Compilation of course evaluation GEOM08 2020, handed in by 8 of 8 students

Overall rating of the quality of the course: 4.4  (1 poor – 5 excellent)

Overall rating of the relevance of the course: 4.4  (1 irrelevant– 5 necessary)

General comments:

#1: The course was everything I hoped for, I finally understand everything I didn’t grasp during my bachelors and I learned a lot of new things as well
#2: -
#3: In my opinion this course moves closer interesting, but not always easy to conceive topics in a very good way. It gives quite comprehensive knowledge about metamorphic petrology, regional context of metamorphism and structural sense – all in understandable way.
#4: -
#5: The course was interesting.
#6: The course was on very high level. I don’t have any complains. In my opinion It helps a lot in understanding the mystery of metamorphism and to get interested in that topic.
#7: course was thoroughly enjoyable
#8: Having read geology in a country without metamorphic rocks, apart from zeolites and amphibol. This course has proven a great addition to my knowledge of geology.

The course evaluation is in total 4 pages x 8 students, allowing for detailed comments on all lectures, labs, and seminars of the course. This year, the field excursion had to be cancelled in the last minute due to the initial outbreak of Covid-19 in Sweden, and was replaced by a literature study and short report about the field area.

If you want to see the entire evaluation please contact course leader CM.

General evaluation by course leader CM:

GEOM08 (formerly GEOM06) has now been given for the last 10 years in more or less the same format. My impression from reading course evaluations and discussion with this year’s as well as previous years’ students is that course participants are overall very pleased. The course structure and the opportunities to perform practical tasks are particularly appreciated (3 sets of labs linked with seminar group presentations + 1 individual case study linked with 2 seminar days, in addition to several microscopy labs). Most students find the course challenging but rewarding. They generally express high appreciation for most of the lectures and labs. The field excursion is usually also much appreciated, but could unfortunately not be given this year.

During this year’s course evaluation, the course participants expressed highest appreciation for the practical assignment on reaction textures, comprising a textural and mineral chemical investigation including SEM-EDS and followed by a seminar, for the geochronology case study practicals, and for the final individual case studies with reading of scientific papers.

Some course participants express frustration with the computers/programs during the first major practical assignment, which aims at mastering standard geothermobarometry. Others...
express appreciation only of the same lab. The choice of softwares for this lab is not random. One of them (GTB) is admittedly old and can only be run on old Macs, but it is outstanding for pedagogical reasons in order to make swift comparisons of the effect of choosing different calibrations, Fe3+ calculation etc. The other software (THERMOCALC) uses terminal commands and requires meticulous handling, and is thus less "user-friendly". It is however the most widely used software internationally since many years back and based on modern thermodynamic databases.

This year, there is some critical comments on the microscopy labs. Course participants feel in general that there is much study material for the time available. Suggestions by the course participants are to reduce the time for teaching assistant-lead summaries and increase the time for individual work.

Additional remarks:
In previous year's oral course evaluations, it has been discussed whether the group seminars could be graded and included into the final grade. I find this difficult for two reasons: one is that it is hard to distinguish individual performances in a group presentation, the other - which is my firm opinion - is that the basic theoretical knowledge in metamorphic petrology, as tested in the written examination, must be fundamental for passing the course.

Throughout the years that this course has been given, individual students have suggested to add more time for either difficult or favorite topics (e.g. P-T determination, the individual case study, the field excursion, structural geology, tectonics, bedrock quality, geochronology), and to add various new topics and tasks (but never omit existing). Suggestions include e.g. add metasomatism, add ore deposits, add scheduled student opposition on oral presentations, etc. This is an expression of that students are engaged in the discipline and want more. It is very positive and I wish we could offer this for our geologists-to-be. It is regretfully extremely difficult to add more material and scheduled teaching time into the (crammed) 9 weeks that are available for GEOM08.

Changes planned for 2021
To:

1) prepare the computer lab carefully with regard to the performance of all computers, in particular one of the old Macs.
2) organize the microscopy labs such that there is more time available for individual study and maximum support by the teaching assistant.

Lund 15 June 2020

Charlotte Möller (course leader)

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