IK2200 Course analysis HT2023

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Course evaluation process

In the past we have used LEQ, but in the last few years we have been asking the elected student representatives to run a course evaluation survey of their own, right after the midterm workshop. We find this to be a good way to interact with the students and try to improve the course that they're still taking.

Meetings with students

We met with the student representatives in November to discuss the results of the survey and see what we could we improve.

Course design

We did not substantially change the organization of the course this year. In the past we have had more changes that had to do with the goal of the course (and the way students are giving feedback to each other), but now we have settled on directly preparing students to do a master thesis immediately in January and be well versed in the mechanics of doing so.

We did however have one large change and that was as a request of the COS division. Namely, we made the projects research oriented. This made them riskier but at the same time with the higher possible gain.

Workload

Judging by the response of the students the workload seems adequate with the number of hours that are allocated (50% of their time). More details are in the summary of opinions.

Results

The results (grades) were very good. Perhaps not as good as the past few years, but still all (41) students received a grade E or higher. The number of students taking the course was roughly the same as in previous years.

Summary of opinions

Looking at the survey results, some students reported that they worked less than they are required. 1/3 of them were highly motivated to work on their project with only 1/6 not so well motivated. The student

satisfaction with their group members was neutral to very satisfied. Working within the group was rated challenging for only 26.7% of respondents. 73% of the respondents rated TA supervision as very good (highest mark possible in the survey). Indeed, the TAs bring fantastic expertise and passion to the course. A vast majority of students were happy with the feedback they received at the midterm workshop. Students did ask for information about the important events to be made sooner. There were also clear suggestions on improving the group selection process.

Overall impression

This being the first instance in which we ran research oriented topics for the projects, we are pleased with the course outcome. We decided to keep this research oriented nature of the course.

Prioritized course development

Something that the students were not extremely happy about was the group assignment, and we decided to pay more attention to it next year. We also decided to post information about key events much earlier. We did so in this course instance, for example for the final workshop.