Course evaluation for GEOM09 2018 based on (oral and written) response by students

Based on the response by the students and our personal impression, it seems that most students rank the course very high (in similarity with previous years). As we continuously strive to improve the course, we are obviously happy to get this positive feedback! The level of the course is a rather difficult issue since it is a MSc course with students from different study backgrounds and originating from different countries. However, based in the course evaluations, it seems that the level is appropriate. Furthermore, based on evaluations dating back to 2015 (for GEOM04), we introduced the individual project earlier this year and also scheduled the presentations earlier. Still, some students found the workload to be slightly biased towards the end of the course. For next year, we might thus consider scheduling the presentations one week earlier, in order for the students to be able to focus more on the final exam the last week. However, it should be mentioned that some students expressed the opposite view. Also, it seems that we cannot stress enough (at the beginning of the course) that the students need to plan their time carefully and start early with the individual projects. It pleases us immensely to hear that all excursions were very well received and greatly appreciated. Some students noted that “it” (assuming the excursion to Faxe and Fur) could have been more extensive. This was the first year that we ran this excursion and hence worked as a test. During the trip we discussed the possibility of extending the excursion slightly, either by including, for example, a trip to Geocenter Møn and/or adding localities in southern Jutland. Continued discussions and evaluations by the course leaders will address this issue next year. The guest lectures were appreciated, although it is apparent that there are differences in teaching culture between countries. However, as we see it, this is also a good learning experience for the students. Guest lectures are also difficult to evaluate as we do not know what can be expected next year and which teachers will eventually show up. We do hope though to be able to continue with guest lectures. We will organize (or rather label) the hand-outs also from guest teachers more carefully in Live@Lund so that they are all listed as in the schedule. We also aim at providing slightly more time for preparations with regard to the seminars.

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Johan Lindgren and Mats Eriksson (course leaders)

Halla Margret Vidarsdottir (course representative)
Course evaluation 2018: GEOM09 Summary based on six students

1. How did you perceive the course in general (from 1-5, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent)?
   (1) (2) (3) 4 (4) 67% (5) 33%

2. How did you perceive the level of the course (from 1-5, where 1 is too simple and 5 is too difficult)?
   (1) (2) (3) 67% (4) 33% (5)

3. How easy was it to keep your level of interest up during the course (from 1-5, where 1 is difficult and 5 is easy)?
   (1) (2) 17% (3) 50% (4) 50% (5) 33%

4. Did you miss something on the course? If so, what?
   NA

5. How could we improve the course?
   Comments:
   - More organized list of resources for home study.
   - Maybe hand-in of project less close to exam.
   - Presentation of projects sooner.
   - Guest lectures could have less slides, more breaks and interaction with students.
   - Reduce lecture intensity slightly

6. Potential views on the lectures?
   Comments:
   - Mostly good (particularly the core teachers), very interesting. Some (guest lectures) too extensive.
   - One student reacted towards labs with animals.

7. Potential views on the labs and seminars?
   Comments:
   - Seminars very useful/good/good for understanding/good practice.
   - Perhaps more time to prepare for seminars.
   - Perhaps only use plant material in taphonomy lab.
   - Too many seminars but very interesting.

8. Potential views on the excursions?
   Comments:
   - Very good, liked them a lot, museums were great!
   - Too short but very interesting. Really good to first see museums and ten quarries.
   - All excursions were amazing. Really relevant and interesting but too short.
   - Great fun and good learning experience.
   - Could be slightly more interactive.

9. Other issues?
   Comments:
   - Perhaps a little too much material.
   - Organize the lecture handouts on Live@Lund better for invited lecturers (corresponding to schedule).
   - Of all the courses I have had in Lund, this was the best! Thank you for a great job.

Thanks for participating in this course evaluation! Johan Lindgren and Mats Eriksson (course leaders)