GEO-SD311 (Spring 2025) Course Evaluation Response

DEPARTMENT: System Dynamics Group, Department of Geography, UiB

COURSE TITLE: GEO-SD311 Analytical Methods and Advanced Modelling (Spring 2025)

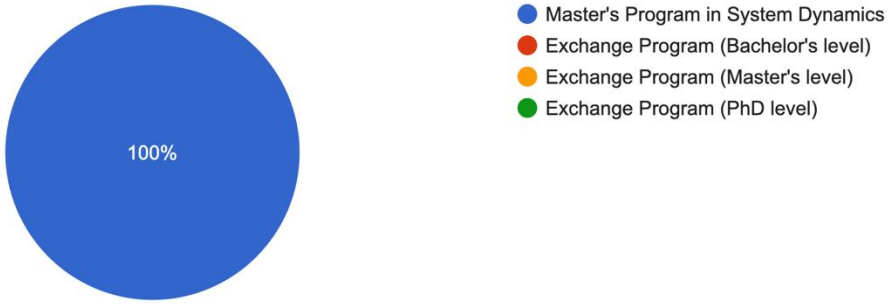
COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Ali Saysel; Hugo Herrera; Saeed Langarudi

TEACHING ASSISTANT: N/A

TOTAL NO. OF RESPONSES: 3

I took this course as part of:

3 則回應



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.)

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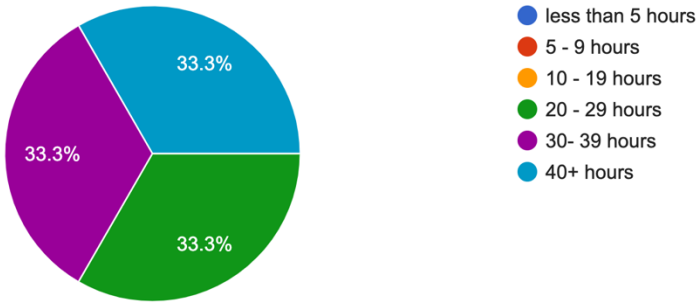

To what extent did you participate in the lectures/labs?

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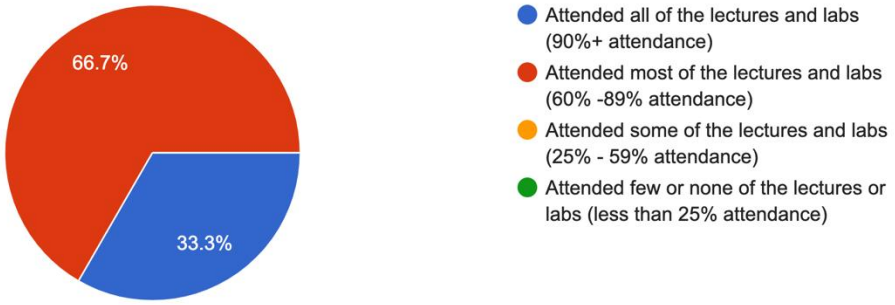

What grade do you expect to get in this course?

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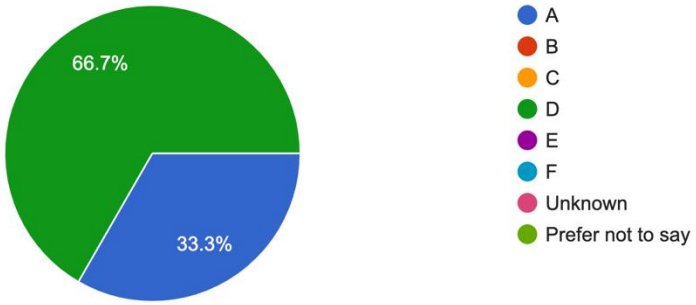
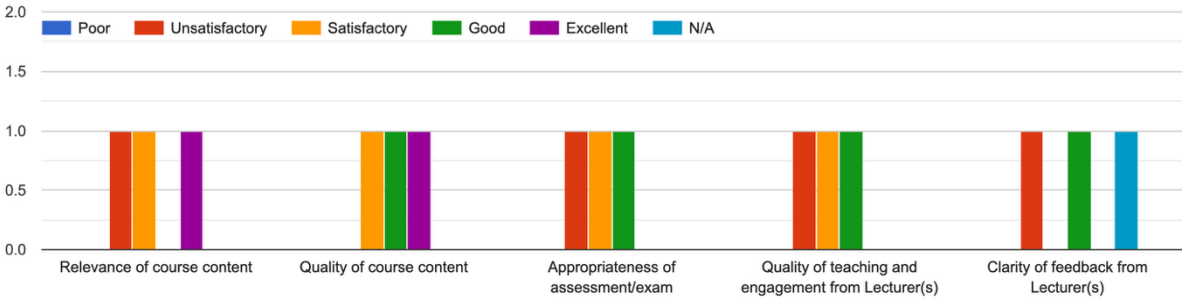


How do you assess the course content and the lecturer(s)?



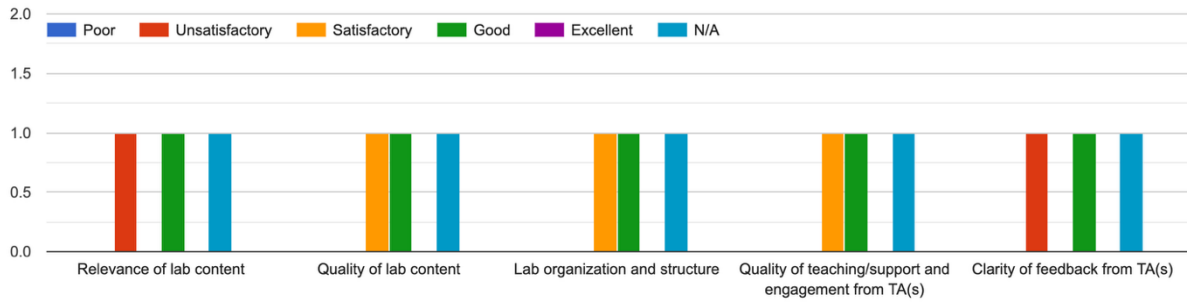
What did you like about the main lectures and overall course content?

1. I liked Saeed's lectures on agent-based modeling and the slow approach to understanding its logic. I also liked the frequency of lectures.
2. The resilience lectures given by Hugo was my favourite among all the courses we had but the teaching content was poorly connected to the exam content. We need to be guided by the lecturers to show how we should use the spreadsheet. Also bolting everything about R in 2 lectures was insane..and we barely had any follow-up practice using R. Ali's part was great except for the two statistics sessions, that was very confusing and don't know how to use the knowledge. But it was very clear about expectations from students to put into the exam. I know what to revise at least…
3. It is highly relevant to the course content.

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

1. I would suggest that they take into consideration that not everyone understands the programmes we are working with or the purpose of the calculations we are doing. As a person who is trying to understand all this based on school maths, it is often hard to know what is happening.
2. For Saeed, the ABM lectures were fun! But I think he expects too much from me to really know how to code in a language I just got to know a few days before the exam. I know ChatGPT helps a bit but it shouldn't be our teacher for the exam……and also I don't know what exact prompts GPT wants everytime to give me the answer I desire, so it was a very bad exam experience with ABM. p.s. I guess some students have subscriptions some don't, was it fair? The spreadsheet during the exam was a disaster. Firstly I don't know why using the one with 10000 runs that we didn't played with during the learning in the exam? My laptop can barely open it. Also we were shown what the spreadsheet vaguely means but we didn't practice with guidance during learning?? There's a huge gap between knowing and doing in both Hugo and Saeed's parts of the exam.
3. It might be helpful to reduce the volume of course content to allow for deeper understanding of key areas.

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. -
2. N/A
3. good

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

1. -
2. N/A
3. none

What is your overall opinion of this course?

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

1. I have learned to analyze very simple and specific models for equilibria and stability through differential equations, I have learned to develop the most simple ABM, I have learned about the parameters for resilience analysis.
2. I like going through the math once again after finishing 302 and Ali made it very engaging this time. His notes were clear and class exercises were helpful! That's my most important takeaways. I also love following the ABM process but I need more time to actually know how to do it by myself (and be creative).
3. I learnt and understand model validation, Agent based modelling and analytical modelling better

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

1. I wish I had learned about the logics of resilience analysis and how to come up with the calculations myself, instead of being given an excel sheet that I do not understand. I wish I had learned more about the usefulness of differential equations for more complex models, as I feel like these analyses have no use for the other SD classes.
2. The spreadsheet and how exactly we put model data into it and analysis the results. I think learning to analysis outputs from spreadsheet and R were very important but we didn't go into that much e.g. how a student interpret the data and statistics, too brief. For Saeed, since we were allowed to use ChatGPT during exam I actually want to learn how to use this AI tool, making it give me the right coding help. Overall I need maybe double of triple learning time to actually comprehend ABM so…essentially very little learned.
3. more on agent based modelling. i wish the course should have been taught for minimum of two weeks.

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

1. I do not agree with the advertisement for this programme as suitable for different kinds of academic backgrounds. In my perception, social scientists are left behind from the start and have big disadvantages compared to others who have worked with data management or calculations before.
2. Feels like too much knowledge packed in one go and half of them can go into much depth. I doubt how much I learned in this course can be remembered and used in real terms.
3. The exam was quite extensive for the time provided, making it difficult to answer all questions thoroughly. It may be helpful to adjust either the length or duration to ensure a fair assessment.