

1.GEO-SD304 2022 STUDENT EVALUATION

DEPARTMENT: System Dynamics Group, Department of Geography, UiB
COURSE TITLE: System Dynamics Modelling Process
COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Birgit Kopainsky
TOTAL NO. OF
RESPONSES: 6

2: Statistics

Signed up for exam: 49

Absence: 9

Grade distribution:

A: 15

B: 7

C: 10

D: 3

E: 4

F:1

3: Self-evaluation

Assessment of the teaching program in relation to the objectives and results

A. What did you focus on in the teaching plan? Give a short description of the teaching plan in the course, with emphasis on what was new this time.

I largely followed the format and teaching plan of previous years, but I replaced some of the „models of the week“ (case study models that illustrate the system dynamics modeling process and that show state-of-the art model formulations or model analysis techniques).

B. What is your opinion of how well the teaching plan worked? Give a brief description of any evaluations that have been made and give an assessment of the experiences with this year's teaching plan.

The new models of the week seem to have worked well and I saw many projects that took some inspiration from these models.

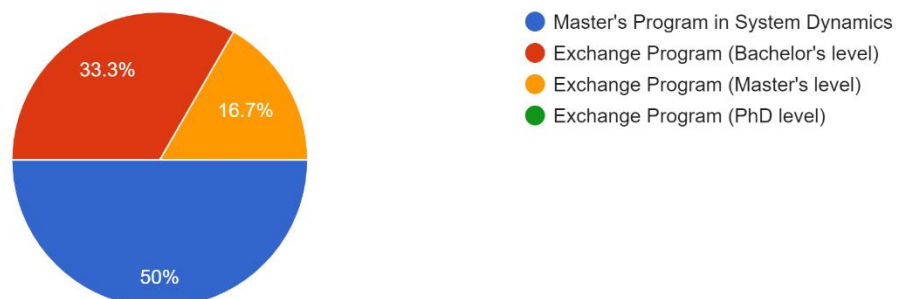
C. What adjustments will you recommend for the next time the course is offered? Give a brief assessment of which parts of the teaching plan should be continued and what, if any, should be changed.

I will continue to follow the overall format and teaching plan. Given that the course is very intense, I will not use the systems thinking/system dynamics games anymore but rather spend more time discussing formulations and analyses in the models of the week. I am aware of recurring comments in the course evaluation that some of the advanced analysis techniques can seem overwhelming. However, a) I see a lot of modeling projects in SD304 that actually use these techniques and b) I hear a lot of students in the second, third and fourth semester express their appreciation of having learned about these techniques in GEO-SD304. I will try to manage expectations even more. I very much like the suggestion from the evaluation to include a lecture about how to deal with soft variables. I will definitely incorporate a lecture on this next year.

4. Results

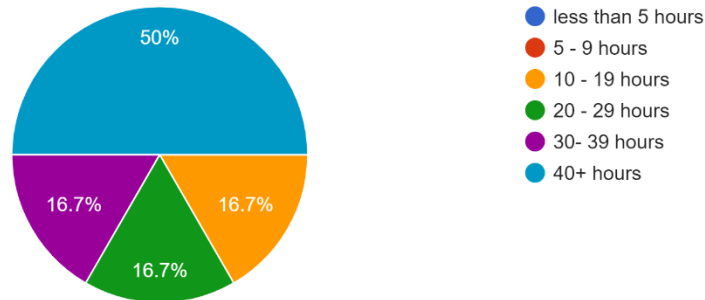
I took this course as part of:

6 responses



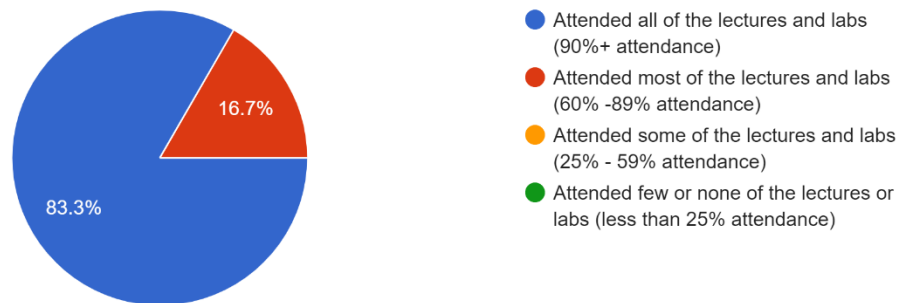
How many hours per week on average did you spend on this course? (include all time spent studying, doing homework, attending lectures and labs, etc.)

6 responses



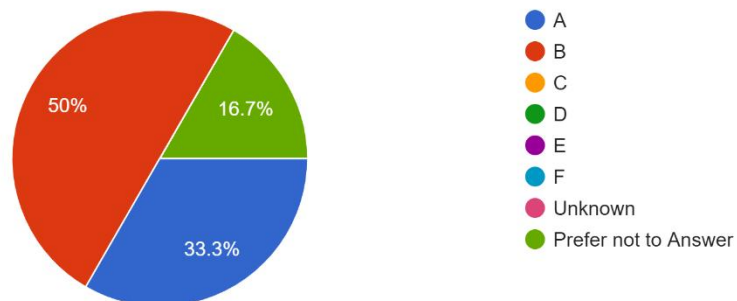
To what extent did you participate in the lectures/labs?

6 responses

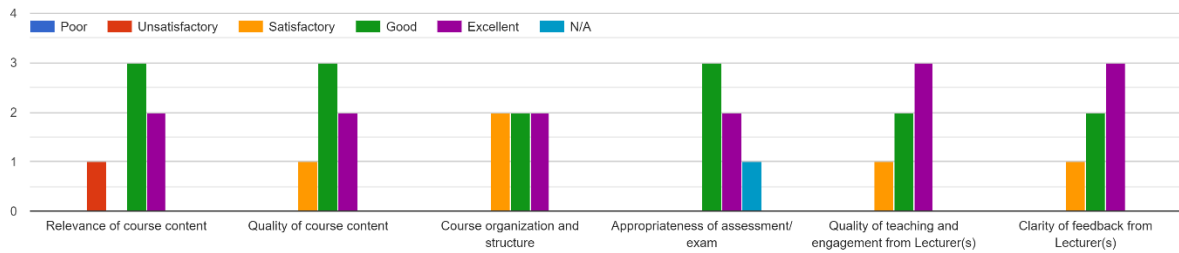


What grade do you expect to get in this course?

6 responses



How do you assess the course content and the lecturer(s)?



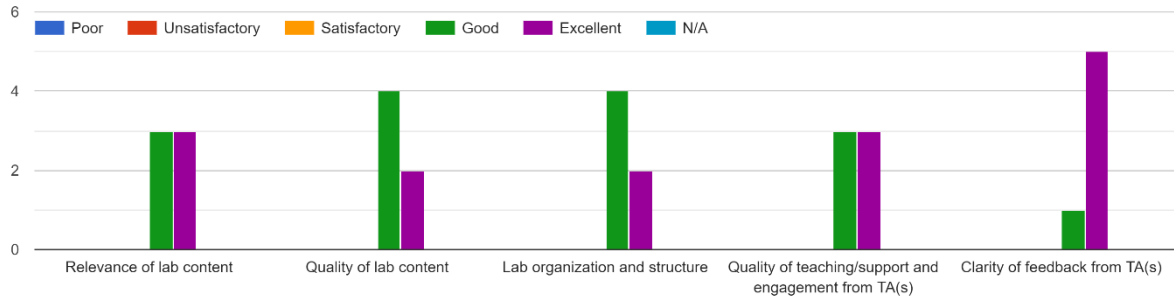
What did you like about the main lectures and overall course content?

1. Good clarifications for project and help of the teacher.
2. Examples of model structures
3. That Birgit not only teaches but inspires. Its good that we are building our mental SD Model Library. Feels like we are doing it since 303. Seeing Models over and over to grasp structure quickly.
4. Helping professor and TAs
5. Relevance and Hands-on approach
6. Games and activities to learn the content, lecturer is very engaging, case-study approach to teaching so we can see how it is used

What improvements would you like to suggest to the Lecturer(s)?

1. Less games, but more practical things)
2. There were a lot of additional materials presented during the lectures, but some of them seemed too complex for the final project in 304. It might be a good idea to group such materials and present them in a separate lecture to make it easier to understand that such materials are more advanced and / or fit only specific projects.
3. Better expectation management :) if someone says don't panic i wonder there is something that I could be panicking about? I know its a tough line to walk: don't play it down and appreciate that its gonna be a lot to do. Yet this i think could be improved a bit. Additionally, unclear for me what recommended readings mean. Its impossible to read recommended readings (and i know, this is also not what was asked of me). Still, maybe we could frame it better then. Maybe a curation of influential work on subject matter xy, for anyone who can use it now or further down the road. Do you agree?
4. A little bit of more simplification
5. Some more content on incorporate soft data and soft variables into models would be helpful

How do you assess the labs and the Teaching Assistant(s)?



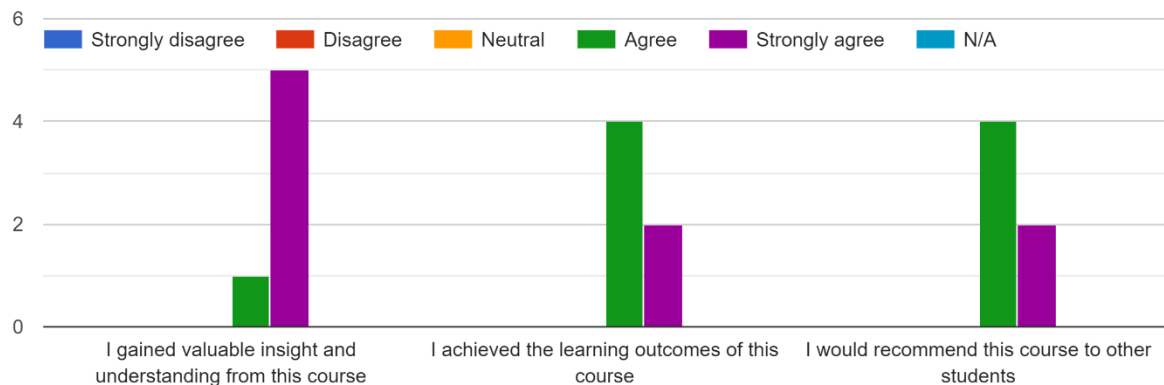
What did you like about the labs or other interactions with the TA(s)?

1. Very practical cases and awesome classes with TAs
2. Everything in the labs was designed for the development of the final project and it was great
3. Your personal wholehearted commitment. Really took interest in developing us
4. Very helping
5. Engagement
6. One-on-one support on the model project was very helpful, activities during labs were great for learning, TAs very helpful overall

What improvements would you suggest to the TA(s)?

1. You are the best 😊
2. Everything was great!!
3. Different Timetable. Maybe 3 Sessions per week intensifying on the lectures.
4. None
5. More practical exercises instead of the lectures.
6. Fewer lectures and more activity-based time during the labs to play with concepts or tools

What is your overall opinion of this course?



What do you feel you have learned by the end of this course?

1. Building model and writing the first report ever about it

2. I have learned how to convert my understanding of the causal relationships in a running SD model. Moreover, I have learned how to debug SD models and make them more reliable. I have also learned how to design simple policies and add them to SD models.
3. Confident, that i may survive out there. Modeling techniques and confidence in them.
4. Don't give up
5. I think I have a pretty good idea about the modelling process. Although there are different techniques to it, discovered my own approach.
6. How to build and analyze a system dynamics model

What do you wish you could have learned more about in this course?

1. It was already overwhelming with some tasks so I like it as it is)
2. I think the course is already intense enough and I have learned everything I wanted to in that limited amount of time.
3. something on the epistemological side of SD :P
4. Equations
5. Not too much. Probably learned more than we need at this stage. But, it's gonna be useful for the next courses.
6. Different ways of formulating and abstracting from real-life into a model

Do you have any additional comments? If so, please discuss here:

1. Thank you for the course!! :)
2. Am grateful for you! Thanks :)

5: Follow-up

Comments on previous evaluations (if any)

How do plan to follow-up based on the course report

See C above