Course analysis DT2151, HT 2021

Course code: DT2151	Name: Project in Conversational Systems	
Year: 2021	Period: 2	
Credits: 7,5	Students: 15	Course survey response frequency: 6/15
Examination rate: 100%	Teaching activities: Lectures, Labs, Individual assignment, Project (in groups)	
Examination: Labs 1,5p, Individual assignment 1,5p, Project 4,5p		
Teachers: Gabriel Skantze		
Examinator: Gabriel Skantze		
Course responsible: Gabriel Skantze		

Changes from last year

- The individual assignment was updated.
- Lectures were restructured.

Summary of comments from course evaluation

- All students find the course interesting.
- The work load could probably be higher
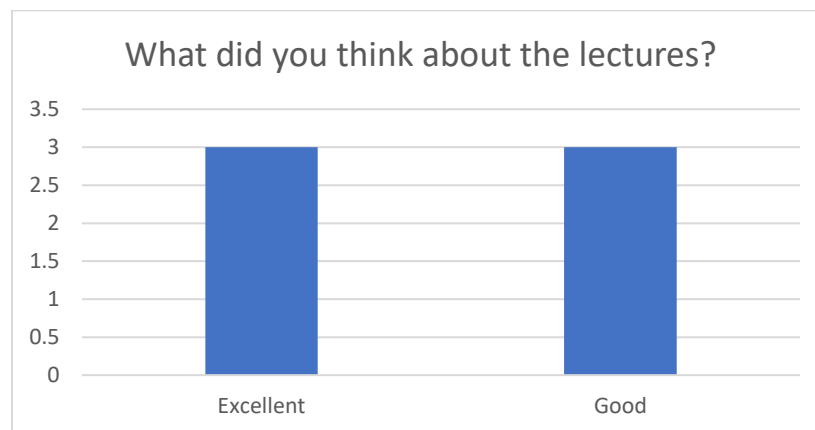
Suggestions for improvements

- Possibly adding another lab on language model-based chatbots
- Possibly adding more tasks in the individual assignment
- Possibly adding another lecture

Course survey

General

Is the course interesting?

	Yes	Yes, very
Count	1	5

Is the course easy or hard?

	Easy	Mean	Difficult
Count	3	2	1

Lectures

What did you think about the lectures?
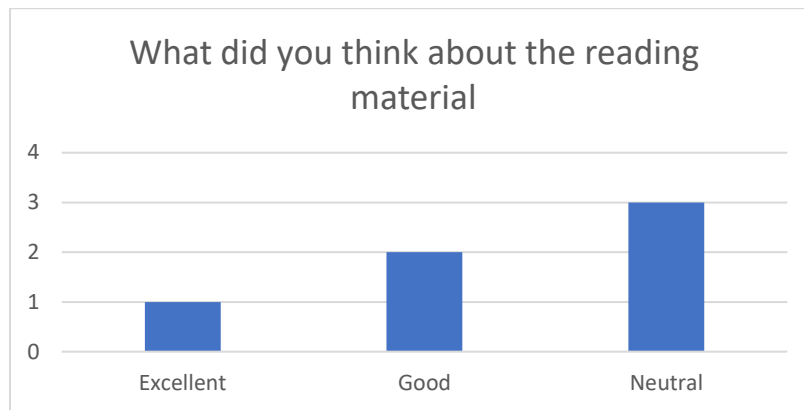
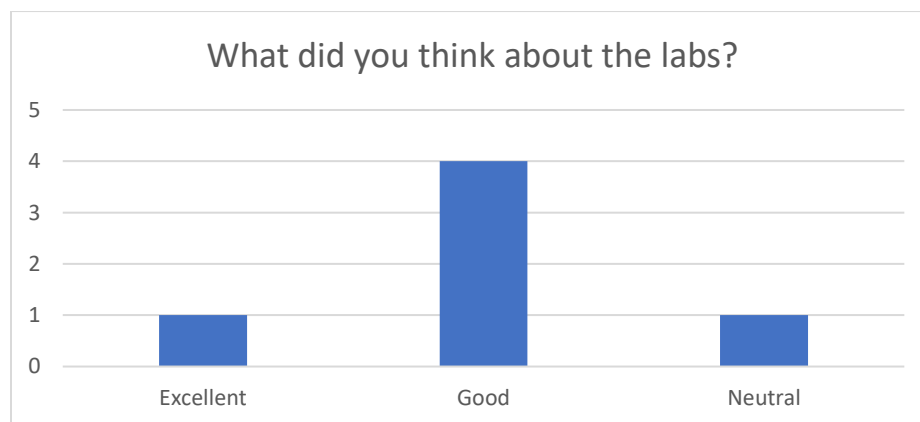|	Excellent	Good
Count	3	3

- For beginners, perhaps more lectures about different research domains of NLP
- I would appreciate more theoretical knowledge from the technical perspective. It felt a bit too little to have only 3 lectures. This is from PhD perspective, but I understand that the focus is on the project, specifically for the master's level course.

Reading material

What did you think about the reading material

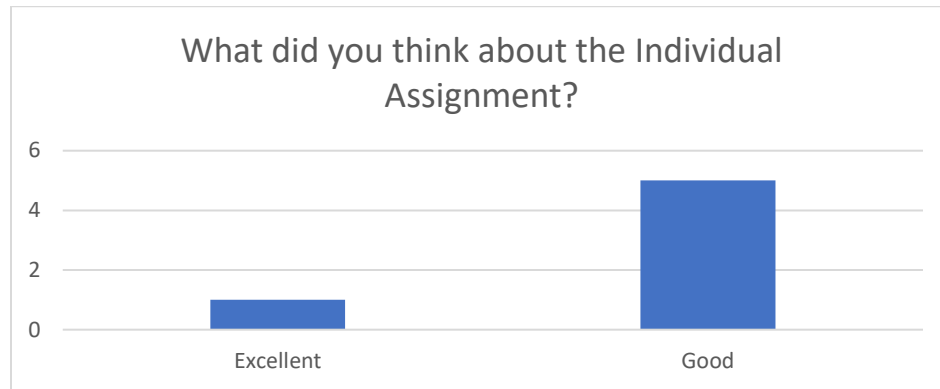|	
4	
3	
2	
1	
0	
Excellent	Good	Neutral

Excellent: 1, Good: 2, Neutral: 3

- The reading material was good in general, but it was not necessary to read them to follow the course. At least for PhDs, I would suggest adding discussion about specific readings (it might be interesting for some MSc students as well).

Labs

What did you think about the labs?

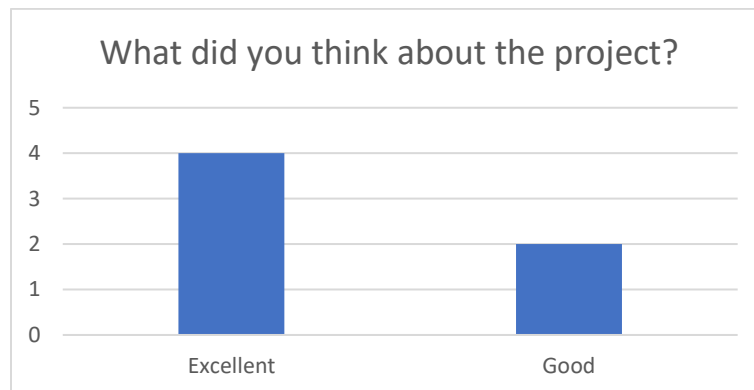|	
5	
4	
3	
2	
1	
0	
Excellent	Good	Neutral

Excellent: 1, Good: 4, Neutral: 1

- Perhaps more introduction to the frameworks
- Would be interesting to do some from scratch implementations of RNNs/LSTMs, Transformers, ASR...
- "I guess it's too easy for most of us?
- Maybe should design some tasks so that we can explore and challenge".

Individual assignment

What did you think about the Individual Assignment?

(Bar chart: Excellent = 1, Good = 5)

- Very interesting, and self motivating
- Would be interesting to do some ML theory in the assignment (with RNNs/LSTMs, Transformers, ASR...)
- I liked it, as it required to go back to the lectures' theory and apply it in a fun way.

Project

What did you think about the project?

(Bar chart: Excellent = 4, Good = 2)

- In line with my previous comments, I believe that the project could also be more adapted to PhDs, as maybe it is not so relevant to develop a conversational system, but to read more in depth about the research field. Maybe a smaller project at the end, with several seminars during the course to discuss readings and smaller writings would help in this sense.
- A lot of fun!
- The grading standard is not very clear.
- I take another course in this department, its rule is simpler: negociate the grade that I'm heading for and the functionalities/results that I want to achieve with the professor before the start of the project. So in the end, I will get the grade for what I have implemented/achieved.
- Also, it would be helpful to add a half-time evaluation so that the professor can check what has been done and give advice for the future.