

EMNERAPPORT – INSTITUTT FOR BIOMEDISIN

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICINE

Emnekode: <i>COURSE CODE:</i>	BMED380	Semester / år:	Autumn 2017 – Spring 2018
Emnenavn: <i>COURSE NAME:</i>	<i>Seminar Series</i>	SEMESTER / YEAR:	
Emneansvarlig: <i>COURSE COORDINATOR:</i>	Beate Stern	Godkjent:	Studieleder IBM, 02.10.2018
Rapporteringsdato: <i>DATE OF REPORT:</i>	October 1, 2018	APPROVED: (admin.)	

INNLEDNING / INTRODUCTION:

Kort beskrivelse av emnet, inkl. studieprogramtilhørighet. Kommentarer om evt. oppfølging av tidligere evalueringer.

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING WHICH STUDENTS/CANDIDATES MAY ATTEND. COMMENTS TO CHANGES BASED ON PRIOR EVALUATIONS.

The *Seminar Series* (5 ECTS) is a course open for students who fulfil the pre-requirement of, at a minimum, a Bachelor degree in Biology, Molecular Biology, or equivalent.

The goal of the course is to provide the participants with an overview of different disciplines in bioscience and to give them training in listening to scientific presentations in English, as well as in interpreting, reflecting over, writing and discussing scientific information using the English language.

In the course the students follow the weekly seminars held at the Department of Biomedicine (*BBB Seminars – A combined BBB and CC BIO seminar series*). The course lasts for 2 consecutive semesters. In exceptional cases and if the application is accepted by the course coordinator, a student can finish the course in his/her third semester. Students can enrol in the course both in the autumn and spring semester.

Last semester (Autumn 2017) 23 students were registered for the course. 1 of them was in her last semester and completed the course. This semester (Spring 2018) 26 students were registered. Of the 22 students being in their second semester, 15 completed the course, whereas 6 students applied to extend the course by a third semester. This was accepted. 1 student terminated the course.

The group of 16 students having completed the course is comprised of

- 14 Master's students in Biomedical Sciences (MAMD-MEDBI)
- 2 Master's students in Pharmacy (MATF-FARM)

For description of the course, please visit <http://uib.no/course/BMED380>

For previous evaluation reports, please visit <https://kvalitetsbasen.app.uib.no/popup.php?kode=BMED380>

Based on prior course evaluations by students, speakers have been instructed by their respective chairpersons to restrict their presentations to 45 min, also to allow sufficient time for questions/discussion. In general, speakers kept to their schedule. Regarding the request to invite speakers also from outside Europe/USA, we had one speaker from Singapore.

STATISTIKK / STATISTICS (admin.):

Antall vurderingsmeldte studenter: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR EXAMINATION:</i>	16	Antall studenter møtt til eksamen: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ATTENDED EXAMINATION:</i>	16
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Karakterskala GRADING SCALE	«Bestått/ikke bestått» «PASS/FAIL»	Bestått / PASS:	16	Ikke bestått / FAIL:	-
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KOMMENTARER TIL KARAKTERFORDELINGEN / COMMENTS TO THE STATISTICS:

Emnerapporten utarbeides når sensuren etter ordinær eksamen i emnet er klar. For muntlige eksamener er da resultatfordelingen endelig, men for skriftlige eksamener kan endelig resultatfordeling avvike noe om evt. klagebehandling ikke er fullført.

THIS REPORT IS PREPARED AFTER ORDINARY EXAMINATION. FOR ORAL EXAMS, THE RESULTS ARE FINAL, FOR WRITTEN EXAMS, THE FINAL GRADING DISTRIBUTION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY IF CANDIDATE COMPLAINTS/APPEALS HAVE NOT BEEN PROCESSED.

The course is awarded with pass/fail; there are no grades given.

A measure for the learning outcome was that the second reports having been submitted by the students were in all cases better than their first ones (on average 8% improvement) and reached on average 16.4 out of 20 points. Evaluation of the reports is based on the following criteria: 1) Organisation of the report and layout, 2) Level of scientific understanding, 3) Did the student make many mistakes? and 4) Overall language skills demonstrated.

SAMMENDRAG AV STUDENTENE SINE TILBAKEMELDINGER / SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS GIVEN BY THE STUDENTS

Spørreundersøkelse via Mitt UiB, annen evaluering, tilbakemelding fra tillitsvalgte og/eller andre.

COURSE EVALUATION ON MITT UIB, OTHER EVALUATIONS, RESPONSES FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR OTHERS.

The attendees were asked to give their feedback in a short survey on the course page at Mitt UiB. Some of the questions were Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) regarding e.g. academic content/educational level/workload of the course, while others were Short Answer Questions (SAQ) opening up for the students to give their own opinion as written text. 9 students gave their feedback (see below).

Feedback regarding MCQs

Hvordan vurderer du det faglige innholdet? / Do you find the academic content of this course to be:

For enkelt / Too easy		0 %	✓
Enkelt / Easy		0 %	
Passe / Adequate	5 respondents	56 %	
Komplisert / Complicated	4 respondents	44 %	
For komplisert / Too complicated		0 %	

Hvordan vurderer du det pedagogiske nivået? / How do you rate the educational level of the course?

Alt for dårlig / Far too low		0 %	✓
Dårlig / Too low		0 %	
Greit / Sufficient	3 respondents	33 %	
Godt / High	4 respondents	44 %	
Svært godt / Very high	2 respondents	22 %	

Hvordan vurderer du arbeidsmengden i emnet? / How do you evaluate the total workload of the course?

Alt for lite / Far too little		0 %	✓
For lite / Too little		0 %	
Passe / Adequate	9 respondents	100 %	
For mye / Too much		0 %	
Alt for mye / Far too much		0 %	

Hvordan vurderer du organiseringen av emnet? / What do you think of the general organization/structure of the course?

Alt for dårlig / Far too poorly organized		0 %	✓
Dårlig / Too poorly organized		0 %	
Greit / Adequate		0 %	
Godt / Well organized	5 respondents	56 %	
Svært godt / Excellently organized	4 respondents	44 %	

Hva mener du om forelesningen hvor det ble gitt en innføring i rapportskrivning? / What do you think about the lecture giving advice on how to write a seminar report?

Unyttige / Not useful at all		0 %	✓
Lite nyttige / Useful to some extent	3 respondents	33 %	
Nyttige / Useful	1 respondents	11 %	
Meget nyttige / Very useful	5 respondents	56 %	
Svært nyttige / Highly useful		0 %	

Hva mener du om å skrive rapporter og å få tilbakemelding i én til én samtale? /What do you think about writing the reports and getting feedback in one-to-one discussions?

Unyttige / Not useful at all		0 %	✓
Lite nyttige / Useful to some extent	1 respondents	11 %	
Nyttige / Useful	2 respondents	22 %	
Meget nyttige / Very useful		0 %	
Svært nyttige / Highly useful	6 respondents	67 %	

Var det bra å kunne velge seminaret for å skrive rapport og har det forbedret din forståelse av faget? / Was the free choice of selecting a seminar for writing a report good and did this improve your understanding of the subject area?

Nei / No		0 %	✓
I noen grad / To some extent		0 %	
Ja / Yes	6 respondents	67 %	
Ja veldig / Yes, very much so	3 respondents	33 %	

Feedback regarding SAQs

The question being asked were:

- *Seminarer: Hva var bra, hva var dårlig? / Seminars: What was good, what was bad?*
- *Hva var bra med emnet? / What did you appreciate about the course?*
- *Hva var dårlig med emnet? / What did you find disappointing about the course?*
- *Hva kan forbedres ved emnet? / What do you think could be done to improve the course?*

Further, several students have sent their comments by email or included them in the "Evaluation section" of their reports. In the following an extract classified by topics is given.

I) Positive feedback

- In general
 - Bra: Alt :)
 - God: The communication between students and organizers.
 - Alt i alt har det vært svært interessant og lærerikt!
 - Jeg liker at det er god stemning på hvert eneste seminar.
 - I learnt much from those excellent lectures. Thanks a lot.
 - Bare fortsett med det gode arbeidet!
- Variety of research fields covered
 - Since speakers come from all over the world, we are getting opportunities to know and learn world's best and latest biomedical researches.
 - Det er et veldig godt nivå på forelesningene, og det settes stor pris på at det hentes inn så mange flinke forskere fra så mange forskjellige deler av verden og forskningsfelt.
 - Good thing is speakers from all around the world come, share their research works, experiences which help us to gather new knowledge.
 - It is a good way to stay updated on current research in different fields.
 - Det gir et bredt innblikk i forskermiljøet innenfor biokjemi/biomedisin og mulighetene man har senere.
 - The course was really informative and I enjoyed participating in the seminars. Furthermore, the lecturers were selected perfectly and some of the lectures were really useful for me.
- Networking opportunity
 - We get the mingling opportunity to talk to them and also being motivated. It also helps in networking with international research community.
 - Seminars are a gathering place for many people which helps to develop social network.
 - Comment regarding a specific speaker
 - He was available during the mingling session, much thanks to the chairperson, who kept him around, and introduced him to the students and other interested parties. He answered the questions asked in a thorough manner and was also open for questions after the session.
- Improving presentation skills
 - Teaches us how to talk in front of an audience, present scientific data.
 - De som presenterer har ulike måter å gjøre dette på, noen bedre enn andre. Man lærer også her noen presentasjonsteknikker og hva man bør/ikke bør gjøre under en presentasjon.

- I learned from the presentations about how to present my results. It may be helpful for my master thesis defence.
- Reflections regarding specific presentations
 - I found it particularly motivational that the presenter was a young, talented female researcher. There was a logical flow when presenting studies and results, as well as future research they had in mind. She used a lot of visual tools, which I think keeps the viewer focused throughout the presentation.
 - The lecturer really went into depth of his topic. The explanations were easy to follow, and figures gave a clear overview. Even though there were a lot of different aspects to his talk, he sorted them in a good way, and was clear on which specific parts of the topics he covered at all times. It was also easy to follow the referencing, and thereby also obtain the results he elaborated on after the seminar.
 - The presentation overall was very useful and rich with information. The presenter was filled with enthusiasm and had good speaking skills. In addition, he was very clever in the way he presented as he followed a strategy in which he provoked the audience by asking them questions and got them to participate and interact with him. While sometimes he presented his data in a form of questions leaving the audience to conclude and deduce themselves.
 - The presentation was structured into three hypotheses that were concluded from the studies the presenter has done, each assumption contained enough examples that supported the presenter's word. Moreover, the slides did not contain text but rather demonstrated figures of the results, in addition to animated images which in my opinion caught the audience's interest. This created an inspiring atmosphere.
 - After his presentation, I was introduced to the speaker by my masters supervisor and chairman of this seminar. Through this connection I was able to receive a summer internship in his lab at UCLA. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the BMED380 class coordinators and staff that help to put on these seminars and make opportunities like this available to UiB students.
- Improving language skills
 - Det er også en god mulighet for å bli bedre i engelsk i dette emnet.
- Improving writing skills
 - The course gives the chance to express my own ideas and opinions through the writing process of seminar review.
 - One is allowed to choose the seminar for report writing and is provided with a feedback session.
 - Skrive rapporter og få tilbakemeldinger har vært svært nyttig i forhold til skriving av masteroppgave.
- Motivation to attend seminars
 - Jeg har trives godt med emnet, og skal absolutt prøve å få delta videre også!
 - Even if I am done with the seminar now I will follow the topics and will attend those which I find the most interesting.

II) Negative feedback

- Cancellations
 - Some cancellations, however, I understand that always something can happen.
 - Because, as I experienced, seminars are often cancelled it makes it difficult to reach up to 25 seminar attendances.
- Partly too difficult
 - En del av seminarene er langt over mitt kunnskapsnivå, så under noen av seminarene kan det være vanskelig å følge med.
 - Noen av seminarene er for vanskelige å følge, da det blir for komplisert for mitt kunnskapsnivå.

III) Suggestions for improvement

- Should include some lectures as well.

EMNEANSVARLIG SIN EVALUERING OG VURDERING / EVALUATION AND COMMENTS BY COURSE COORDINATOR:

Faglærerens vurderinger av emnet. *TEACHER COMMENTS.*

Eksempel: Kommentarer om praktisk gjennomføring, undervisnings- og vurderingsformer, evt. endringer underveis, studieinformasjon på nett og Mitt UiB, litteraturtilgang, samt lokaler og utstyr.

EXAMPLE: COMMENTS ABOUT PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, IF NECESSARY. FUTURE CHANGES/CHANGES IN PROGRESS, STUDY INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET AND MITT UIB, LITERATURE ACCESS, LOCALES AND EQUIPMENT.

In my opinion and supported by the feedback of the participants, I consider the goal of the course to be achieved, i.e. to become acquainted with various scientific “state-of-the-art” developments, to follow and appreciate scientific presentations, to improve the competency in writing a scientific report and – last but not least – providing the opportunity to establish scientific contacts. Regarding the latter, I would like to refer to the positive experience of one of the Master’s student attending the course, who, as he stated “... was fortunate enough to receive a summer internship in one of the speakers’ lab at the University of California”. Further, “I could not have gotten this internship without the CCBio/BBB seminars bringing scientists from all over the world to come speak in Bergen, so thank you for helping make this possible! I hope this course can provide similar opportunities for students in the future.”

Study information for the course is available on the webpage of the *BBB Seminars* (abstract, homepage of the speaker, chairperson details) and the course page at Mitt UiB (messages, guidelines, lecture notes). Further, in many cases speakers are willing to hand out copies of their PowerPoint presentations (or parts of it) to students upon request.

The venue for the seminars is auditorium 4 at BBB, which is well suited for this purpose.

MÅL FOR NESTE UNDERVISNINGSPERIODE – FORBEDRINGSTILTAK / PLANNED CHANGES FOR THE NEXT TEACHING PERIOD – HOW TO BE BETTER:

There were 35 speakers scheduled in the *Seminar Series* during the Autumn 2017/Spring 2018 period, 3 of which had to cancel (illness, flight cancellation). The 32 speakers came from 10 different countries (Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, The Netherlands, UK, USA). As appreciated by the students, the entire framework of the course is well established, such that there is no need for changes.

Regarding the negative feedback from some students. The number of cancellations and the complexity of some of the material presented, is obviously unavoidable. The fact that there were less than 10% cancellations can actually be considered as low. And the fact that presentations sometimes might be complicated to understand in detail, has actually to be expected when inviting high-level national and international researchers to present their work.

Finally, regarding the suggestion to include more lectures in the course, I refer here to the lecture “giving advice on scientific writing” that is held every semester. Due to the variety of content of the seminars held, arranging lectures which will cover all topics is not feasible. An additional offer, however, could be to extend the invitation to attend the “Meet-the-speaker lunch” (taking place about twice per semester with selected seminar speakers), currently only open for PhD students at the Department of Biomedicine, to students taking the BMED380 course. Here, besides elaborating on the speaker’s research, students are encouraged to also address more general topics, such as the pros and cons of an academic career. In accordance with this, a request will be put forward to the organisers of this meeting series.