Semester: Autumn 2020
Course: MAE4011 – Principles of Measurement
Number of respondents: 12 (out of 16 invitations)
Date: 2021-02-05

Summary of student viewpoints and suggestions

The evaluation was conducted anonymously via Nettskjema after the exam but before the exam results were given. The evaluation form consisted of the parts *Course topic emphasis*, *Workload*, *Online Instruction*, *Assignments*, *Exam,* and *Overall*. In the following, the main viewpoints reflecting the student free-response comments are given. The full results of the evaluation (without free-response comments) are given as an appendix.

Course topic emphasis

- Topic of validity should have been covered more in-depth
- More about test equating
- Emphasize more why and what we measure in the social sciences and problematization of classical and contemporary issues in educational measurement
- Additional discussion of sources of error with further concrete examples

Workload
- Indicated workload ranged from 2.5h to 25 hours per week

Assignments

Strengths
- Clear and reflective of the course contents
- Closely aligned with real research situations and concerned topics discussed in class and in the labs
- Gave an opportunity to seek out literature and work on scale refinement
- Effective assignments that gave a challenge to apply what was covered in class
- The assignments put abstract theory into practice
- Prepared well for the exam

Weaknesses
- Not always so clearly explained and at times difficult to know what was expected
- First assignment was repetitive from a previous course
- Some tasks were very open-ended and it was not clear exactly what to do

Exam
- One question could have been more clearly formulated
- Good exam with clear tasks that gave options for what tasks to choose
- Some overlap with another exam caused issues in preparation
- Questions were generally clearly formulated but some details were slightly vague

- A few tasks were too broad and it was difficult to know exactly what was asked for
- Nice that you could choose some of the tasks

Overall

Strengths
- Great course and teaching staff
- Good incorporation of mini discussions in some lectures
- Teaching staff takes time to explain challenging issues
- Lecture content was good and concise – theory was followed by examples and exercises
- Well-organized and well-presented content
- Instructors gave clear and thorough explanations
- Teaching assistants were supportive

Suggestions for improvement
- Some classes were too fast and it was difficult to catch up
- Transitions between content in the early lectures seemed a bit sudden
- More reading material besides the McDonald book for the first part of the class
- Some lectures were too advanced and went too quickly
- Validity evidence categorization should be clearer, with examples
- Some statistical topics should be clarified, and more examples should be used
- Have smaller groups for the labs
- Senior teaching staff should teach the entire course

Comments from course director/teachers on the implementation and outcome of the course

The course was taught with a highly similar format as previous years, but with some minor adjustments to the emphasis of the topics based on previous evaluations – meaning that there was a lessened focus on statistics this time. A major difference was the move to mostly online teaching because of the pandemic. Therefore, a specific part about online instruction was added to the evaluation. Another difference in the course compared to previous years was that the final exam this time was a take-home exam with choices on what tasks to answer. The course was taught by an associate professor (responsible teacher and lectures) and two PhD candidates (some lectures, labs and teaching assistance).

The respondents evaluated the course favorably, with everyone giving the course a positive recommendation overall. The instruction was well-regarded but some students indicated that the instructors did not explain everything entirely clearly. Also, several students commented that the teaching with regard to validity should be improved and that student engagement in the online setting was lacking in some lectures. The online teaching was positively evaluated, but the seminars were slightly less so. The first seminars retained the same format as before which did not translate so well to the online setting. The course pace matched the students reasonably well, but one third generally disagreed that the course pace was exactly right for them.

The clarity of information on the web and on canvas was satisfactory to the respondents. The number of hours spent on the course had a very large range of 2.5 to 25 hours per week. As indicated in previous evaluations, the students need to be made more highly aware of the demands for self-study in the course.

The exam received generally favorable evaluations. A large majority thought that the time to prepare for the exam was sufficient and that the information about the nature of the exam was clear beforehand. A minority of the students thought that the exam questions were surprising and that they were not entirely clearly formulated.

Proposed changes/comments/measures

- Keep the format of lectures, labs and seminars
- Improve the exposition on validity in the lectures
- Consider keeping the same take-home exam format with choices of what tasks to answer
- Consider expanding the literature list with an additional book for the part about classical test theory and reliability

Björn Andersson,
Responsible teacher

Rapport fra «MAE4011 Principles of Measurement: Course Evaluation H20»

Innhentede svar pr. 4. februar 2021 18:15

- Leverte svar: **12**
- Påbegynte svar: **0**
- Antall invitasjoner sendt: **32**

Uten fritekstsvar

Students are an important source of information about the effectiveness of the course and its instructors. Please, respond candidly to the following questions. You are particularly encouraged to offer constructive suggestions that may help to improve the quality both of the course and the instruction.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Svar fordelt på antall

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The information provided on the UiO course page was sufficiently clear	4	8	0	0
The information provided on the CANVAS course page was sufficiently clear	7	5	0	0
The learning outcomes of the course were met	5	6	1	0
The instructor(s) explained the topics clearly	6	3	3	0
The instructor(s) demonstrated concern about whether I was learning	5	7	0	0
The instructor(s) inspired and motivated me and encouraged my interest in the course content	5	6	1	0
The speed at which the course proceeded was exactly right for me	3	5	3	1
The course improved my critical thinking skills	5	6	1	0
I would recommend this course	8	4	0	0

Svar fordelt på prosent

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The information provided on the UiO course page was sufficiently clear	33,3 %	66,7 %	0 %	0 %
The information provided on the CANVAS course page was sufficiently clear	58,3 %	41,7 %	0 %	0 %
The learning outcomes of the course were met	41,7 %	50 %	8,3 %	0 %
The instructor(s) explained the topics clearly	50 %	25 %	25 %	0 %
The instructor(s) demonstrated concern about whether I was learning	41,7 %	58,3 %	0 %	0 %
The instructor(s) inspired and motivated me and encouraged my interest in the course content	41,7 %	50 %	8,3 %	0 %
The speed at which the course proceeded was exactly right for me	25 %	41,7 %	25 %	8,3 %
The course improved my critical thinking skills	41,7 %	50 %	8,3 %	0 %
I would recommend this course	66,7 %	33,3 %	0 %	0 %

Online Instruction

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Svar fordelt på antall

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The online lectures worked well for me	3	6	3	0
The online seminars worked well for me	1	6	4	1
The online labs worked well for me	3	6	3	0
Overall, following the course digitally worked well for me	2	7	3	0

Svar fordelt på prosent

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The online lectures worked well for me	25 %	50 %	25 %	0 %

The online seminars worked well for me	8,3 %	50 %	33,3 %	8,3 %
The online labs worked well for me	25 %	50 %	25 %	0 %
Overall, following the course digitally worked well for me	16,7 %	58,3 %	25 %	0 %

Course Topics Emphasis

Work Load

Note that 1 ECTS stands for approximately 25-30 hours. This course is listed as 10ECTS worth.

Assignments

Please comment on strength and weaknesses of the assignments (e.g., difficulty, length, frequency, effectiveness)

EXAM

Svar fordelt på antall

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
There was sufficient time to prepare before the scheduled exam	2	9	1	0
There was sufficient a priori information given on the nature of the exam	6	5	1	0
The time to complete the exam was sufficient	3	8	1	0
The exam questions did not come as a surprise to me	3	7	2	0
The exam adequately covered the whole span of the course contents	7	3	2	0
The exam questions were clearly formulated	2	7	3	0
I feel I have a pretty good idea about how I will score on the exam	2	5	2	3

Svar fordelt på prosent

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
There was sufficient time to prepare before the scheduled exam	16,7 %	75 %	8,3 %	0 %
There was sufficient a priori information given on the nature of the exam	50 %	41,7 %	8,3 %	0 %
The time to complete the exam was sufficient	25 %	66,7 %	8,3 %	0 %
The exam questions did not come as a surprise to me	25 %	58,3 %	16,7 %	0 %
The exam adequately covered the whole span of the course contents	58,3 %	25 %	16,7 %	0 %
The exam questions were clearly formulated	16,7 %	58,3 %	25 %	0 %
I feel I have a pretty good idea about how I will score on the exam	16,7 %	41,7 %	16,7 %	25 %

OVERALL

Thank you for participating!