Course analysis BIOR18 autumn 2018

Course leader: Fredric Carlsson
Other teachers: Lars Hederstedt, Klas Flärde, Claes von Wachenfeldt

Number of students: 22 registered students (one additional student took the exam)

Grades: 6 Fail (U), 13 Pass (G), 4 Pass w distinction (VG).

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation
   Number of answers: 17
   
   Short summary of the result: Overall the students were pleased with the course (overall grade 3.1). The students especially appreciated the enrichment project (4.3) and topics related to bacterial physiology and diversity (4.2) as well as medical microbiology and antibiotics (4.4), but suggested improvement regarding microbial ecology (2.1) and the workload, which was perceived as high.

II. Comments from the teachers team
   The teachers on the course considered that the course worked quite well, which is in line with the fact that many students found the course to increase their knowledge (4.2) and interest (4.1) in the subject. Many of the students (including those with less preknowledge in the topic) were focused, motivated and performed well during the course. Some of the students that responded to the course evaluation expressed concerns regarding the workload and stress. Below suggested changes aim to reduce stress among students while maintaining a comprehensive full-time course in Microbiology.

III. Evaluation of changes made since the previous course
   i) The seminars were changed such that they are now led by students (and not teachers) in order to promote student activity. This change was perceived as positive and the seminars were highly appreciated by the students.
   ii) The lab “Identification of Gram-negative rod-shaped bacteria” was modernized and is now based on so-called chromogenic substrates, rather than fermentation tubes that were used previously. With this change the lab is more in line with how bacteria are currently identified in clinical labs, and the change is considered a relevant update.
   iii) For the enrichment project we had included a written report, in addition to the oral presentation that has been included for many years. However, this change added to the student workload/perceived stress apparently without promoting learning and will therefore be discontinued.

IV. Suggested changes for the next course
   i) The next time the course is given we plan to discontinue the written report of the enrichment project, and focus more on the quality of the oral presentations. Moreover, we plan to further clarify the goals and expectations for the enrichment project for the students immediately as they start the course. Efforts will also be made to clarify and improve the planning and scheduling regarding deadlines etc. We hope that these changes will reduce perceived stress among students.
   ii) Efforts will be made to improve the teaching regarding “Microbial ecology”.

2019-04-10, compiled by Fredric Carlsson