

COURSE REPORT

Course code: INTH331	Semester:	Department:
Course title: Chemical Factors in the Work Environment	Spring 2013	Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care
Course coordinator: Magne Bråtveit	Approved in:	
Date: 19.08.2013		

INTRODUCTION

Follow-up from previous evaluations:

This course was provided for the first time this year, but comprises the content of two earlier courses that have been given eighth times since 2000. The new course has the same basic structure as the previous two courses. Their integration is considered as an improvement since chemical exposure at the workplace is now put into the broader concept of risk assessment. Previous evaluations on both courses have been positive. Other changes made for this course is mainly that more time was spent on problem-based learning /group work, and revisions on the reading list.

Course description:

The aim of the course is to obtain detailed knowledge on chemical exposure assessment in the work environment and associated health effects. The course lasts six weeks and comprises lectures (52 hours), two field works in the industry, group work, student presentations and critical analysis of relevant scientific articles.

The two field works carried out in different industries are essential parts of the course, with work load distributed throughout the course. The field works include preparatory theoretical and practical work, literature review, workplace visits, industrial process description, data collection/exposure measurements, data analysis, two reports/assignments and presentation of results and conclusions for discussion in the research group.

STATISTICS:

Number of students: 3		Number of students completing the course: 3				
Grade distribution ->:	A:	B:1	C:2	D:	E:	F:
Or ->:	Pass:			Fail:		

SUMMARY OF THE STUDENT EVALUATION (*main points*):

- Practical implementation: The course was conducted as planned. Merging the two original courses into one was positive.
- Students' evaluations and feedback: The students were positive to what they described as a very comprehensive course. The six weeks are needed to absorb all the information and produce the required assignments included in

the course. They appreciated that lectures were given by competent personnel within the different topics. They also enjoyed the field work where theoretical knowledge was integrated into practical training and skills. Discussion and selection of cases/industries in the group as well as the presentations of group works were also appreciated. For a few lectures handouts were not provided.

- Comments from teachers: The students were active and positive, and delivered the assignments on time.

COURSE COORDINATORS EVALUATION:

- Teaching and assessment methods: The balance between lectures, field work and group work seems to be good. The assessments methods comprise written exam, two assignments based on the field work and presentation of these assignments, which altogether gives a broad platform for evaluating the students
- Curriculum: The curriculum is continuously revised in order to be up to date. The textbook covers most topics, but the risk assessment part needs supplements.
- Information and documentation: The students felt they had received adequate information about the course, with the exception of a few missing handouts from the lectures.
- Grade distribution: Good
- Localities/equipment: Our main classroom has to be equipped with laptop
- Field trip (if relevant): The field works are essential parts of the course. This year we had some practical problems in one of the industries, which illustrated that detailed preparation for the fieldwork is important. However, such challenges can be considered as a relevant training.
- Changes done during the course: No major changes were done.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT EVALUATION PERIOD – IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE:

Prepare the field work in even more detail. Handouts from all the lectures on the web at least the day before.
Laptop present in the classroom. Continuous revision of reading list.