Course Analysis

ID2201 Distributed Systems, Basic Course (Distribuerade system, grundkurs)

2023/2024, period 2 (HT23)

Course information

Course:	ID2201 Distributed Systems, Basic Course (Distribuerade system, grundkurs) https://www.kth.se/student/kurser/kurs/ID2201?l=en
Credits:	7,5 hp
Level:	Second cycle
Requirements:	TEN1 - Examination, 6.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F LAB1 - Laboratory Work, 1.5 credits, grading scale: P, F
Academic Year:	2023/2024
Period:	period 2 (HT23)
Course coordinator:	Vladimir Vlassov, Professor, vladv@kth.se, tel. 08-790 4115
Examiners:	Ahmad Al-Shishtawy, Lecturer, ahmadas@kth.se, tel. 08-790 4242 Vladimir Vlassov, Professor, vladv@kth.se, tel. 08-790 4115
Teaching Assistants	none
Language:	English
Canvas (VT24):	https://canvas.kth.se/courses/41485

Quantitative Data

Total number of registered students:	68 students
The number of students completed the course	**50 students (74 % of 68 st)** Grade Statistics (of 50 st): A: 12 (24%); B: 10 (20%); C: 11 (22%); D: 11 (22%); E: 11 (12%)
Exam statistics	**57 students (84 % of 68 st) attended the exam** Grade Statistics (of 57 st): A: 12 (21%); B: 10 (18%); C: 19 (30%); D: 12 (21%); E: 5 (9%); FX: 2 (4%); F 5 (9%) 50 students (88 % of 57 st) passed

Course activities
- 14 lectures; 5 weekly homework programming assignments
- All course activities, namely lectures, reporting and help sessions, and the written exam, were conducted on the KTH Kista campus (Electrum, Kistagången 16, Kista);

Examination:
The examination consists of a written examination (TEN1) and programming assignments (LAB1). Assignments should be done and presented in person at seminar sessions in Electrum, Kista. The final grade is based on the performance of the written exam and the programming assignments (bonus points).
The ID2201 exam is a proctored on-campus computer-based closed-book exam in Canvas. The exam consists of questions of different types, e.g., Multiple Choice, Multiple Answer, True/False, and Numeric.

Bonus Policy

- Each homework assignment is awarded three bonus points (+1 point for an optional task) if submitted on time (i.e., before or on the due date), presented within a week after the deadline, and accepted (passed). The number of bonus points can be reduced for errors or inefficient solutions.
- Assignments (homework and the project) turned in after the corresponding deadlines will not be granted bonus points.

Changes since the previous occasion of the course in the 2022/2023 academic year, HT22

- Revised homework assignments. Revised some of the lectures, mostly to improve presentation.
- A few Master's students were recruited as teaching assistants because of a lack of experience in the programming of Erlang (the course language) among PhD students in the SCS division.

Proposals of Concrete Improvements for the Next Course Occasion

- **Homework programming assignments**: Currently, programming assignments are to be done in Erlang, making it difficult to find teaching assistants with experience in Erlang (the language of the course programming assignments). Consider changing the language, e.g., to Java, and, consequently, revising programming assignments.
- **Textbook and lectures**: Consider finding a new textbook to base the course and revise the lectures accordingly. As for now, the course is partially based on readings from the following textbook, augmented by the material presented on comprehensive lecture slides and videos available online in Canvas.
  - Distributed Systems - Concepts and DesignLinks to an external site., by George Coulouris, Jean Dollimore, Tim Kindberg, Fifth Edition, Addison-Wesley, ISBN: 0-273-76059-9
- **Videos**: If time allows, pre-record new versions of the lecture videos or record the lectures in the process of the course.

Comments by Students:

- Difficult to start with the assignments because of lack of experience in Erlang.