

Course Report

Course(s)

- Infection Biology, BL8058-56600 15.0 hp

Semester

Spring 2022

Course Site Name in Athena

Infection biology-VT22 (9869)

Department

Department of Biology Education

Published:

Number of respondents

17

Number of answers

11

Compilation

[Compilation_BL8058_VT22.pdf](#)

Description of changes, and potential decisions already made to make such changes, since the course was last given.

The helminth lab module was replaced this year with a lab module that includes malaria biology linked to transmission and which includes: molecular, histological, cell biological components as well as work with live mosquitos.

The strengths of the course according to the students.

(summary based on quantitative results, text responses from the survey and any other evaluation during the course)

The students described the lectures as interesting and that there was a good variety of lectures by experts in the field both from SU but also from other universities.

The lab topics were interesting and relevant.

The course was structured and organized well.

The individual project module was well received and described as a component that allowed the students to delve deeper into topics in infection biology that interested them.

The weaknesses of the course according to the students

(summary based on quantitative results, text responses from the survey and any other evaluation during the course).

It was to some degree repetitive, especially the three-day course introduction according to some students who described an overlap with the master's course in microbiology. Some students further claimed that the structure of the course due to this fact should be revised and that communication among the course responsible persons and teachers should be considered.

Some students further described a repetitiveness in the labs, specifically based on the methodologies used.

"Nothing" (should be changed) was the response from one student.

The teachers' analysis of the implementation and results of the course.

The new lab module (2022), which required the addition of two TAs (extra PhD student and postdoc) to help out in this module, something that most students seem to have appreciated, but where a few of the students seem to have found it confusing that there were several people assisting with the labs. Although we see the addition of experts in the field as something positive and generally inspiring for the students, we will likely not be able to include these extra TAs in the future since they were only added in order to establish the new lab and funded externally.

Since the level of knowledge among the student body varies and since a majority of the students are international students, it is our opinion that we need to keep the course introduction during the first three days of the course. It is in our opinion apparent that some level of repetition is required based on the results of the final exam. Further, there was a comment that it is repetitive to have three malaria lectures. However, the three lectures address very different topics in malaria biology and are therefore in our opinion highly complementary rather than repetitive. For next year we will further look into sections that may be overlapping between the three lectures. Additionally, the HIV lecture will also be discussed, where there were claims that there was overlap with the lecture in the microbiology course.

The expectations of the course are clearly outlined and discussed during the one-hour introduction on the first day of the course. We will maintain this part in order to make sure that it is clear to all course participants exactly what the learning objectives are as well as the expectations on the students.

It is noteworthy that several of the students communicated that they had spent 10-30h per week on the course (including lectures and labs), where some students communicated 50-65h per week. In future years it will be important for both teachers and BIG to make sure that the students understand that the amount of hours spent on a master's level course should at least equate to that of a full time job.

Finally, we are happy that the students generally find the lectures, the individual projects and the labs to be exciting and satisfactory, and in line with the learning objective and learning outcome

Conclusions and suggestions for possible changes to the course and any decisions already made to develop the course.

Overall the course went well, including the addition of a new lab module

It will be important to have an ongoing discussion between BIG and the course leaders to ensure that all students who are excepted to the course are prepared for and able apprehend the learning objectives of the course.

We will continue with the new lab module (Lab 2), possibly in a slightly revised version.

As stated above, we have considered the critique regarding repetitiveness during the introduction of the course and in a few lectures, and will further discuss this for next year's course

Other comments