

## Evaluation summary for KEMM13 Advanced Biochemistry 15 hp VT2015 2015-06-25

**Course leader:** Urban Johanson

**Other teachers:** Hans-Erik Åkerlund, Susanna Törnroth-Horsefield, Eva Sperling, Stefan Kreida

**Students:** 12 + 1 (only practicals = 7.5 hp) + 2 doing the re-examination.

**Outcome:** 6 (43%) passed the exam with honors, 5 (36%) passed, 3 (21%) did not pass. All passed the other mandatory parts.

### Evaluation:

#### I. Summary of course evaluations

*Mid-course evaluation:* Overall the course is working fine and no issues that called for immediate action were identified. Suggestions for improvement of the course are summarized in the PM "Notes from mid-course evaluation meeting KEMM13 2015-05-06". Some of these are put forward under point IV below.

*Survey&Report:* 9 answers of 13 respondents (69%). The categories were rated from 1 (very bad) up to 5 (very good) and opportunity to add free text was provided on each question. The general impression of the course is very good (4.6), this is the highest rating obtained for this course so far. Previous years it has been 4.1-4.2. Especially the lab projects (4.9), and assistants & teachers (4.8) are appreciated. The problem solving and project planning part got the lowest rating (3.9), which is lower than last year (4.3) but similar to years before that (3.8-3.9). The estimation of their workload (3.0: 31-40 h/week) varied more than usual and was lower than last year (3.8), but again similar to years before that (2.4-2.8). The free text answers specified that the students particularly liked the project (lab 2) and the helpful assistants, whereas stress and learning structures by heart were most disliked.

#### II. Comments by course leader

The course is well-established by now and was particularly successful this year, partly due to invested time to develop the course (see below), but most likely also due to the many good students this year as indicated by received high grades (43% passed with honors) compared to previous years (11-22%). Due to lack of communication when making the schedule, the course had to share the lab with another course for a few days.

#### III. Evaluation of implemented changes of the course

The most significant change is that five lab days (old lab2: solubilization and purification) were removed from the course to save money. The associated theoretical content was still covered by lectures. The cut may explain the lower mean of experienced workload (two students estimated <20 h/week), and may have removed some of the stress expressed by students in previous years. In previous years, too little support in primer design (old lab3, now lab2) has also generated some stress. This year UJ gave the introduction to molecular biology methods with more focus on practical tools and primer design and the assistants booked the computer room for the final primer design. Together with the extra step of transforming a cloning strain before the expression host, this resulted in a much

higher degree of success in lab2. Instructions for lab1 were carefully revised by ES and the Protter tool for topology visualization was introduced and used in both lab1 and 2. After complaints last year, lab equipment was thoroughly checked, repaired or removed from the lab. Minor changes included uploading: more old exams, previous years winning posters, list of chapters used for lectures, all at Live@Lund.

**IV. Suggested changes**

Coordinate use of the lab better to circumvent collisions with other courses.

Update list of available bacterial strains and plasmids.

Provide date for re-examination in schedule.

Consider diagnostic multiple choice test in molecular biology methods to aid in formation of lab groups.

Consider providing links to videos illustrating important concepts.