

GG5111 Environmental Geochemistry HT17

Answer Count: 6

1. What was the best aspect of the course?

What was the best aspect of the course?

The course was diverse and introduced a lot of new concepts

Not only the basic knowledge but also frontier theories have been presented here.

That it provided a general overview of different aspects of geochemistry.

Some of the teaching in the course was very well constructed and interesting throughout. The microbial mats part was structured very well to explain all of the background concepts well and then introduce analytical methods which made it understandable with lots of useful information throughout. The focus on the use of analytical equipment was also a good aspect as students can gain experience in using laboratory equipment.

The course touched various useful topics regarding geochemistry, and had lots of hours to exercise in the laboratory.

Another good thing was the writing in English of the reports.

The best aspect of the course is the chance to pass a lot of time in laboratory

2. What improvements would you suggest in the course?

What improvements would you suggest in the course?

Clear limitations and instructions on the reports would have been helpful. Maybe limiting the scope of the reports so that the students can focus on the main points of the themes.

The tempo inhibits the learning process, if students are this stressed it is hard to process and remember what was covered in the course.

Making sure that students being accepted into the course have a relevant background.

This course might be better understandable if one more week's lectures could be added for refreshing all the basic principles on chemistry.

Definitely the planning of the course. It is a very intensive and ambitious course, where a lot of information is given within a short period of time. For a student to receive information, process the information and then actually understand to information is a time-consuming task. To therefore do that information processing simultaneously as doing laboratory work, data analysis and report writing within approximately a week provides very low chances of actually understanding the issues. And that's a shame, because this subject is really interesting! A suggestion would be to either decrease the amount of work load per theme, e.g. less laboratory work, or maybe (in some way) merge two themes into one.

Taking out a theme from the beginning and making each of the remaining themes slightly longer. Learning all of the theory through lectures on one or two mornings felt rushed and didn't leave much time to absorb the information, as well as at times theory was lacking. The lab time could at times be decreased or done more efficiently and the time replaced with the learning of relevant theory. For some themes learning of theory stopped after the lectures which didn't consolidate concepts well at times.

Also for some themes, more justification of the mark given during the grading process would be beneficial for future improvement.

Maybe it is better to unify some arguments in a single report, so it is possible to have more time to write them.

I think that it would be better to focus on less themes

3. What advice would you like to give to future course participants?

What advice would you like to give to future course participants?

Try not to stress, take one day at a time. Don't be afraid to ask teachers for help and make sure that you help each other within the class.

In my opinion, time planning and essay writing is essential for this course, so making plans in advance will make learning more efficiently.

This course is a really intensive and time consuming course, so for future participants to be prepared for a lot of work (days, evenings, weekends).

This course needs a high knowledge in english, and needs a high background in geochemistry.

I would advise to try to be always present during lectures, lab and computer labs.

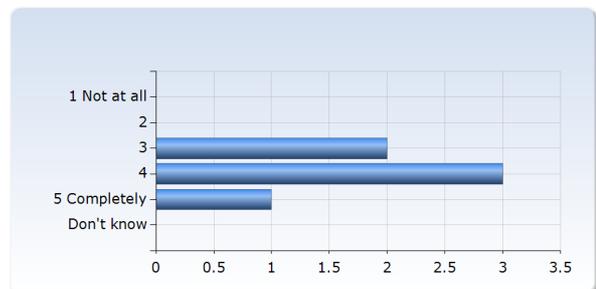
4. Other comments

Other comments

I think it is relevant to discuss the general work load a student is expected to have per week. For a working employee, the work load in time per week is 40 hours and for weeks with >40 hours, the time is compensated in some ways. But I've experienced (from other course as well) that just because someone is studying on university level, then you're expected to put evenings and weekends as well for studying without any thoughts to that is necessary with free time. I know a lot of students, including myself, that suffers from a lot of stress and where free time with friends and family is extremely limited during some courses. This is a really important issue to address, because it's a matter of the students health. Yes, it is important to have high ambitions when planning a course, but it is also important to respect the time and health of the students. And it is also contra-productive to set too high goals, since then the students don't learn whats expected to learn anyway.

5. Overall impression

Overall I am satisfied with this course	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	2 (33.3%)
4	3 (50.0%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



Comment on the overall impression

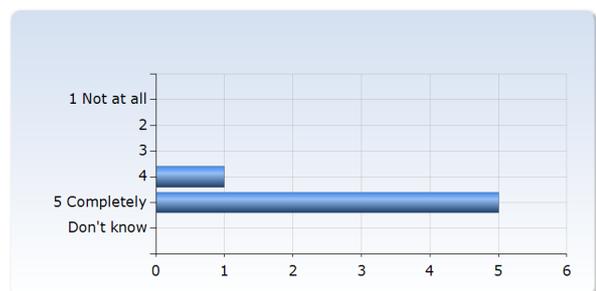
The tempo of the course inhibits the learning process, I know I've learned to produce reports under massive amounts of pressure which is good I guess but at this point I can hardly remember what we discussed in the course, maybe it will sink in after a while. Liked the peer reviews and I learned alot about how to write a report.

I've learned a lot during this course, but as mentioned, the time planning provided a lot of stress unfortunately.

6. Student contribution

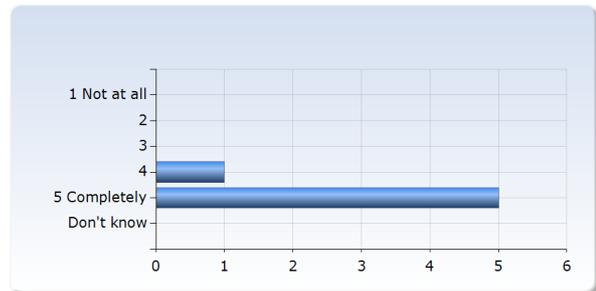
I am satisfied with my own effort in the course

I am satisfied with my own effort in the course	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	1 (16.7%)
5 Completely	5 (83.3%)
Don't know	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



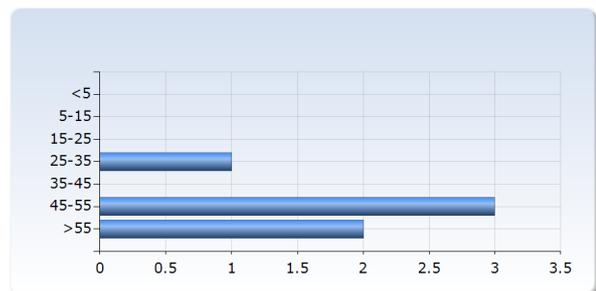
I took responsibility for my own learning in the course

I took responsibility for my own learning in the course	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	1 (16.7%)
5 Completely	5 (83.3%)
Don't know	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



7. Work load

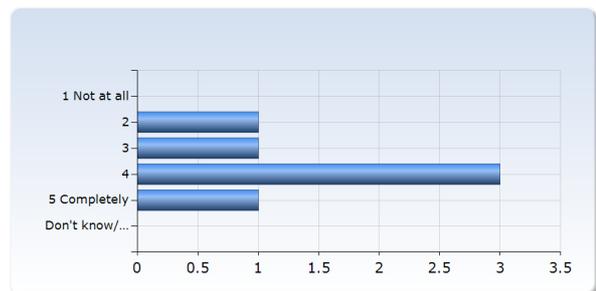
Indicate how many hours per week on average you have spent on the course, including self-studies and scheduled study time	Number of Responses
<5	0 (0.0%)
5-15	0 (0.0%)
15-25	0 (0.0%)
25-35	1 (16.7%)
35-45	0 (0.0%)
45-55	3 (50.0%)
>55	2 (33.3%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



8. Clear aims

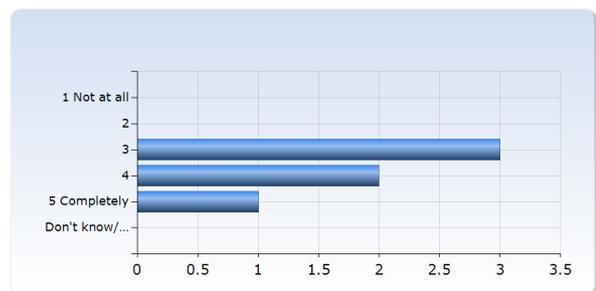
It was clear to me what I was expected to learn

It was clear to me what I was expected to learn	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	1 (16.7%)
4	3 (50.0%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



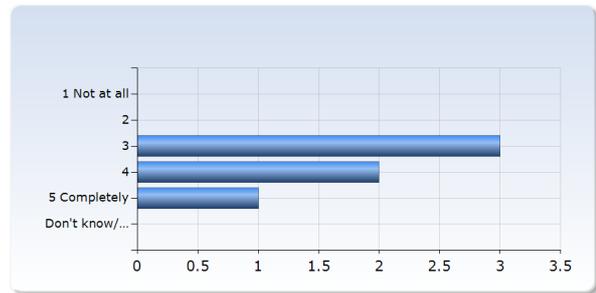
I felt that the course content and teaching methods were relevant to the learning outcomes

I felt that the course content and teaching methods were relevant to the learning outcomes	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	3 (50.0%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



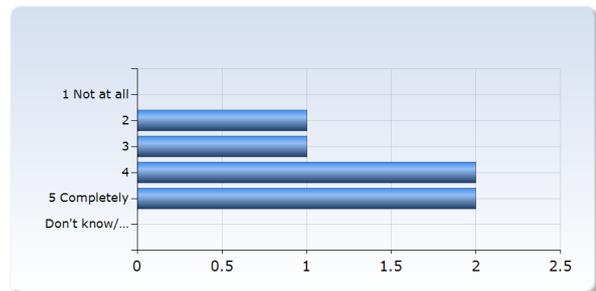
The examination tested how well I had achieved the learning outcomes

The examination tested how well I had achieved the learning outcomes	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	3 (50.0%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



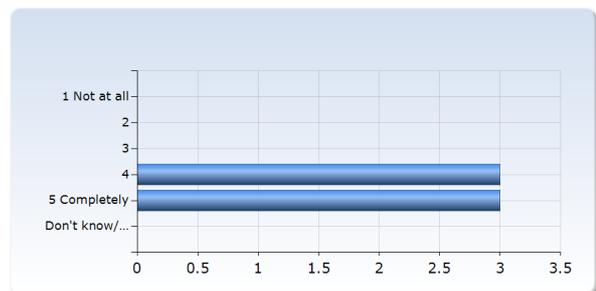
The course corresponded to my expectations

The course corresponded to my expectations	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	1 (16.7%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	2 (33.3%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



I feel that I will have use of what I have learnt after my studies

I feel that I will have use of what I have learnt after my studies	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	3 (50.0%)
5 Completely	3 (50.0%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



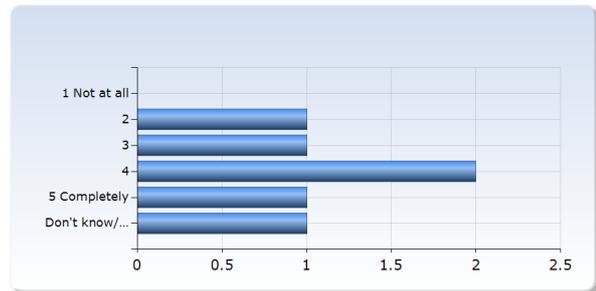
Comment on the aims

In most of the themes, the aim of the reports were not given. It was truly a struggle to first understand the theme and what we were actually doing during the theme to then come up with a aim. It would really had made it a lot easier if the aim of the reports were given by the teachers, so that the students can focus on actually learning.

9. Good teaching

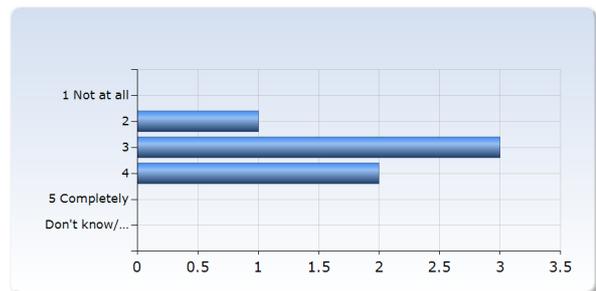
The course prerequisites were sufficient to follow the course

The course prerequisites were sufficient to follow the course	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	1 (16.7%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	1 (16.7%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



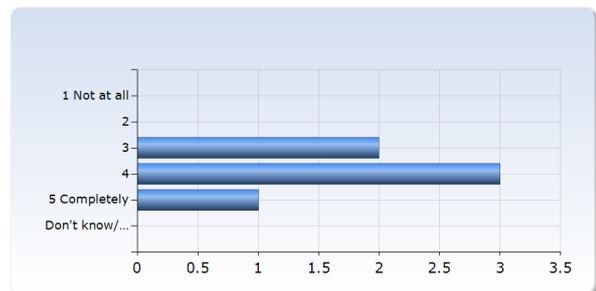
I felt that the course was well structured

I felt that the course was well structured	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	3 (50.0%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	0 (0.0%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



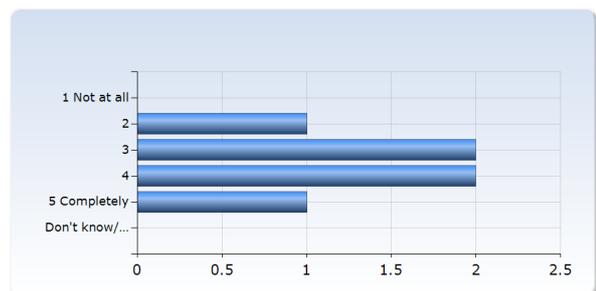
I felt that the teachers have helped me to reach the learning outcomes

I felt that the teachers have helped me to reach the learning outcomes	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	2 (33.3%)
4	3 (50.0%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



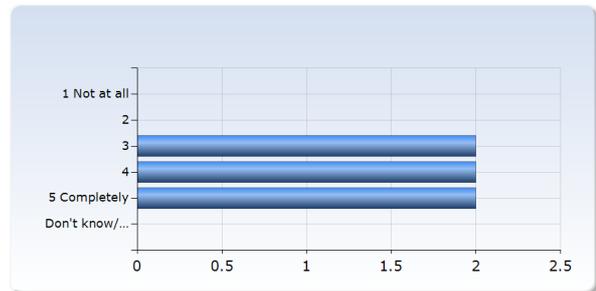
I could understand what was being taught

I could understand what was being taught	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	2 (33.3%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



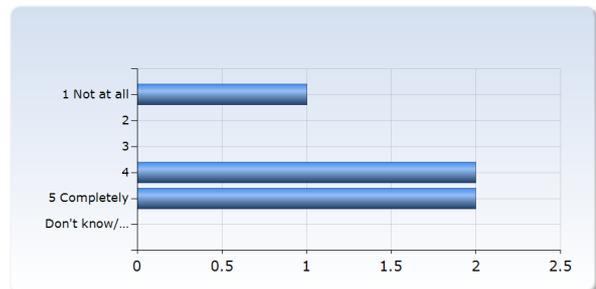
I have received constructive feedback on my performance

I have received constructive feedback on my performance	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	2 (33.3%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	2 (33.3%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



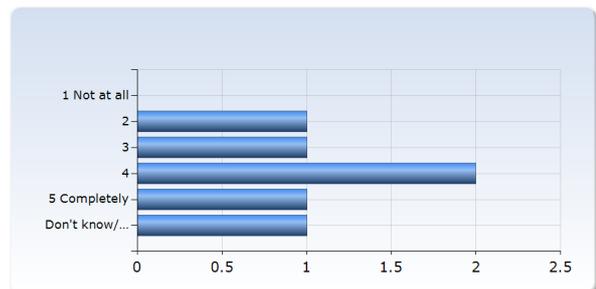
I was encouraged to reflect on my learning during the course

I was encouraged to reflect on my learning during the course	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	1 (20.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	2 (40.0%)
5 Completely	2 (40.0%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	5 (100.0%)



The course material helped me in my work to achieve the learning outcomes (literature, e-resources etc.)

The course material helped me in my work to achieve the learning outcomes (literature, e-resources etc.)	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	1 (16.7%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	1 (16.7%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



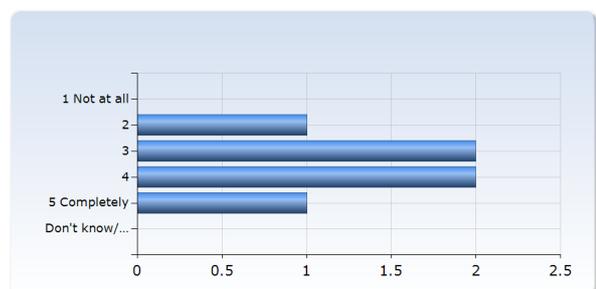
Comment on the teaching

Unfortunately, there was no time to reflect on my learning during the course.

10. Administration and study environment

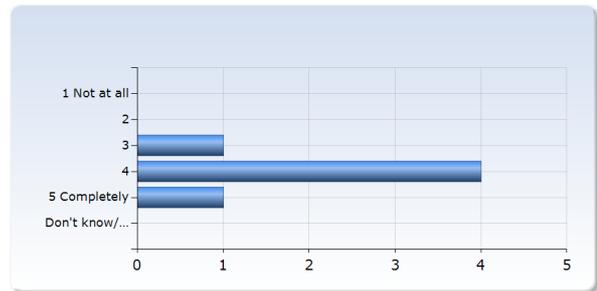
I felt that the course was well organized

I felt that the course was well organized	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	2 (33.3%)
4	2 (33.3%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



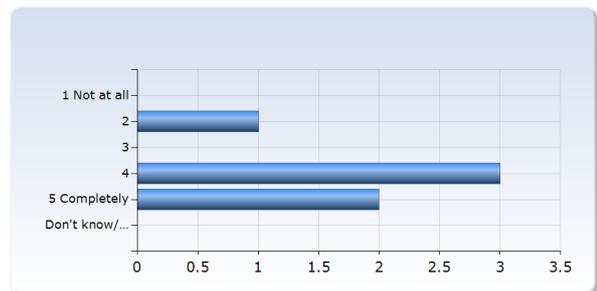
I have been able to find the information I felt I needed before and during the course

I have been able to find the information I felt I needed before and during the course	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	0 (0.0%)
3	1 (16.7%)
4	4 (66.7%)
5 Completely	1 (16.7%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



I was able to get support when I needed it

I was able to get support when I needed it	Number of Responses
1 Not at all	0 (0.0%)
2	1 (16.7%)
3	0 (0.0%)
4	3 (50.0%)
5 Completely	2 (33.3%)
Don't know/ Not relevant	0 (0.0%)
Total	6 (100.0%)



11. Please let us know if you feel that students has not been treated with respect or has been discriminated against.