

## Course analysis

### SK2513 Cell culture: theory and practice

2018

The course syllabus can be seen here:

[https://www.kth.se/social/files/5c63d58356be5bb347c9ade4/SK2513\\_Kurs-PM\\_H18.pdf](https://www.kth.se/social/files/5c63d58356be5bb347c9ade4/SK2513_Kurs-PM_H18.pdf)

In autumn 2018, nine students were registered on the course (ten is the maximal possible number of participants), eight of them participated in the course activities.

Six students participated in the final exam, with the following results:

A – 4 students

B – 1 student

C – 1 student

Four students answered the course survey run via KTH course web as LEQ with 6 major questions. The changes in the next year course based on the students' comments are shown below in *italic*.

According to the answers, the students spent on average from 3-5 hours a week (75%) to 6-8 hours a week (25%) working on the course. This is relatively low work load for the 4.0 ECTS course, so *there is a room for some increase of the amount of the material covered by the course. For example, one could cover in more detail which cells and which cell culture techniques are most suitable for different experiments. A home assignment could be introduced.*

One of the respondents suggested to make the course shorter, but more intense. This is unfortunately not possible, because 1) then it will overlap with even more activities in other courses than it was this year; 2) there will be no room for the labs, which are based on living cells (i.e. they require several days between replatings) and are practically individual (maximum two students can do the lab simultaneously). Also, another respondent wished that the course could have been a bit longer.

Most of the respondents thought that:

- 1) they worked with interesting issues;
- 2) the course was challenging in a stimulating way;
- 3) they could practice and receive feedback without being graded;
- 4) the assessment on the course was fair and honest;
- 5) they were able to get support if they needed it.

According to the survey, learning by collaborating and discussing with others was not always possible. Indeed, there were no occasions of a *group work during the course. This could be included into the next year course activities. For example, the home assignment could be made a group assignment.*

The students liked about the course that:

- 1) the lectures really went through the basics in a structured way;

- 2) the full handouts were available for those who now and then couldn't attend the lectures;
- 3) the small tests were a perfect way to make sure the students followed the course;
- 4) the teacher was flexible and adjusted the lab time to fit the student's schedule.

The respondents liked a lot the course labs and the personal feedback which they got there. If anything, they would like to have *more labs and more modern techniques to try on the labs. This could be arranged next year, depending on the number of the course participants and the time available for the labs in their schedule.*

To the future participants, the students advised to always prepare for the small tests; this is good for learning and gives bonus points for the final exam.