

EMNERAPPORT – INSTITUTT FOR BIOMEDISIN

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICINE

Emnekode: <i>COURSE CODE:</i>	BMED380	Semester / år:	Spring 2022
Emnenavn: <i>COURSE NAME:</i>	<i>Seminar Series</i>	<i>SEMESTER / YEAR:</i>	
Emneansvarlig: <i>COURSE COORDINATOR:</i>	Harald Barsnes (from April 1 st 2022)	Godkjent:	Utdanningsleder IBM 16.08.2022
Rapporteringsdato: <i>DATE OF REPORT:</i>	August 12th, 2022	<i>APPROVED:</i> (admin.)	

INNLEDNING / INTRODUCTION:

Kort beskrivelse av emnet, inkl. studieprogramtilhørighet. Kommentarer om evt. oppfølging av tidligere evalueringer.

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING WHICH STUDENTS/CANDIDATES MAY ATTEND. COMMENTS TO CHANGES BASED ON PRIOR EVALUATIONS.

BMED380 - Seminar Series (5 ECTS) is a course open for students fulfilling the pre-requirement of, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree in biology or molecular biology, or equivalent. In the Master's Programme in Biomedical Sciences it is listed as an approved optional course.

The goal of the course is to provide the participants with an overview of different disciplines in bioscience and to give them training in listening to scientific presentations in English, as well as in interpreting, reflecting over, writing and discussing scientific information using the English language.

In the course the students follow the weekly seminars held at the Department of Biomedicine. The course lasts for two consecutive semesters. In exceptional cases, and if the application is accepted by the course coordinator, a student can finish the course in their third semester. Students can enrol in the course both in the autumn and spring semester.

For the full description of the course, please see: <http://uib.no/course/BMED380>

For previous evaluation reports, please see: <https://kvalitetsbasen.app.uib.no/popup.php?kode=BMED380>

The previous evaluation report listed the following planned changes:

A clearly positive outcome of the pandemic-related challenges faced over the last two years was that both teachers and students gained confidence and expertise in the use of digital platforms. This helped us continue the course (almost) uninterrupted and provides us with more flexibility in the future. Although we favour face-to-face interactions with the speakers and highly rate the social networking aspect of personal gatherings, we will also schedule occasional Zoom seminars in the future. Speakers far removed from Bergen or who cannot/do not want to travel (due to time constraints or for pandemic/political/moral reasons) can then still be invited.

Finally, it should be noted that there has been a shift in leadership. Harald Barsnes, Associate Professor at the Department of Biomedicine, took over the responsibility for the BMED380 course from April 1st 2022, due to Beate Sterns retirement. Harald has been assisted by Adam Truskewycz, postdoc at the department.

Changes due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 relevant for the spring semester of 2022:

The pandemic still had an impact on many of the courses in the spring semester of 2022. For BMED380 the impact was however limited for the current semester as we already had plenty of experience with providing the seminars online if required. In total we had four Zoom-only seminars, in addition to one hybrid seminar that could be attended either in person or via Zoom. While the possibility of providing online seminars has its advantages, going forward we will still aim for in person seminars being the norm. Hybrid seminars will however be avoided as they generally tend to result in a lower in person turnout.

STATISTIKK / STATISTICS (admin.):					
Antall vurderingsmeldte studenter: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR EXAMINATION:</i>		5		Antall studenter møtt til eksamen: <i>NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ATTENDED EXAMINATION:</i>	
				2	
Karakter- skala GRADING SCALE	«Bestått/ikke bestått»	Bestått / PASS:	2	Ikke bestått / FAIL:	-
	«PASS/FAIL»				

KOMMENTARER TIL KARAKTERFORDELINGEN / COMMENTS TO THE STATISTICS:

Emnerapporten utarbeides når sensuren etter ordinær eksamen i emnet er klar. For muntlige eksamener er da resultatfordelingen endelig, men for skriftlige eksamener kan endelig resultatfordeling avvike noe om evt. klagebehandling ikke er fullført.

THIS REPORT IS PREPARED AFTER ORDINARY EXAMINATION. FOR ORAL EXAMS, THE RESULTS ARE FINAL, FOR WRITTEN EXAMS, THE FINAL GRADING DISTRIBUTION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY IF CANDIDATE COMPLAINTS/APEALS HAVE NOT BEEN PROCESSED.

In total, ten students were registered for the course this semester, including two with an exam attempt registered from an earlier semester. The students had the following backgrounds:

- Nine master's students in biomedical sciences, and
- One student attending The Medical Student Research Programme at The Faculty of Medicine.

Of these, one student had already passed the course the previous semester (under the agreement that he attended five additional seminars this spring semester). An additional three students were given permission to pause the course and complete it in the fall semester of 2022, while one student decided to leave the course before the exam. Finally, three of the students were attending their first semester of the course and were thus not eligible to complete the course this spring semester. In total, this resulted in only two students attending the exam and passing the course.

The course is awarded with pass/fail; there are no grades given.

SAMMENDRAG AV STUDENTENE SINE TILBAKEMELDINGER / SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS GIVEN BY THE STUDENTS

Spørreundersøkelse via Mitt UiB, annen evaluering, tilbakemelding fra tillitsvalgte og/eller andre.

COURSE EVALUATION ON MITT UIB, OTHER EVALUATIONS, RESPONSES FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR OTHERS.

SurveyXact was used as the digital evaluation system. The questions were either in the form of multiple choice or open questions where the students could provide their own opinions as free text. The survey was anonymous and distributed on June 9th to the students via their UiB email addresses. Reminders to fill out the survey were sent out on June 20th and 22nd to those (resp. 10 and 10) that had not responded.

The students were asked about the academic content, the organization and the educational level of the teaching, and asked to evaluate the total workload of the course. They were asked to give their responses about the seminars, what they appreciated – or found disappointing – about the course, and to evaluate the workload of the written assignments as well as the examination format itself. Finally, there were questions regarding their learning outcomes.

Due to the then still ongoing pandemic all the students were also asked:

“How have digital teaching methods and restrictions on education on campus affected your learning and your study life? Feel free to mention both negative and positive experiences.”

When the survey closed on June 24th, there was only one response, i.e., from a single student. Hence, there is sadly not enough data to analyze meaningfully. The student evaluation format therefore ought to be considered changed for future semesters to increase the response rate.

The students have however comment positively on the course in direct communications, either in person or via email, although this information has not been gathered systematically and cannot be considered as official student feedback on the course itself. The only additional student feedback is what they write in their written assignments. These are generally positive, but only touch upon the specific seminar the student focused on in the assignment.

EMNEANSVARLIG SIN EVALUERING OG VURDERING / EVALUATION AND COMMENTS BY COURSE COORDINATOR:

Faglæreres vurderinger av emnet. *TEACHER COMMENTS.*

Eksempel: Kommentarer om praktisk gjennomføring, undervisnings- og vurderingsformer, evt. endringer underveis, studieinformasjon på nett og Mitt UiB, litteraturtilgang, samt lokaler og utstyr.

EXAMPLE: COMMENTS ABOUT PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, IF NECESSARY. FUTURE CHANGES/CHANGES IN PROGRESS, STUDY INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET AND MITT UIB, LITERATURE ACCESS, LOCALES AND EQUIPMENT.

As already mentioned above, there was a transition in leadership during the semester with Harald Barsnes taking over for Beate Stern as the course coordinator. A significant amount of work was therefore put into transferring the knowledge and expertise, thus ensuring that valuable experience was not lost in the process. This also included a complete reworking of the information infrastructure for the course, where all of the content has now been moved to a shared Teams group for easier access for all involved (in addition to the student-specific information, which is still stored and communication via MittUiB). This greatly simplified the management of the course and made it easier to obtain an overview of the status from week to week. Further improvements to the information flow can of course be considered, but overall the new system seems to be working fine.

The biggest challenges to the course implementation were the last-minute changes that had to be made when a seminar was suddenly cancelled or moved. While we were always able to find replacement speakers, this sometimes resulted in changing the day or time of a given seminar. Such changes also happened for a couple of the Zoom seminars due to the speaker being located in a different time zone. Changing the day and time of the seminars generally ought to be avoided as we then can no longer guarantee that the students are able to attend. However, when the alternative is to have no seminar that week, it can sometimes still be the best choice.

Besides the occasional technical issue, such as the projector not being stable or the air conditioning being too load (both fixed via Lydia), the use of Auditorium 4 seems to be a good fit for the course. Its size is also suitable for the current average number of attendants.

MÅL FOR NESTE UNDERVISNINGSPERIODE – FORBEDRINGSTILTAK / PLANNED CHANGES FOR THE NEXT TEACHING PERIOD – HOW TO BE BETTER:

The main challenge for the next period of the course will be the reduced budget, as the success of the course highly depends on the quality of the invited speakers. How to make do with less funding and still provide one seminar per week is a question that is currently up for debate at the department level, especially if also trying to maintain a high number of international speakers. Relying on more online seminars via Zoom is of course possible, but should, in the course coordinator's opinion, be avoided. Reducing the number of seminars is also an option, but would require a larger reformatting of the course content and should not be done without careful consideration of the consequences.

For the next period, we will also strive to improve the response rate for the student feedback. One option would be to add the general course feedback as part of the mandatory written assignments, or to have a joint in person discussion with all of the students towards the end of the semester. The drawback is of course that the feedback will then no longer be anonymous, hence it can perhaps be used in combination with the existing survey.

Finally, an attempt to attract more students to the course should also be considered. This however highly depends on the future format of the course which therefore first ought to be addressed properly.