

Evaluation report: GEO-SD303: Model-based Analysis and Policy Design, Fall 2020

1. Information about the course

Course: <https://www.uib.no/en/course/GSD309>

Semester: Fall 2020

Course coordinator: Pål Davidsen

Teacher: William Schoenberg

Forms of assessment: Assessment of course
project incl. oral presentation

Teaching methods: Lectures and workshops

2. Statistics

Signed up for exam:21

Absence: 1

Fail: 0

Average grade: A

Grade distribution

A=16

B=3

C=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.

We focused on making sure that the full breadth of the material was covered and that students were exposed to all of the steps in the ILE creation process: design, construction, testing and evaluation. As usual the heavy emphasis was on design and construction.

Three major changes were made to the course this year. First the students were introduced to real world ILEs via the Creative Learning Exchange (CLE) and were recommended to work on real world projects for the CLE. This year students were heavily encouraged to pair up to take on the challenge of developing a project based on an already constructed model by the CLE. (In previous years there was much less structure surrounding the final project case/subject area and students struggled to develop cases to develop their ILE around.) The second major change was that the time to work on the final project was shortened by ~5 weeks. The final major change was the move to online instruction which necessitated a deviation in method due to time constraints. Typically, as a class we build 5 full ILEs before the final project – this year we only built 3 and the remaining 2 were assigned as homework for construction (but design was done as a class).

- 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 shift to using CLE projects as a basis for the final project worked phenomenally – students were able to thrive and develop their ILE skills much quicker. Pushing students to work in teams was generally not successful – the interaction between paired students who otherwise would not have worked together was problematic in a few cases. Cutting the amount of time spent on the final project I think was a detriment. The final project process was a bit too rushed, especially taking into account the online instruction method which necessitated reduced time on building ILEs as a class. Students were far less confident in their skills at the end of directed instruction and this translated to a more frenzied and uncertain feeling around the projects. I think if the class is to remain online then we need to shift back to a longer final project development time – but if the class returns to in-person instruction following previous years format that the shortened final project time is acceptable.

- 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.

As much as is possible we should return to developing the full set of 5 examples as a class. Without the repetitive actions which drive home the construction & design skills students are less confident in their abilities even if they aren't necessarily less skilled (the final projects this year demonstrated that there is most certainly not a skill gap between this cohort and previous cohorts). The integration of the course with the CLE should be maintained and potentially expanded to include other practitioners within the field to help keep the students grounded in real-world experiences and to offer students the ability to develop their own professional networks. If online instruction is to remain, emphasis needs to be placed on group discussion and participation. Teaching this year was far too much a one-way process, especially as compared to previous years which is partially responsible for the comments of "going too fast". In addition, we should not highly recommend students work together in pairs again, we should let students self-assemble as they did in the past. Although this has downsides in the number of projects which we need to support if the number of students is as high as it was this year.

4. Results

I study GEO-SD 309 as part of:

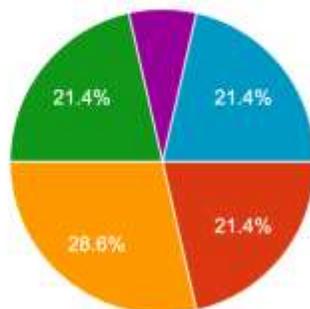
14 responses



- Master's Program in System Dynamics
- Other Program at UiB
- Exchange Program (Bachelor's level)
- Exchange Program (Master's level)
- Exchange Program (PhD level)

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.)

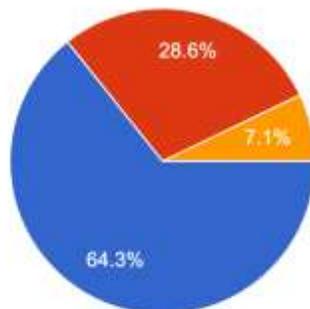
14 responses



- less than 5 hours
- 5 - 9 hours
- 10 - 19 hours
- 20 - 29 hours
- 30 - 39 hours
- 40+ hours

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

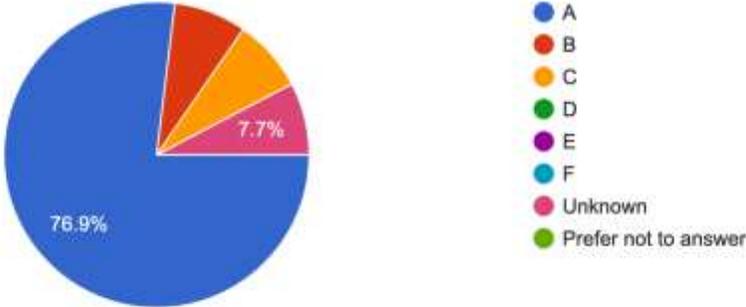
14 responses



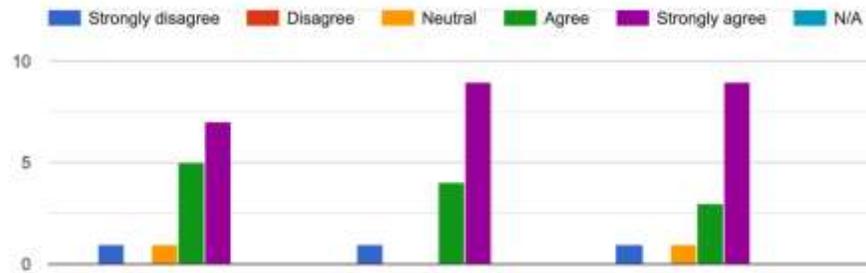
- Attended all of the lectures and labs (90%+ attendance)
- Attended most of the lectures and labs (60% -89% attendance)
- Attended some of the lectures and labs (25% - 59% attendance)
- Attended few or none of the lectures or labs (less than 25% attendance)

What grade do you expect to get in this course:

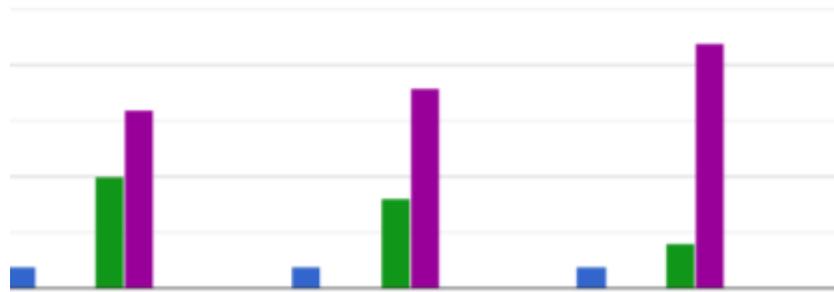
13 responses



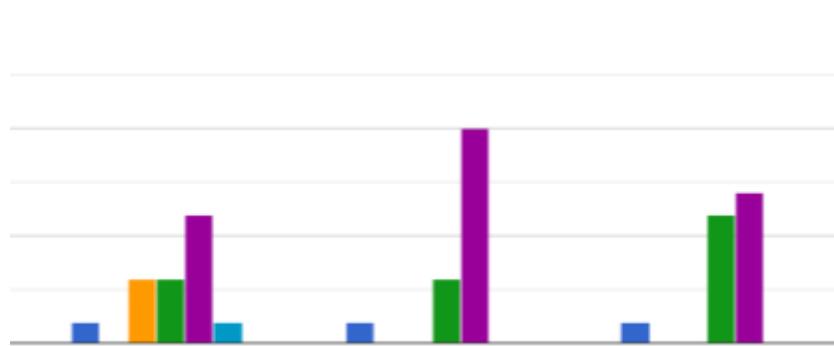
Please mark how you feel about each of the statements listed below:



This course is relevant to my interests	I gained valuable insight and understanding from this course	I would recommend this course to other students
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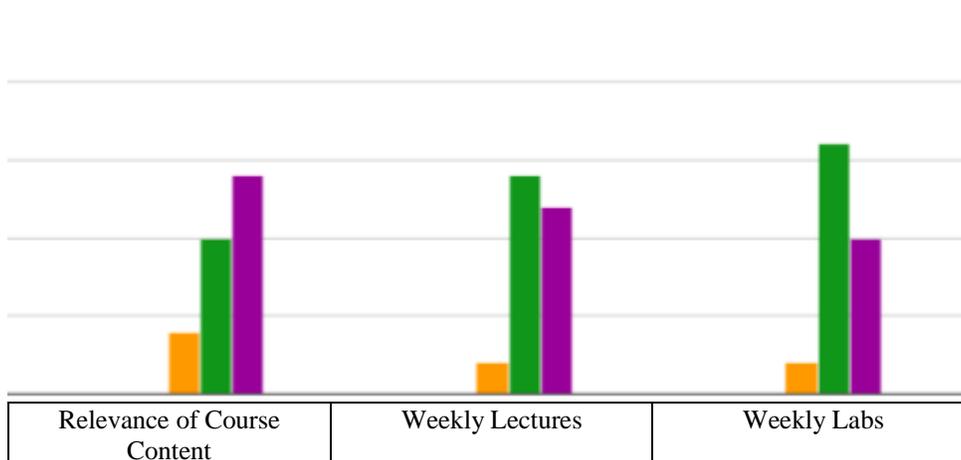
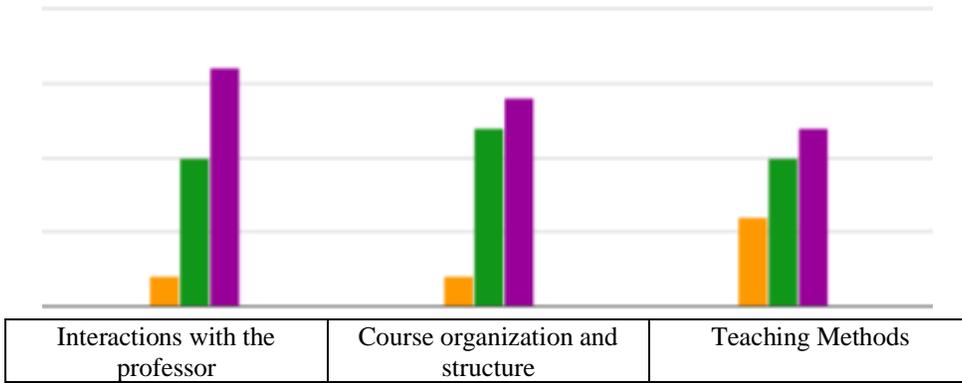
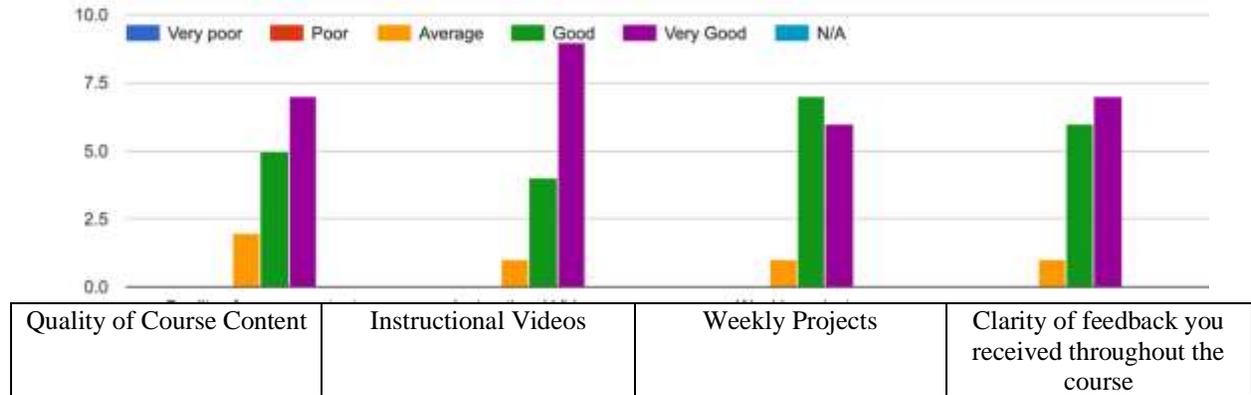
I achieved the learning outcomes of this course	The final project appropriately captures my level of understanding with this course	The professor contributed significantly to my learning.
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The Tas contributed significantly to my learning	I received adequate support throughout this course	The weekly projects contributed significantly to my learning throughout this course
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Do you have any comments on your answers above? If so, please discuss here:
Yes i do, this is because, these projects challenged to read, understand and consult more.
The pace of the class could be more slow. It's hard to capture (and apply in practice) all professor's lessons. Although, having the classes recorded helps.
This is my best ever course since the beginning of the program. I strongly recommend the lecturer, Billy, to initiate the entire program by handling the GEO SD 302 course.
Every thing is fine.
No

How do you assess different parts of the course:



Do you have any additional comments on your answers above? If so, please discuss here:
I am giving teaching methods that response because i believe i would have acquired more if i had a physical classroom compare d to a zoom class
Being an online course the beginning seemed abit tough but once we started our projects it was involving and we got all the help within short time notice. It worked out well.
No

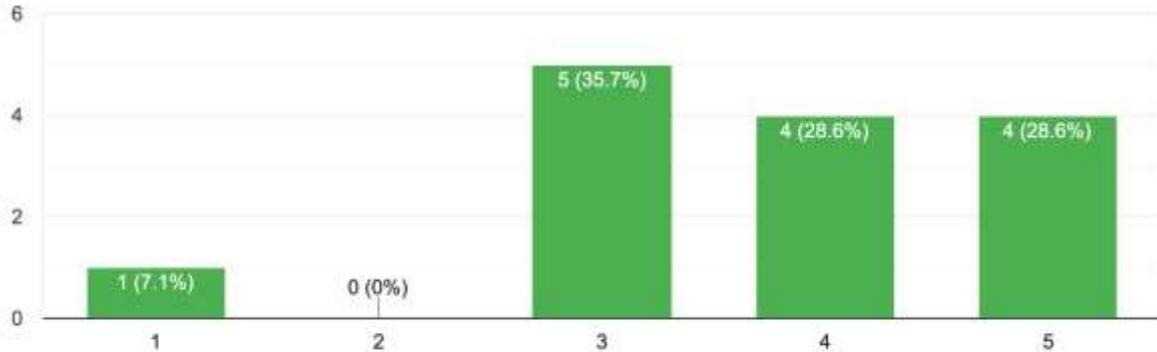
Why would you recommend or not recommend this course to other students?
I would strongly recommend this course- lots of good content and lots of stella tips and tricks that I wish I knew long ago
It wasn't as system dynamics oriented as the other courses
Its well built up, well instructed. Very modern in contrast to other courses in the field
I would recommend, because it is very rich and it enhances system dynamics as a lesson. Finally helps a student pass a message to people who dont understand modelling.
I would recommend it because System Dynamists could be really smart and useful, but what is really useful is the way of communicating the field. ILE is a wonderful way of communicating what we do.
Important course
If you're doing anything with SD, you need to know how to display your findings. This course helps with that.
recommend
This course plays vital role while it comes to present your system dynamics work to real clients.
It's very practical and real. Not abstract. Everyone can relate to what he does
I would definitely recommend
Everything is perfect
This course helps understand about all the available interactive features
I recommend this course to other students because it gives you insight about system dynamics

What did you expect to learn upon starting this course?
How to create an ILE
Graphic Design
How ILEs work
To be honest, i was very open and waiting to be surprised because i had done alittle bit of interactive learning enviroment in other courses previously.
Develop efficient and catching ILE
Practical intractive course
Wasn't 100% sure.
how to build ILE for more functions
More intense method of presenting models through interactive learning environments.
It's practicality is unquestionable. I really see the meaning and impact of what I studied.
How to build an ILE that worked well and communicated to the target audience
It is relevant to develop Interface learning procedure that helps normal people with out the knowledge of system dynamics to understand the concept
design and build awesome interface
I expected to learn more about ILE

What do you feel you have learned by the end of this course? Have you met the learning objectives?
I believe I understand well enough all of the features of stella and what to keep in mind while designing an ILE. There is much more niuance, art, and detail required than i expected.
How to build an ILE in Stella
Yes, the construction and instruction was sufficient
I have learnt a number of things but most of all how to present information behind a system dynamcis model in an interface fo rm. This was very important to me.
I learnt what I though I would and more. Especially, I learnt how crucial is to think as the user and design for the user.
Yes,
That's up to the markers, but I feel like I've learned a lot from the course in terms different aspects of Stella and how to present work in a game-ified format.
Learn more than what we taugh on lectures, because our final ILE needs more functions to run, we asked many questions from Billy and TA
I learnt a great deal doing this course and how to build interactive learning environments to express system dynamics modelling to general people or clients.
I feel satisfied. I feel I have a skill now. Going forward I know I have had a value for the time spent
Yes, i can now build and use an ILE as a communication tool
I have learned so many great things.
yes! Billy was awesome with his level of commitment
I have met the learning objectives.. I learnt more about ILE

To what extent did the 'distance learning' style of this course affect your experience with the course and your ability to achieve the learning outcomes?

14 responses



In what ways did the 'distance learning' style of this course make the course more difficult for you?
Just lose out on interactions in class and I think participation is lower when its in online format.
This is has been so hard, did not ever engage in distance learning before. Too much screen time is begin to affect my eyes, may be i should see an optician. And sometimes i had questions to ask but i think i would have been more interactive if i was in a physical class
Solving doubts face to face will always be better, the professor can read students understanding better (especially when students never show their cameras).
I think it may have cut down on both negative and positive student-student interaction
group discussion and working
It rather makes it easy because of the video recordings that can easily be replayed for better understanding. I must admit however, that using only one computer screen for the lecture is stressful. Also alot of distractions staying in my room for an entire lecture
Initially it was difficult but it got better. since you are supposed to model on same screen and use it for Zoom lecture. which makes it abit more hectic/difficult
It does not make any difference.
It did not make the course difficult

In what ways did the 'distance learning' style of this course make the course easier/more convenient for you?
Was helpful that I could keep up with the course even though I needed to travel during the course. For me, my teammate was in Bergen, so we were able to work together in person at least, but even when we did meet on zoom, the project work was still easy enough.
Because of covid19, i wouldnot be worried about not keeping time, because all i needed was my computer and a good internet connection and i am good to go.
I could re watch classes recorded and if I was in time difficulties the distance learning helps.
Not needing to travel was a bonus
i have access to the video record so i can learn again if i missed anything during the lecture.
Accessibility of the recorded lecture is a plus plus. I don't have to rush to the lecture hall everytime again. At the convenience of my room, I enjoy the lecture
i guess its an issue of adaptation
It makes easier because the class was interactive and effective.
I was able to go back and watch the recorded lectures and gain more understanding.. this made it more easier

You can expand upon/comment on your answer above here:
No that am a bad time keeper but long distance learning eanbled me keep tme most times so i had no excuse to miss unless i am not feeling well ofcourse. it is so flexible. Then i think we managed to minimise the covid19 spread in Bergen.
No

What could the instructor have done to improve your learning experience?
Another day of "Ask Billy Anything"
He did a good job, the format is limited.
More detailed insight into ILEs
He was so fast in his teaching, may be next timne hes hshould slow down about. And the course was so packed in such a short time period.
Go a little bit more slow in the lessons. The rest of the things are not easy to control. The instructor put all the effort he could and was really responsive and committed.
He did best
Not sure. Some of the labs had a deal of "waiting for your team's turn" but I think the students bear some responsibility there for their level of involvement as well.
have more case practice in lecture
The instructor and TA may do more but already they did a great job.
He couldn't have done any better. He is the very best so far. He really got my satisfied
Teach more on practical part on use of SVG diagrams
The instructor has done the best he can.
he did his best
N/A

What could you have done to improve your learning experience?
Spent more time going into more detail for the final project.
Interacted more
N/A
I should have put in more study hours and discussed more with my peers but well all well what doesnt kill you makes you stronger as the saying goes.
Finish all the homework 100%. I didn't complete some things.
Daily practicing the course
Allocated more time (I was busy with a part time job)
N/A
May be more studying and practice more.
I could be a bit more active at lectures,
If i had initially known that i could use the 2 screens then i it would have been easy to model at same time in class and save more time going through the class videos
I has cope up with the instructor and try to grasp the ideas he presented.
I could have practised exercises in advance to ask more queries
N/A

How would you reflect on your learning process throughout this course?
My learning process wasn't better though there could have been more that could have been done.
With the project I reinforced the lessons. Doing is what really helps.
My attitude towards the lectures was initially very sluggish. But the recorded version filled in all the gaps I had. I sat up for the tasks when it mattered most. I finished my project ahead of time for the first time
We can use our own creativity skills to manifest our ideas and concept based on the model.
Good

What did you find very helpful or useful in this course?
All the tips and tricks we learned about Stella All the things to keep in mind while designing ILE's
The professor's interest and excitement about the subject
Instructions and tracing the instructor
Creating my own interface and being able to publish it online and then sharing it with others to comment so I could get improve it even further
Professor attitude, especially with the distance learning situation, was awesome.
All
Information on Stella functionality
video records
The sessions with TA and quick response of emails from instructors.
Lecture's commitment to helping everyone, his patience in answering repeated questions, his kind encouraging comments
All sections were useful and a good learning platform on building effective ILE
The very essence of this course is to present the ideas of system dynamic behavior to the one who has never been used to it.
all the insights about optimisation
Recorded lectures

What do you wish you could have learned more about in this course?
Even more about stella...
System dynamics
The core construction of ILEs
I wish i could have learnt some of Billy's coding skill....yes....(smiles)
Because of time issues, I think what I learn is enough. With more time, I would like to be taught the technical stuff with more detail/repetitions.
Almost good
I'd always like to know more, but given the time allowed, not much more would've been feasible?
want to learn more about interface
More techniques in svg imaging and interactive learning environment.
I learned enough
Use of SVGs
I have found everything perfect and in my opinion it is fine.
N/A

What do you feel could be improved about this course and what suggestions do you have for ways to improve it?
The time frame was so short, too much to be unpacked in such a short time. Increase the time slot. Not online next time hoping this covid19 will let us prosper soon.
I'm not sure. But students could be encouraged (ahead of time) to have two screens for such an online courses
N/A

