



Kursanalys - KTH¹

Formulär för kursansvarig.

Kursanalysen utförs under kursens gång.

Nomenklatur: F - föreläsning, Ö - övning, R - räknestuga, L - laboration, S - seminarium)

KURSDATA Obligatorisk del ²

Kursens namn	Kursnummer
Databasteknik	DD1334
Kurspoäng och poäng fördelat på exam-former	När kursen genomfördes
6.0hp • TEN1 3,0 hp • Lab 3.0 hp	3rd quarter 2013-14
Kursansvarig och övriga lärare	Undervisningstimmar, fördelat på F, Ö, R, L, S
John Folkesson Göran Alterland, Micheal Eriksson, Matts Höglund	F 22 h, Ö 20 hr L 14 hr

Antal registrerade studenter	50 Active
Prestationsgrad efter 1:a examenstillfället, i %	88%
Examinationsgrad efter 1:a examenstillfället, i %	82% Passed Course

50 is my estimate of how many students actually did the homeworks and labs and were active this year as opposed to just re-taking the exam or just signing up and not doing anything.

MÅL

Ange övergripande målen för kursen

To understand database functions, to understand and formulate database queries, to understand different forms of databases such as relational and semistructured, to understand transactions, to understand some security issues, understand the mathematical background of relational databases.

Ange hur kursen är utformad för att uppfylla målen

¹ Instruktioner till kursanalysformulär sist i dokumentet

² Rektors beslut: <http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/12/1.html>

11 lectures where we go through all the material closely following the book.
10 exercise session where the students can present solutions to problems getting feedback, correct solutions and tenta points.
7 Lab sessions where the student work on the three required labs which cover SQL,

Eventuellt deltagande i länkmöte före kursstart

Synpunkter från detta

Met the 'course board once in the beginning. We discussed the previous year's experience and what we have done to improve things this year.

Kursens pedagogiska utveckling I

Beskriv de förändringar som gjorts sedan förra kursomgången. (Berätta även för studenterna vid kursstart)

The recitation sessions were changed from 2 hours of student redovisning at the board to one hour of teaching assistant giving preparation for the next assignment and one hour of redovisning by the students.

The bonus system was modified to be one point for three problems each session rather than allowing 1,2, or 3 problems with varying bonus.

A new lecture was added at the end with more general overview of the latest developments in databases. This material was not examined.

Kontakt med studenterna under kursens gång

Studenter i årets kurs-nämnd:	Namn	E-post <small>(lämnas blank vid webbpublicering)</small>
	Fredrik Hilding	tony.fat@gmail.com

Resultat av formativ mittkursenkät

Resultat av kursmöten

Kontakt med övriga lärare under kursens gång

Kommentarer

We mostly exchanged emails. We all knew what was expected and problems all were resolved as they came up. The team work well.

Kursenkät; teknologernas synpunkter Obligatorisk del³

Att komma ihåg:

- 1) Uppmana, mha kursnämnden, till ifyllande av kursenkät i anslutning till / just efter slutexaminationen
- 2) Delge kursnämnden enkäten
- 3) Publicera enkäten under en kortare tid

Period, då enkäten var aktiv Until 04-13-2014

Frågor, som adderades till standardfrågorna Attached

Svarsfrekvens 24 of 50

Förändringar sedan förra genomförandet

Helhetsintryck

Relevanta webb-länkar

³ Rektors beslut: <http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/12/1.html>

Kursansvarigs tolkning av enkät

Positiva synpunkter	Clear course structure/ organized, TA's, Labs, Homework assignments.
Negativa synpunkter	More lab session needed, XML needed context explained.
Var kursen relevant i förhållande till kursmålen?	Yes
Syn på förkunskaperna	The makeup of the class was different with no media students. There seemed to be no panic during labs.
Syn på undervisningsformen	Seemed that liked the structure.
Syn på kurslitt/kursmaterial	Book seems to help. I think they should read more of it.
Syn på examinationen	Some found it too hard but I can't see any uproar over it and most said it was fair.
Speciellt intressanta kommentarer	'Everything was clear and well explained' 'The exercises and especially the assistant Göran was great!' 'Good lectures and very instructive exercises'

Synpunkter från övriga lärare efter avslutad kurs

Vad fungerade bra	Overall 'its been a good course this year'
Vad fungerade mindre bra	The ER as part of lab2 did not work well The excises might not always be well chosen. DTD perhaps drop this?

Resultat av kursnämndsmöte efter examination

Studenternas sammanfattn.	see attached
Förslag till förändringar	see attached
Länk till kursnämndsprot.	see attached

Kursansvarigs sammanfattande berättelse

Helhetsintryck	<p>The course seems to go better this year. I think that is mainly due to my focus on problems that I have seen before. I think giving bonus points for on-time labs helped hugely this year. That and the big incentive to do the homework helped them learn better.</p> <p>The students seemed very pleased with everything overall. My feeling is that the course is organised for 100 students and only had 50 due to Media students moving this to year 3. That meant we were very well structured and clear. Göran and Micheal were huge assets for the course.</p>
Positiva synpunkter	The overwhelming majority learned and achieved all my goals:)
Negativa synpunkter	Some did not seem to like the sudden shift from SQL to XML and felt lost at that point. I need to explain the need for semi structured data better.

Syn på förkunskaperna	I do not have high expectations here as the course is very mixed in regard to programming experience.
Syn på undervisningsformen	Its working
Syn på kurslitt/kursmaterial	A good and up to date book. There are many equivalent but this is aligned well with the lectures so it all works.
Syn på examinationen	I think the LAB Grade ended up having too much effect on the final grade. I would like to reduce that next year. Something more towards Exam grade minus Lab below A.

Kursens pedagogiska utveckling II Obligatorisk del ⁴

Hur förändringarna till denna kursomgång fungerade

The adjustments I made seemed to help and things went very smoothly this year. There was no confusion over grading as I tried hard to be very clear.

The bonus system did encourage them to work steady and my moving lectures earlier helped as well. The work load seem manageable for most students with no complaints and good demonstration of learning on exam.

The change to give more instruction during the recitations seemed to be a big success. I was lucky that with the smaller group (50 vs 100) I only needed 2 TA's which meant I could take the best. They were great.

I personally enjoyed the last lecture as it allowed me to bring a bit of life to the topic. I think it would be good if that had come earlier as motivation but the knowledge gained during the course helped to understand the SOTA as well. As it was not examined, student interest was not great.

Förändringar som bör göras inför nästa kursomgång

I think that the LAB/bonus system did a great job as a carrot but that it distorted the final grades a bit. It was rather difficult to receive grades E and D so that the grading became ABCF.

I think a change to how the labs are weighted into the final grade could help here.

I believe that the ER and functional dependencies should be covered as part of a small group project. I can not add much to the work load but this was in Lab 2 and it basically does not work there. I envision a small database design problem to be done in groups perhaps in the last recitation.

Övrigt

Kommentarer

⁴ Rektors beslut: <http://www.kth.se/info/kth-handboken/II/12/1.html>

I did indeed ask many times for more course board volunteers and more course survey participation but the response was not great. I am not sure what more I can do than ask (over and over).

Instruktioner till kursanalysformulär

- 1) Kursanalysformuläret fylls i interaktivt; fälten expanderar automatiskt.
- 2) Fyll i fälten inom en månad efter kursens slut. (Viktigt krav från KTH!)
Skicka sedan till studierektor (som vidarebefordrar till prefekt och programansvarig).
- 3) Försök att ge så kompletta uppgifter som möjligt.
Tänk på att kursanalysen är ett hjälpmedel inte bara för teknologerna, utan även för Dig som lärare.
- 4) Med "prestationsgrad" avses antalet presterade poäng hittills på kursen (inlämningsuppgifter, projektuppgifter, laborationer etc.) dividerat med antalet möjliga poäng för de registrerade studenterna. Med "examinationsgrad" avses antalet studenter av de registrerade, som klarat samtliga kurskrav.
Kurssekreteraren hjälper gärna till här.
- 5) Kontakten med studenterna:
 - Etablera kursnämnd under kursens första vecka (minst två studerande, gärna genusbalanserad).
 - Lämplig bonus till kursnämndsdeltagarna är fri kurslitteratur.
 - Om kursnämnd ej kan etableras, skall sektionens studienämndsordförande (SNO) kontaktas genast
(se www.ths.kth.se/utbildning/utbildningsradet.html för kontaktuppgifter).
 - Kursnämnden skall sammanträda under kursens gång, exempelvis i halvtid. Har mittkursutvärdering genomförts, skall den diskuteras då.
 - Kursnämnden skall även ha ett möte efter det att studenterna har besvarat kursutvärderingen och kursnämndens studenter fått tillgång till resultaten. Undantaget är kurser i period fyra, där mötet bör ske direkt efter examinationen är avslutad för att analysen skall vara klar innan sommaren.
 - Under det avslutande kursnämndsmötet bör studenterna föra protokoll. Detta protokoll skall kursansvarig få senast en vecka efter mötet.
 - Det är kursansvarigs ansvar att kalla till kursnämndsmöten.

Slutligen, tänk på:

- det är viktigt att kursanalysen tydligt *visar utvecklingen av kursens kvalitet* från ett läsår till nästa.
- möjligheten att lägga ut kursanalysen på kurshemsidan.
- spara kursanalysen till förberedelsearbetet inför nästa kursomgång.

April 15, 2014

Protocol from DD1334 Databasteknik course board meeting ,

Present:

John Folkesson

Fredrik Hilding

In general, the students were pleased with the course and its different parts. In particular, the students' were very happy with the exercises both with regards to content and the teachers. The one hour presentation, one hour preparation for next exercise is appreciated by most students.

The labs were educational and helped the students get a better understanding of the subject. However, the grading scheme for the labs might have to be looked at to next year, since it was almost too easy to get an A on the labs as it stands today. The grade-matrix was clear and a good explanation of what is expected of the students.

John will review the lecture powerpoints and see if slides could be trimmed to make them feel less overwhelming or rushed.

The student representant also expressed his gratitude toward the teaching staff for being accommodating toward the foreign exchange students, despite the language issues. Will probably be less of an issue next year, since there will be more exercise groups and one can be only in English.

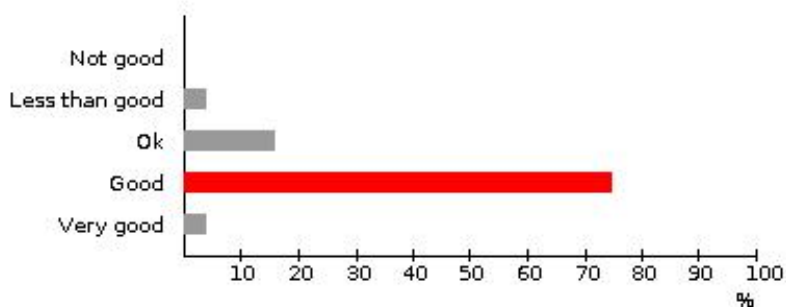
Problems relating to the book and its versions will always exist due to the authors, but since the questions are scanned and put on Bilda at least some of the confusion might be relieved. It'd be ideal to group them by exercise number in folders for next year.

Some students were not pleased with the XML part, which felt rushed and didn't connect to the rest of the course which is mainly in SQL. For next year, more emphasis will be put on the transition and better motivate/explain why both XML and SQL are relevant and important to learn.

Survey results

Survey: Course Evaluation
Status: open
Date: 2014-04-15 10:18:23
Group: Participants (DD1334 Databasteknik VT14)
Answered by: 24(76) (31%)

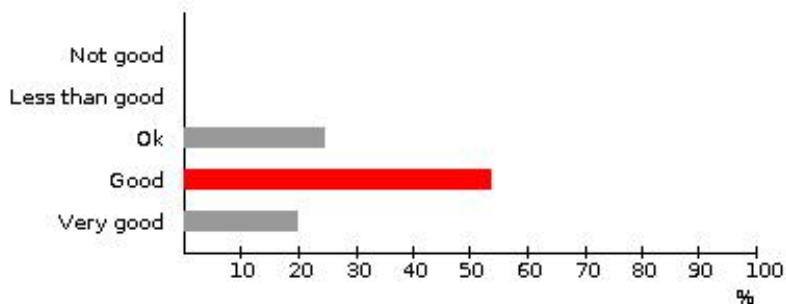
What is your overall impression of the course?



answer choice	Not good	Less than good	Ok	Good	Very good
distribution	0%	4,2%	16,7%	75%	4,2%
number	(0)	(1)	(4)	(18)	(1)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
 Maximum number of choices: 1

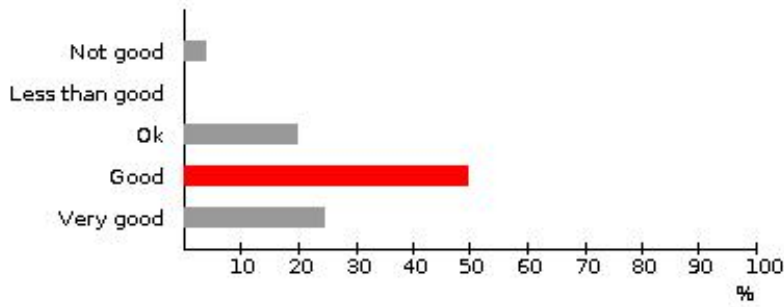
Were the content and requirements of the course given?



answer choice	Not good	Less than good	Ok	Good	Very good
distribution	0%	0%	25%	54,2%	20,8%
number	(0)	(0)	(6)	(13)	(5)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
 Maximum number of choices: 1

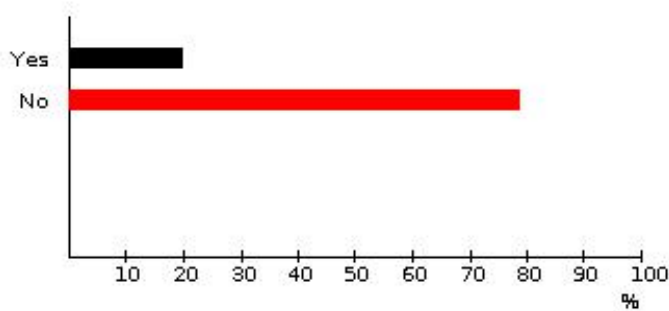
How were the grading rules explained?



answer choice	Not good	Less than good	Ok	Good	Very good
distribution	4,2%	0%	20,8%	50%	25%
number	(1)	(0)	(5)	(12)	(6)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

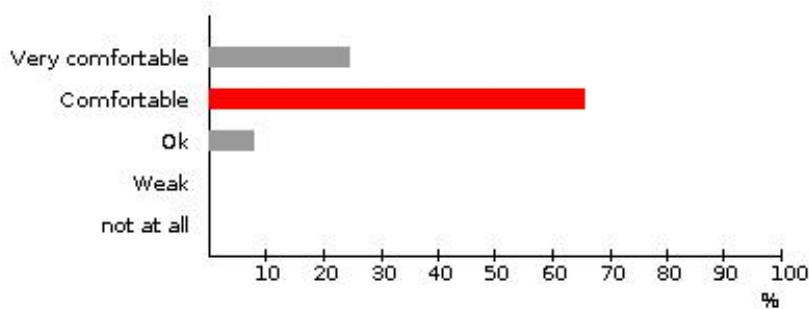
Did your lack prior programming skills make doing the labs overly difficult?



answer choice	Yes	No
distribution	20,8%	79,2%
number	(5)	(19)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

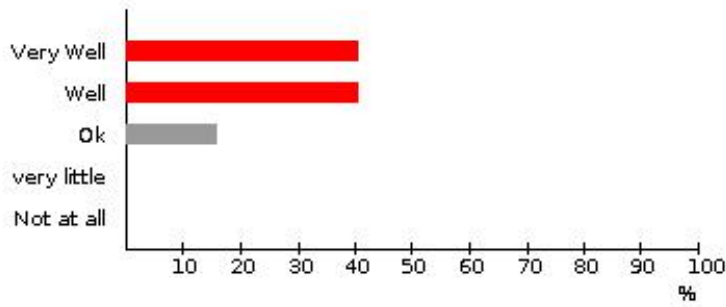
Would you say that you are now comfortable with the notion of a Relational database?



answer choice	Very comfortable	Comfortable	Ok	Weak	not at all
distribution	25%	66,7%	8,3%	0%	0%
number	(6)	(16)	(2)	(0)	(0)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

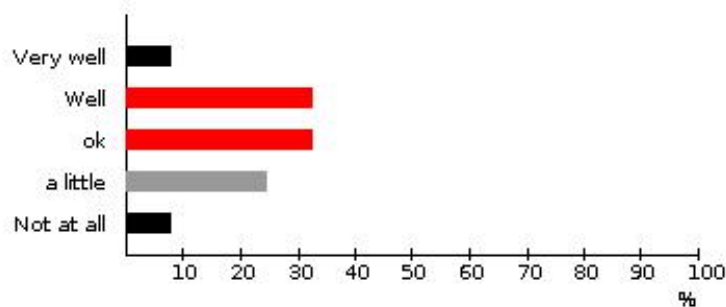
Would you say that you understand SQL queries?



answer choice	Very Well	Well	Ok	very little	Not at all
distribution	41,7%	41,7%	16,7%	0%	0%
number	(10)	(10)	(4)	(0)	(0)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

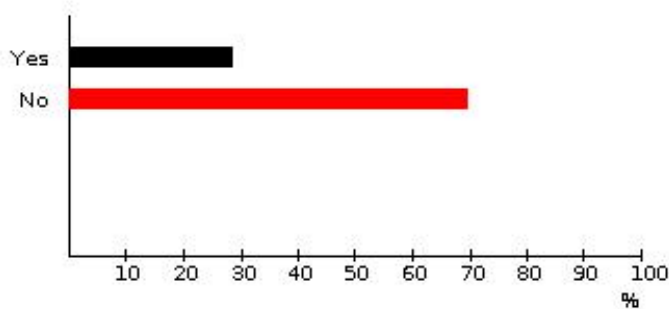
Would you say that you understand the Boyce-Codd Normal Form, BCNF?



answer choice	Very well	Well	ok	a little	Not at all
distribution	8,3%	33,3%	33,3%	25%	8,3%
number	(2)	(8)	(8)	(6)	(2)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 5

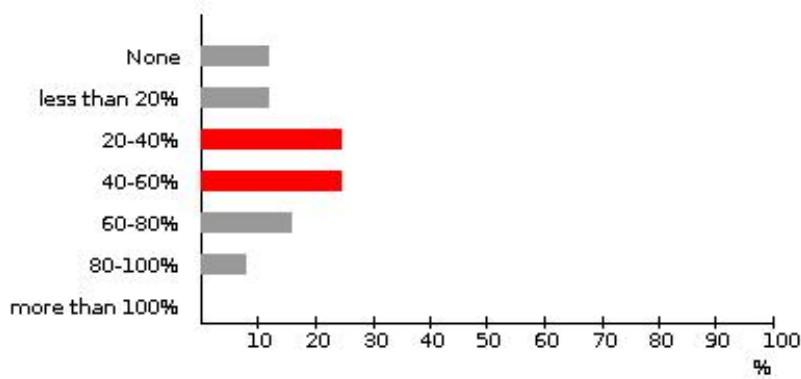
Did you buy the course book?



number	distribution	answer choice
7	29,2%	Yes
17	70,8%	No

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

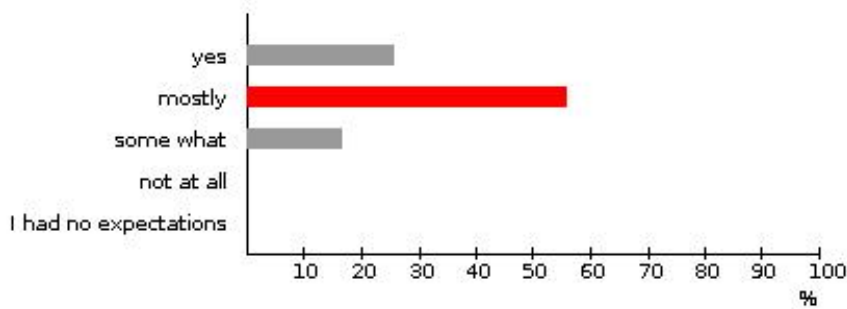
How much of the assigned reading did you read?



answer choice	None	less than 20%	20-40%	40-60%	60-80%	80-100%	more than 100%
distribution	12,5%	12,5%	25%	25%	16,7%	8,3%	0%
number	(3)	(3)	(6)	(6)	(4)	(2)	(0)

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

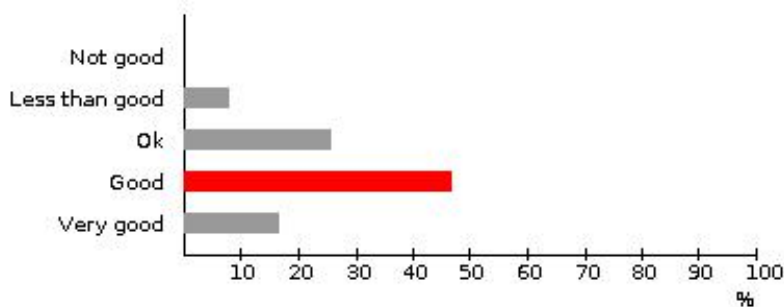
Did the exam meet your expectations on what you would be asked?



answer choice	yes	mostly	some what	not at all	I had no expectations
distribution	26,1%	56,5%	17,4%	0%	0%
number	(6)	(13)	(4)	(0)	(0)

23 has answered of 76 (30%)
Maximum number of choices: 5

What was your overall impression of the labs?

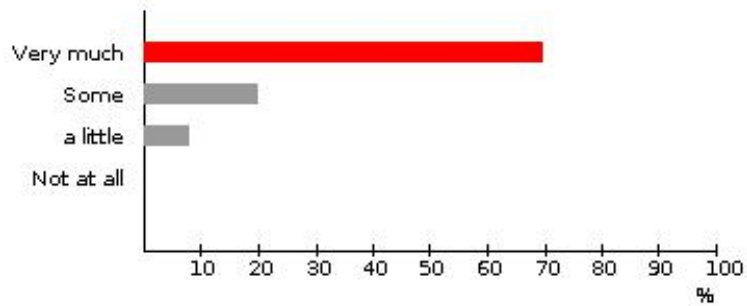


answer choice	Not good	Less than good	Ok	Good	Very good
distribution	0%	8,7%	26,1%	47,8%	17,4%
number	(0)	(2)	(6)	(11)	(4)

23 has answered of 76 (30%)

Maximum number of choices: 1

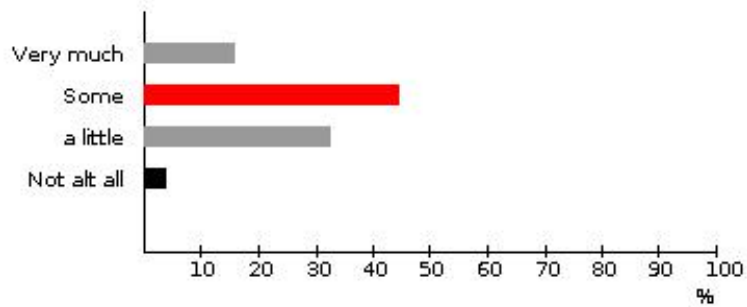
Did lab 1 (SQL) help you learn the course material?



number	distribution	answer choice
17	70,8%	Very much
5	20,8%	Some
2	8,3%	a little
0	0%	Not at all

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

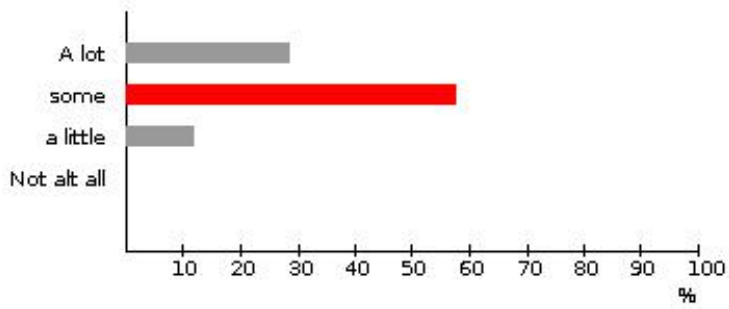
Did lab 2 (application programming) help you learn the course material?



number	distribution	answer choice
4	16,7%	Very much
11	45,8%	Some
8	33,3%	a little
1	4,2%	Not alt all

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
Maximum number of choices: 1

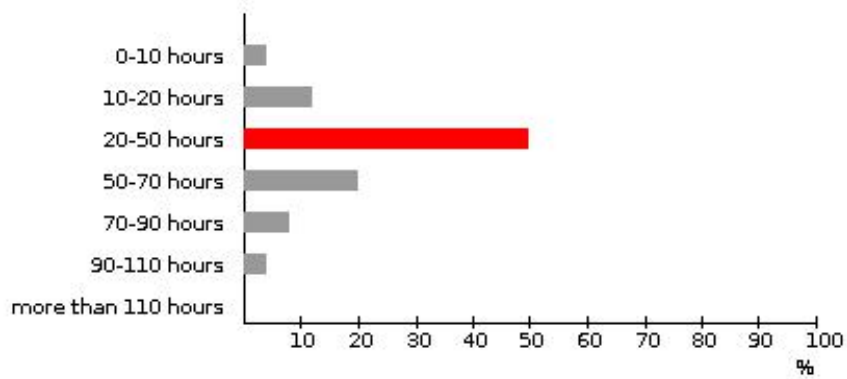
Did you learn from lab 3 (XML)?



number	distribution	answer choice
7	29,2%	A lot
14	58,3%	some
3	12,5%	a little
0	0%	Not alt all

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
 Maximum number of choices: 1

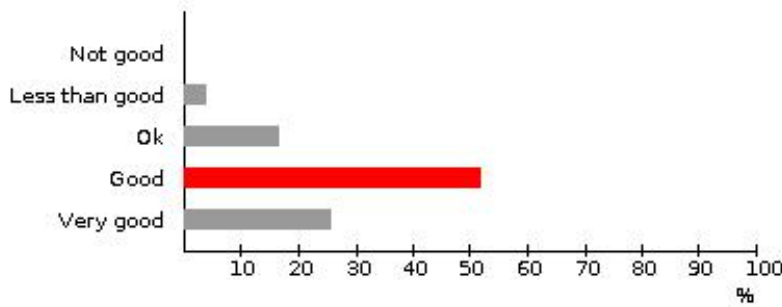
How much time did you spend in total on the three labs?



number	distribution	answer choice
1	4,2%	0-10 hours
3	12,5%	10-20 hours
12	50%	20-50 hours
5	20,8%	50-70 hours
2	8,3%	70-90 hours
1	4,2%	90-110 hours
0	0%	more than 110 hours

24 has answered of 76 (31%)
 Maximum number of choices: 1

How well did the exam reflect the course content?



number	distribution	answer choice
0	0%	Not good
1	4,3%	Less than good
4	17,4%	Ok
12	52,2%	Good
6	26,1%	Very good

23 has answered of 76 (30%)
 Maximum number of choices: 1

What were the good things in the course?

16 has answered of 76 (21%)

Comment:

- Hands on focus on SQL and database setup (create table, constraints etc).
- Good lectures with relevant slides.
- The practice session are quite nice.
- That it gave me an overall understanding for how databases work. I also liked the exercises, they were useful for the labs. And the book was amazing!
- Good lectures and very instructive exercises
- Power points up until XML but not including.
- Göran as ÖA.
- Clearly stated structure of course.
- Good email update.
- a lot
- Everything was clear and well-explained
- Göran was fantastic and worked hard on making sure that everyone understood what we had done, what we would do for next time and what was expected for the labs/the exam. He gets full marks from me.
- The labs were great
- The content is very interesting, and the book is good.
- The exercises sessions are very useful, and I like the system of bonus point when you need to present and explain your work.
- The slides are quite nice
- Nice to have homework a couple of times to get bouns points. Helped me keep up with the course.
- I don't come from a background at data but from electrical engineering. The start was hard due to the fact that I have very little prior knowledge of programming but SQL is very basic and intuitive and the labs was extremely helpful when trying to understand what it all does.
- It was all very organised in bold which is very appreciated and all material was easy to find.
- The labs were were helpful.
- The exercises and especially the assistant Göran was great!

What would you change in the course?

14 has answered of 76 (18%)

Comment:

- Lecture slides were quite messy and hard to follow, they looked old and out-dated.
- I believe that passing the exam is far to difficult. For starters it seems that it is not enough to be familiar with the basics of the course (theoretically being familiar with the basics would mean that you would pass the exam with an E or D grade, but as it is currently knowing the basics is not enough). Secondly the amount of time you have to assign to study for the exam is way more than should be due for a 3.0 credit exam. I studied as much as I usually do for 7,5 credit exams in the math courses and this exam felt way worse still.

That is the general part I would change. I'm not saying that the exam should be made super-easy, but getting a lower grade such as E or D should probably be easier than it is now, with higher steps to climb for the higher grades.

It would also be nice if an answer-sheet was made for the exercise questions that is recommended. Right now it is hard to study by yourself because you simply cannot know if you are right or wrong.

Other than that I liked the course.

-I would add some more lab-sessions!

-Give more time to do the third lab than the second lab

-Explaining where and why XML is used.

Using, as course book, the book that is available for purchase and not an old version that is not available. The turning of pages became absurd and the book became left unread to large extent.

-skip the exam, add more labs or a project instead of the exam

-Nothing

-The lectures felt a bit forced. There's too many slides and the teacher did seem unprepared at times, meaning that he seemed surprised at some slides and their content. The XML and DTD parts of the course was also a bit crammed in. I understand that it's useful for Media students, but after having 2/3rds(ish) of the course in SQL and getting rather good at it, to then suddenly switch to a whole different(there weren't many connections I felt, maybe they needed to be explained better?) language and setup was confusing and didn't give much knowledge or insight.

-The lectures are quite hard to follow.

-I think the exam had too much syntax questions in it. I don't know have you graded it yet but often I have to alter some minor things in my query before it works. Don't know if that reflect my basic understanding of databases or my basic programming skills.

-The information before the labs. For the second lab we had some issues with one thing. The lab assistant said that we did a transaction so our solution was redundant. But when we removed our solution, we still could make changes to the database mid-transaction so to speak. This resulted in a potential negative stock, which was to be avoided.

I missed some lectures so I might have missed that, but would be nice to see some info on this on the course page.

-The lectures. It all went toooo fast! You were often stressed because of the 100 slides and there was no time to write anything important down. The content was good though, maybe you can shorten them and only take what is important for the labs and Övningar.

-Nothing.

-I feel that some of the course content is dated.

I feel that the exam tried to form the questions so that its easier to fail the students rather than to pass them, I think if you understand how for example SQL querying works you should not miss points due to syntax errors.

Also I feel that the competence of some of the assistants and also the professor didn't come to show during the labs. A lot of the time not even John seemed to know what was wrong with the code(He saying it looks like it should work), still the students were left to solve the problem without any mentoring.