Evaluation report:
GEO-SD325: Client-based modeling project

1. Information about the course

Course: https://www.uib.no/en/course/GEO-SD325

Semester: Fall 2020

Course coordinator: Birgit Kopainsky

Teacher: Birgit Kopainsky

Forms of assessment: Assessment consists of evaluating a modeling project. The modeling project consists of
•A portfolio assessment containing a simulation model and an executive summary describing the implications from the modeling process (50%)
•an oral presentation and response to examiners' questions (50%)

Teaching methods: ive-streamed, recorded and stored lectures, seminars, and data labs with active participation by students; individual and group assignments as well as project modelling; individual and group support in-person or remotely from teaching assistants and professors.

Pre-scheduled interactions with the client organizations.

Major project requiring a simulation model, written report and presentation.

2. Statistics

Signed up for exam:20

Absence: 0
Fail: 0
Àverage grade: B

Grade distribution
A=6
B=10
D=4

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.

In 2020, I organized GEO-SD325 so that it focused much more on the principle of iteration than previous versions of the course. Rather than gradually working through the modeling project, I tried to follow the logic of rapid prototyping and designed the assignment such that students had to submit two draft versions of the final model during the course.
Another important change with respect to pervious years was that I introduced what I called "à la carte teaching" where I created a Google Doc in which students could enter those topics that they were most interested in but that had not yet been taught in the course of their studies. Topics ended up being innovation and system dynamics, design thinking and system dynamics, experimental methods and agent-based modeling.

B. What is your assessment 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.

Overall, the new elements seem to have worked well. I will address some avenues for improvement under point C. Covid-19 and the restrictions it imposed on interactions – both among students and with the case owner obviously played an important role this year. This was particularly unfortunate as GEO-SD325 is designed around such interactions.

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.
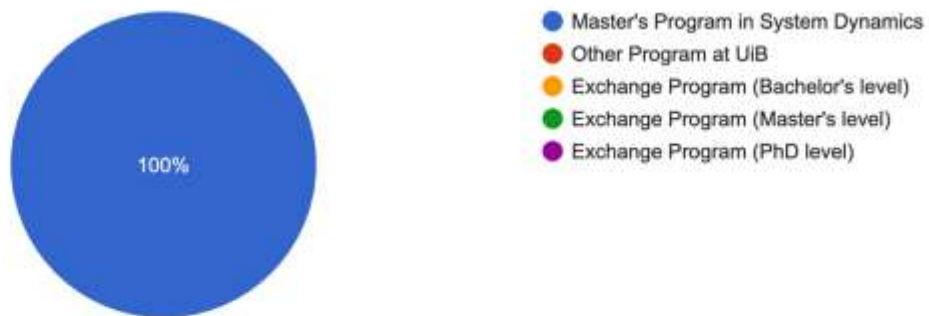
I will definitely continue with the philosophy of rapid iterations and with the à la carte teaching. Points that I plan on changing are:
-   Provide a more explicit overview on how the course activities contribute towards the course objectives
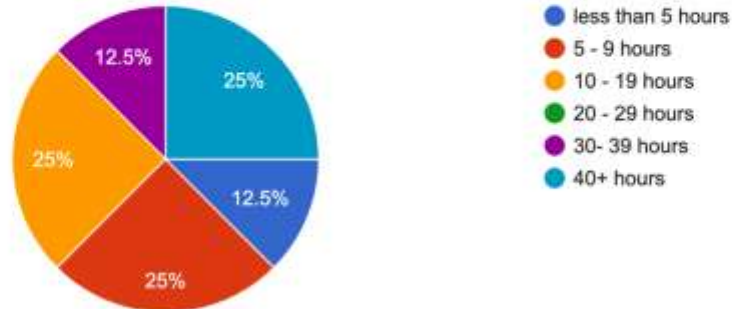-   Organize more client interactions

4. Results

I study GEO-SD 325 as part of:
9 responses

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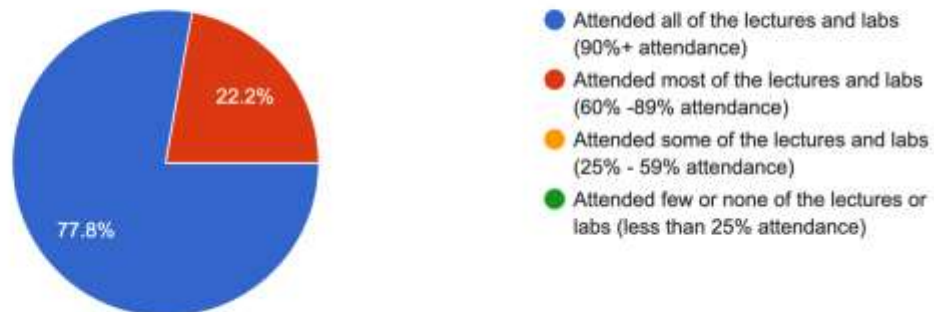- Exchange Program (PhD level)

100%

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.)
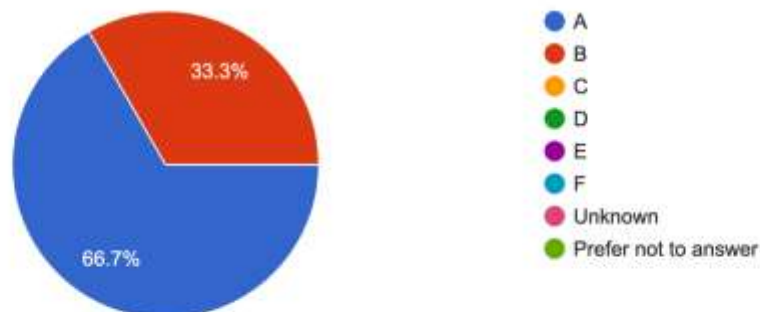8 responses

- 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?
9 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:
9 responses

- A
- B
- C
- D
- E
- F
- Unknown
- Prefer not to answer

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	I achieved the learning outcomes of this course
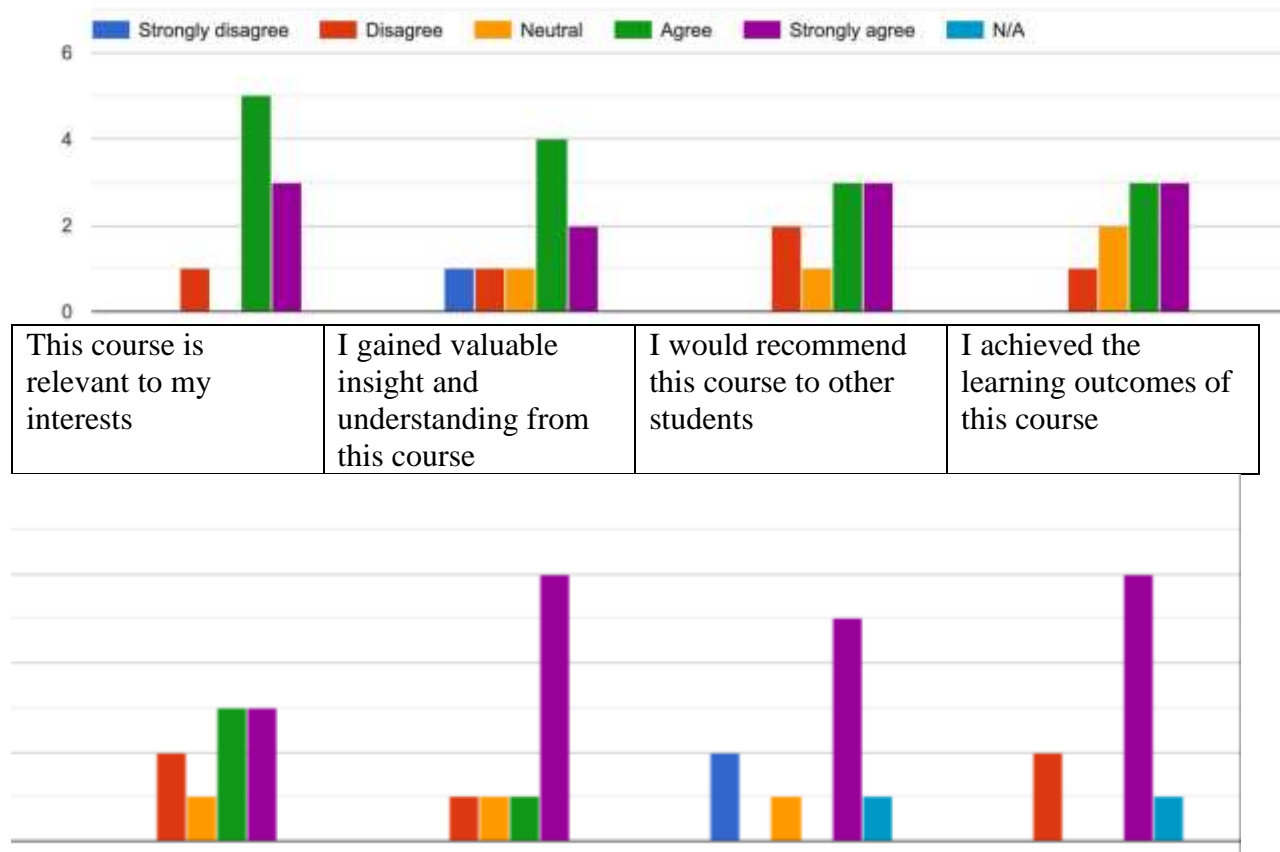
The final project appropriately captured my level of understanding of the course	The professor contributed significantly to my learning	The Tas contributed significantly to my learning	I received adequate support throughout this course

Do you have any comments on your answers above? If so, please discuss here:
No, i donot have any comment on the above question.

How do you assess different parts of the course:

Relevance of course content	Quality of course content	Interactions with the professor
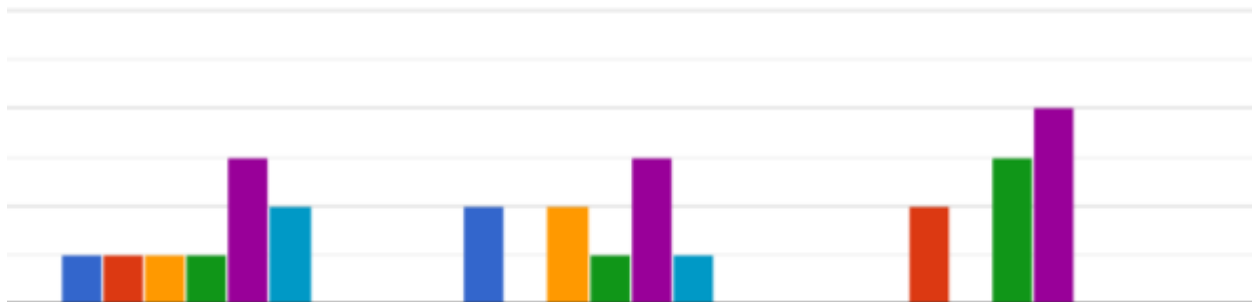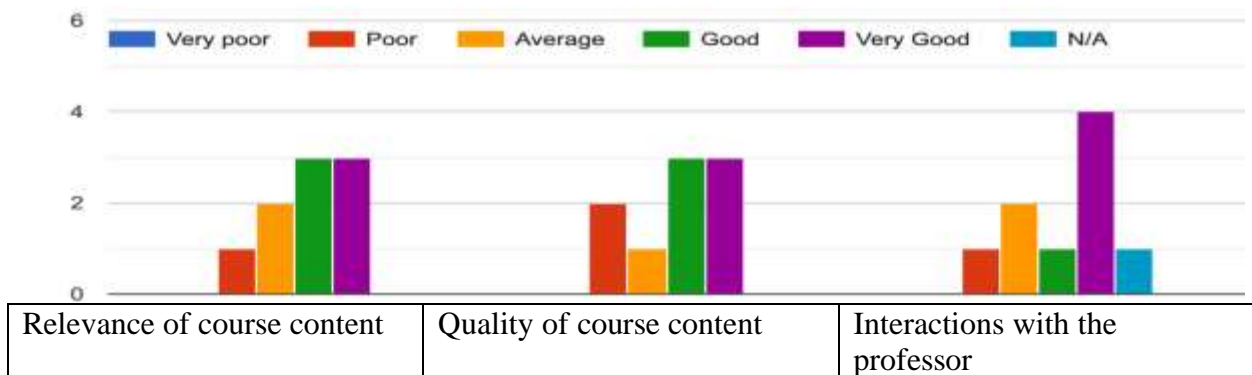
Interactions with the TA	Clarity of feedback you received throughout the course	Course organization and structure

Teaching Methods	Weekly Lectures	Weekly Labs
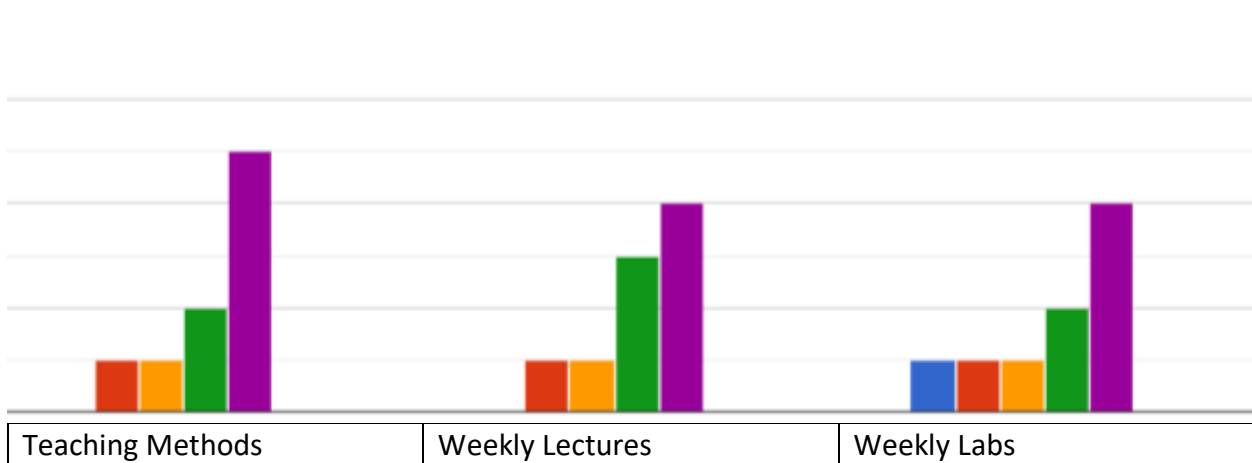
Do you have any additional comments on your answers above? If so, please discuss here:

The feedback was not helpful. Most of the labs did not give us information to work towards our goals.
No, every thing is ok with the course content and teaching procedure.

Why would you recommend or not recommend this course to other students?

| This course was well planned and had all the information related to client based modelling process |
|---|
| I found the cource helpful |
| This course allows you to work with directly to your clients unlike other courses. |
| I would recommend it because it deals with policy levers that are beneficial. it covers a wide view of the system dynamics as a course. |
| The course has little to do with the overall objectives of SD |
| It took time where I could have been working on my thesis. I do not feel like we had the learning experience that was intended before the course. |
| I would recommend this course to other students because it is based on team work and helps to cooperate with friends of different understanding to connect together to a common agenda. |
| it is practical |

Not sure how the course would have been had COVID not been an issue, but in this form, this seems to be a very neutral course - it gives an opportunity to do another modeling project which is good practice and some good tips and tricks in the lectures, but it didn't really feel like a client based modeling project... there was very little client interaction

What did you expect to learn upon starting this course?
Learn how to work with client and present our model to them
Modeling sosial issue
Interactions with clients. Real world problems with diverse concepts.
I expected to interact alot with the client as the course is called "client based modeeling" but i covid would not let us do that!
Explaining SD and communicating with the client
I expected to be working more with customers and policy development. I don't feel like we worked with customers to the extent that I expected, and we were not involved with policy.
I have expected to learn team work.
Meeting real clients in person
how to interact with a client

What do you feel you have learned by the end of this course? Have you met the learning objectives?
This was one of the best course I have attended in master's program
Yes
Yes
How to many goals interact to achieve the bigger goal...
N/A
I learned that customer communication is difficult, but I don't know how much role playing was involved, helped or hurt the learning objectives. I don't believe the learning objectives were met.
I felt I had leaned great things from this course.
I have learned how to do reseach on a problem, by data reseaching, interviewing, modeling, and how to present solutions to clients to make sure they have a clear understanding of the solution.
mostly I have just gotten more practice with a modeling project, few hard skills were gained from the course, some soft skills were gained, but in the end difficult to identify what the learning objectives really were and if I met them

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?

9 responses
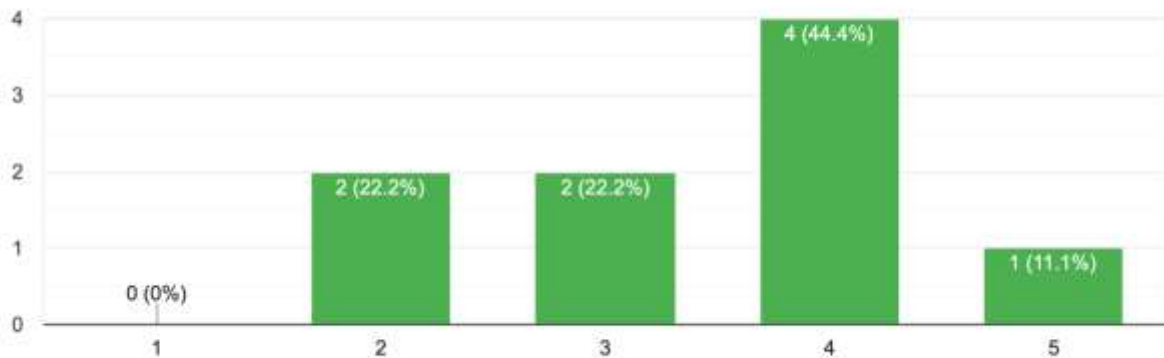
In what ways did the 'distance learning' style of this course make the course more difficult for you?
Distance learning is the new normal. We have to understand and maintain it.
No interactions with my classmates physically, it is not the same as it when you do it on zoom or any other online platform.
It definitely hurt outcomes. This was not something could have been changed though.
Distance learning style did not effect on my learning. The distance learning is similar to that of live class.
I expected to meet clients in person, so I would have learned how to deal with realistic situations. Besides, it was hard to focus all the time during the course when I was at home alone.

no opportunity to interact with the client. Other than that there wasn't much difficulty with doing this project since my team members were all in Bergen and we were able to meet together on a few occasions.

In what ways did the 'distance learning' style of this course make the course easier/more convenient for you?
I was always punctual..
It was more convenient because I didn't need to leave my room, but I wouldn't say it was easier. I didn't have to spend as much time preparing daily, but I definitely did not prefer it.
Anywhere there is internet, I have the access to the course.
NA

You can expand upon/comment on your answer above here:

What could the instructor have done to improve your learning experience?
As said earlier the course was planned really well and we also had a al-carte teaching where students could request session related to system dynamics
Instructure did a lot
More one to one sessions.
I believe she did a good job and all her best
Have clear objectives
I don't know. The interactions with TA didn't feel like we were making any progress.
Every thing is fine with the instructor way. I do not see any thing to improve on it.
She was very supporting students' learning requirements, teaching us what we would like to learn.
More specific feedback about the models and progress with the projects

What could you have done to improve your learning experience?
I could have suggested topics which I was not clear about in al-carte teaching form
Practicing more
To send more emails about client problem
May be i should have asked more questions instead of asking my classmates afterwards
Clear objectives, more interaction with the TA
I could have talked with the instructor more about the issues I was having with the course.
To improve my learning experience, I could have given more focus as compared to that I have given.
If I could take courses with professor and classmates in class, that would be better.
unknown

How would you reflect on your learning process throughout this course?

What did you find very helpful or useful in this course?
Different analysis techniques
How to model such sosial issue
The most attractive thing i found that this course makes students ready to face clients in real world.
Modelling 'bergen green" which is actually very enviromental friendly goal.
N/A
I'm not sure.
The most important feathers of this course is team work. Team work helps to cooperate friends from different background to connect to a common ground.
How to interview a client, agent based modeling, final presentation.
Some of the lectures were very interesting that talked about modeling techniques. And I really liked the lecture on ABM.

What do you wish you could have learned more about in this course?
other methodologies of system thinking
Practice
That is a good question. I wish if we could have more than one client. To be specific one group one client.
More goals ...like 3 more
Explaining SD and communicating with the client
This is hard to say. The course did not go as I expected.
The design and goal of the course is far better than the one that I have done in Nepal. For me this much is more than enough.
Practical interaction with clients
More specifics about how to do the modeling techniques refenced above- we were introduced to the topics so that we knew they existed, but didn't really learn how to do them...

What do you feel could be improved about this course and what suggestions do you have for ways to improve it?
I wish we had more experience with customers.
More technical skills about interacting with clients.

Any other comments can be made here:
Thanks to our instructor for the way she displayed the course.

5. Follow-up

Comments on previous evaluations (if any)

How do plan to follow-up on the basis of the course report

Cf. point C under 3. Self-evaluation