Course board meeting: Minutes

Course name:	Introduction to Data science and AI	Academic year:	2023/2024
Course code:	DAT565	Programme owning the course:	MPDSC
Study period (start):	LP3	Department instructing the course:	CSE
Study period (end):	LP3	Date:	2024-04-15

Meeting participants:	Matti Karppa - Examiner
	Elke Mangelsen - Director of Studies TKITE
	Albin Skeppstedt - snIT, secretary
	Reynir Silk - Student representative, GU
	Jonathan Linder - Student representative
	Thelma Hagman - Student representative
	William Carlsson - Student representative
	Devasinghage Sara Nirmani Mahagamarachchi - Student representative
Keeper of the minutes:	Albin Skeppstedt - Secretary in snIT (Educational committee of the student division Information Technology)

Summary

A very appreciated course with a mean overall impression of 4.12.

There had been major changes made prior to this round of the course. Among others, all assignments had been reworked. Data cleaning had been added as a part of the assignments.

The examiners of course round 1 to 4 have created a stronger focus on data science to align the course to other courses at the department. The course has also focused more on modern AI. The course syllabus might be revised additionally in the future.

Prerequisites and learning outcomes

Students enrolled in the business economy programme TKIEK found the assignments valuable, but some of the latter assignments were considered a bit too technical. MPALG students thought the course was well-delivered, but the second assignment slightly too technical.

One student took the course not part of a program and thought that one python programming course before was a bit too little prior knowledge. For him, it was hard to find the correct code snippets. More examples would be beneficial. This is a doable change, according to the examiner.

The examiner mentions that, in the long-term run, there may be strategic changes with alignment of other courses, and that one idea would be to split the AI-part into a separate course.

Learning, examination, and course administration

Learning: Some students would like to have hybrid lectures. The examiner does not agree, as being a good in-classroom lecturer requires other things than being a good distance lecturer. To deliver a high-quality hybrid course would double the work for the examiner. Also, the Chalmers policy says that teaching should be done IRL on campus.

Some students would like to hand in Jupyter Notebooks instead of including your source code in the report. The examiner explains that it should be a decision between all the lecturers regarding what format the assignments are submitted as. The argument for using LaTeX and including the code is to practice scientific writing with reports. It is also an ideological stance as a technical university that students should be able to use LaTeX.

Some students were demotivated to attend the lectures because they could complete the assignments without them. But the student representatives argue that to actually learn the material in an in depth manner, attendance at lectures is beneficial.

The extensibility of the lecture material was highly appreciated. Students used online material and lecture material. The book was useful as complementary material. It is used because it presents the theory in an agnostic way. The lectures are supposed to provide tools and interpretation of the theory into practically using Data science and AI tools.

Several of the TA's were not very experienced, which led to some frustration among students.

Assessment: Because the assignments are connected to all subjects covered in the course, students are assessed on all parts of the course.

There was a comment about one group member doing unproportionally more work than their peer. Hopefully, this student learned much more than his/her peer who didn't work.

This is a pass/fail course. The meeting discusses whether there could be bonus exercises/assignments for those who feel that they aren't challenged enough. The examiner thinks that if you spend enough time on the assignments, you should pass, which is also reflected in the passing rate of the course.

Course administration: Worked well.

Work climate

The workload was proportional to the number of course's credits. Some students requested more difficult assignments, but the student representatives thought that these were adequate.

To keep for next course round

The whole course should be kept. The critical perspective on Data science and AI was appreciated.

Suggested changes

- More TA meetings/lab sessions, both requested by the students and the examiner. A suggestion is to use evening slots for labs if time is difficult to find during the day.

- The course syllabus will be revised prior to 2025/2026. Alignment with other courses needs to be discussed with other examiners.

Other information

No external collaboration with industry as part of this course round.