

HT2019 – Course analysis CB1000, 3 ECTS

General information about the course

The course is designed to ensure fulfillment of program goals related to :

1. Skills and abilities to plan and execute complex tasks with adequate methods within given time frames.
2. Ability to make judgments and adopt a standpoint that critically evaluate societal and ethical aspects on questions and problems within biotechnology.

Two main topics taught within the course are sustainability and project management. The course comprises 4 workshops on sustainability, 4 interactive lectures on project management and a project work performed in groups. The examination of students is performed through handed in exercise comprising project report and seminars.

Number of students

16 students were enrolled (1 student interrupted the studies).

Teachers involved

The course is run for the first time and is taught by Snow Flake Company and CBH school teachers Anja Persson and Cristina Al-Khalili Szigyarto.

Examination

First examination 8 students passed the course (50%) and 8 received complementing assignments.

Course evaluation

The KTH social LEQ version 12 was used a questionnaire for the course evaluation.

What worked well

Due to health issues 50% of the course activities were rescheduled. However, the overall experience of the students was positive. The students experienced that the course was adapted to their background knowledge and that they were treated fair. In addition, they felt they were able to learn from the examples provided and that they could relate to them (80% of the students). The course offered activities that enabled students to learn in different ways.

Majority of the students experienced that they were working with interesting issues and in a stimulating way (66,7% and 73% students respectively). Among the comments it is clear that some of the students experienced the course as basic and general but the majority experienced the course as valuable. 84% of the students felt that they received feedback without being graded.

What needs to be improved

The learning outcomes and their association with the course activities were not clear for all students (3 students have a negative- neutral answers). 30% of the students did not experience the course activities as efficient learning activities. The course started in the beginning of November and finished in January. The duration was sub-optimal. Majority of the comments received concerned the timing of the course and asked for adjustments that allow students to finish the course before the winter holidays. Analyzing the answers received from the students it is clear that there is a discrepancy between the answers received from female and the ones received from male students. The answers from the females are more positive whereas the answers from male course participants more negative. This aspect needs to be assessed further.

Planned improvements for next course round

1. Adaptation of the course to students background knowledge.
Course participants have different bachelor degree from universities around the world and different perspectives on sustainability, ethics and project management. The heterogeneity of the class makes it difficult to find the most appropriate level of complexity to start the course with. The content on sustainability will be revised to enable all students to reach faster the same level and allow in-depth learning. This will allow a more challenging approach towards the topic.
2. Course information improvements.
The introduction to the course will be revised to include a more detailed description of the course structure, the preparations required before and after the workshops, the project work and the assignment. In addition information about the project, its aims, timelines and submission will be made available at the course start in CANVAS instead as during the course.
3. Course timing and schedule.
The entire course will be run with a tighter scheduled and will be finished before the winter holidays. Discussions will be conducted with other course coordinators to avoid schedule overlaps.