0 (0)
Comment: we give individual feedback on simulation exercises, a number of group meeting during the project but apparently we should do more.

Q8) To do well in this course all you really needed was a good memory: 1.89 (-56)
Comment: happy to see this result.

Q9) The course helped me to develop my ability to work in a group: 3.89 (+45)
Comment: the fairly large project work is carried out in groups of four.

Q10) The course has made me feel more confident about tackling new and unfamiliar problems: 3.44 (+22)
Comment: here we could have done better. It is an important part of the course.

Q11) The course has improved my skills in written documentation: 2.56 (-22)
Comment: yes there are basically no advanced reports required in the course.

Q12) The teachers seemed more interested in testing what I had memorized than what I had understood: 1.78 (-61)
Comment: glad to see this.

Q13) It was often hard to discover what was expected of me in this course: 2.67 (-17)
Comment: same as Q1 and Q6

Q14) I was generally given enough time to understand the things I had to learn: 3.67 (+34)
Comment: seems reasonable

Q15) The teachers made a real effort to understand the problems and difficulties one might be having in this course: 3.67 (+34)
Comment: easier to to in a small course like this.

Q16) The assessment methods employed in this course required an in-depth understanding of the course content: 3.89 (+45)
Comment: deep understanding rather tha calculus is the goal.

Q17) The course seems important for my education: 4.0 (+50)
Comment: Very nice to see this.

Q18) The teaching staff normally gave me helpful feedback on the progress of my work: 3.0 (0)
Comment: See Q1, Q6 and Q13

Q19) Me lecturers were extremely good at explaining things: 3.56 (+28)
Comment: we do our best but do not always reach the top.

Q20) Too much of the assessment was just about facts: 2.67 (-17)
Comment: I would have hoped for a lower number here.

Q21) The teachers on the course worked hard to make the subject interesting: 4.22 (+61)
Comment: thank you.

Q22) There was a lot of pressure on me as a student in this course: 2.22 (-39)
Comment: Good or bad? Was the pressure the correct one to also enhance learning?

Q23) The course helped me to develop the ability to plan my work: 3.33 (+17)
Comment: we hope the student know by their 4th year how to plan the work. No focus in the course on this matter.

Q24) The sheer volume of the work in this course made it impossible to comprehend everything thoroughly: 2.67 (-17)
Comment: Probably an OK value.

Q25) The teachers made it clear right from the start what they expected from the students: 3.11 (+6)
Comment: we tried to use the new Bologna course plan and explain at the first lecture quite detailed about what was to be expected and what the goals were. We also came back to the overall course goals at several other lectures into the course. But we need to push this even harder in the future.

Q26) Overall, I am satisfied with the course: 4.11 (+56)
Comment: This is a very nice feedback for us. Together with Q17 it makes us confident that the course has a good value for the students and that the development work we have put into the course over the years is giving results.

Not too many answers were given to the open questions. However, they are summarized below.

Q27) What do you think was the best thing about this course: the project work was very good but should have been rewarded by a special grade on the course, the project and the simulation exercises were good - could be even more of those, interesting guest lecturers, more than one lecturer involved in the course.

Comment: the project is an important part of the course and we are glad that it is appreciated. As there are no traditional calculation exercises in the course and not very many calculus problems in the book it could be that the number of hand-in exercises need to be extended to provide more training material for the students. We have alwyas used guest lectures to try and capture the industrial relevance of the course and provide the students with true industrial problems and solutions. This will continue.

Q28) What do you think is most in need of improvement: study questions to better prepare for the exam, more hand-in exercises.

Comment: see above. More material should be made available for the students so they can practice more.

General comment: some years there has been complaints about the book and that the course is in English. We are glad that this is not the case this year. No big changes are planned for next year. Some focus may change as a result of that one teacher has now left the department. It is a problem to find a clear line through the course as it covers a huge area and we can only go into some of theses area, and have to skip others. For the students this sometimes makes it difficult to grasp of what the main purpose of the course is and what they should focus on. However, we hope that a couple of months after the course many of the things we have discussed is still maturing in the students' heads and that the problem-solving approaches and the principles of how to approach and attack problems in automation (rather than doing detailed calculations on some small specific parts which the students tend to forget anyway) will make the course useful for the students in their future line of work. Hopefully, their future employers will also find their knowledge and way-of-thinking valuable.

Studenterna fick fylla i enkäter

CEQ forms were filled in at the exam. The complete form was used although the course was small enough to allow for a simplified procedure.