Course analysis BIOR85 Immunology spring 2020

Course leader: Lars Råberg
Other teachers: Agnieszka Czopek, Björn Weström, Camilla Björklöv, Fredric Carlsson, Helena Westerdahl, Katharina Lahl, Mehrnaz Nouri, Phebe Verbrugghe, Shahram Lavasani, Xiuqin Zhong

Number of students: 25 registered students

Grades (exam 1): 3 Fail (U), 8 Pass (G), 11 Pass w distinction (VG).
Grades (exam 2): 2 Fail (U), 2 Pass (G), 1 Pass w distinction (VG)

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation
Number of answers: 14
Overall the students were pleased with the course (grade 4.4). Most aspects of the course received relatively high grades (≥4.0). All the main TLAs of the course (lectures, labs, literature project, group seminars) were mentioned in answers to the question “What did you appreciate most with this course?” There were relatively few suggestions for improvements, and the only aspect mentioned by several students was the seminars, were 2 students wanted more/longer seminars, and 2 students wanted fewer/non-mandatory seminars (so difficult to accommodate these requests…).

II. Comments from the teachers team
The teachers considered that the course worked out very well (as usual).

III. Evaluation of changes made since the previous course
There were two planned new TLAs on this course, both relating to the literature project:
1. Fredric had a lecture/seminar on “how to write a literature project”, were we discussed/dissected a “News and Views” paper from Nature (which is what we want the students to aim for when writing their literature project). In particular, we discussed the structure of the paper. There was no question in the course evaluation specifically about this, but my impression was that it worked out well.
2. The students practiced the oral presentations of the literature projects in groups of 4 students 1-2 days before the actual presentation. The aim of this was to make the quality of the presentations more even, and make sure everyone adhered to the time limit (7 min). Our impression was that this worked out very well. It was rated 4.2 by the students, and 6/7 comments were positive.

In addition, we had to make an unplanned change, because of the Covid-19 pandemic: The students wrote the exam at home, as an open-book exam (i.e. with free access to the book, google and whatever), but within the usual time limit (9-13). By necessity, the questions had to be quite different from the usual exam questions, with more discussion and reasoning. The change of exam format was announced only five days before the exam, but I think it worked out well. Still, the examination received a relatively low grade (3.6), and a number of students complained about lack of time (but I deliberately included a couple of more questions than usual, so there should not be too much time to google around for answers). There was also one very positive
comment about the exam, though (“the home exam we have had to take has easily been my favourite exam in my entire academic carrier ... I loved loved loved the questions”). In the end, the pass rate was very similar to previous years. Apart from these changes, we have only made very minor changes since the last course (for example, updated seminar questions and list of papers for literature project); new questions and papers worked well.

IV. **Suggested changes for the next course**
We have made quite substantial changes during the last few years (new labs, new lectures, more seminars, new format of literature project, etc), and these have all worked out well. We don’t plan any changes for the next semester.

2020-09-25, compiled by Lars Råberg