

# PUBLISHED COURSE ANALYSIS



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A course analysis has been carried out and published by the course convener.

The Karlstad University evaluation tool is owned by the Professional Development Unit and is managed by the systems group for educational administration, Student Centre.

*Distributed systems and applications, 7.5 ETCS cr. (DVGC15)*

*Course convener: Karl-Johan Grinnemo*

## Basic LADOK data

Course Code: DVGC15

Application Code: 30302

Semester: HT-17

Start Week: 201745

End Week: 201803

Pace of Study: 50%

Form of Study: Campus

## Course Data

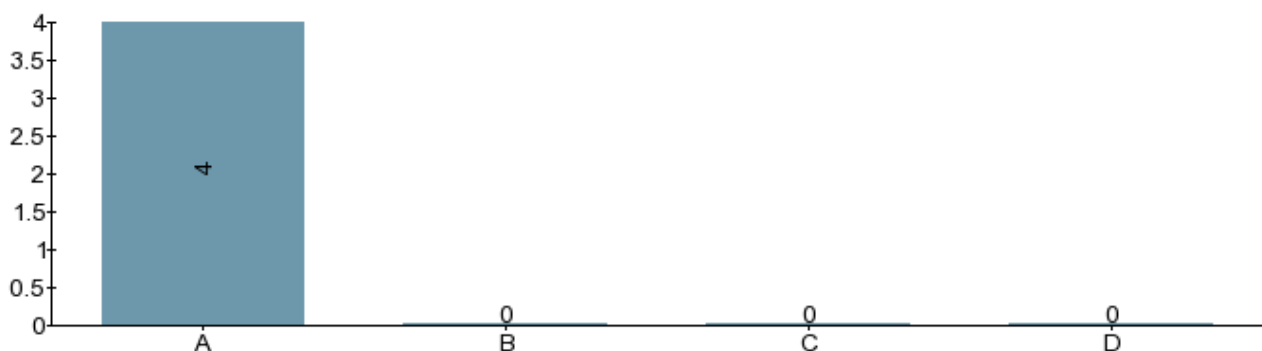
Number of questionnaires answered: 4

Number of first registrations<sup>[1]</sup>: 16

## Changes suggested in the course analysis of the previous course date:

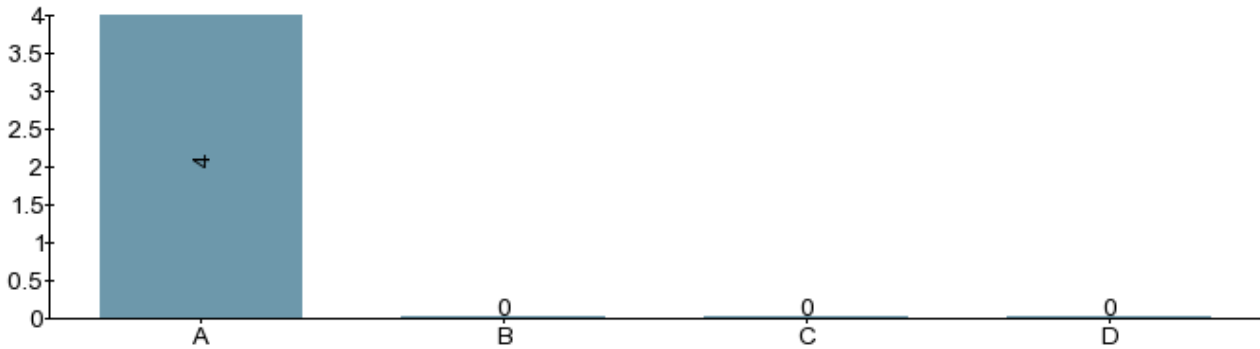
- Revising programming assignment #1 so that it is perceived as more relevant by students.
- Have the teaching assistant present in the lab room at some lab sessions distributed over the course.

1. During the course I developed the knowledge, skills and other competencies described in the learning outcomes.



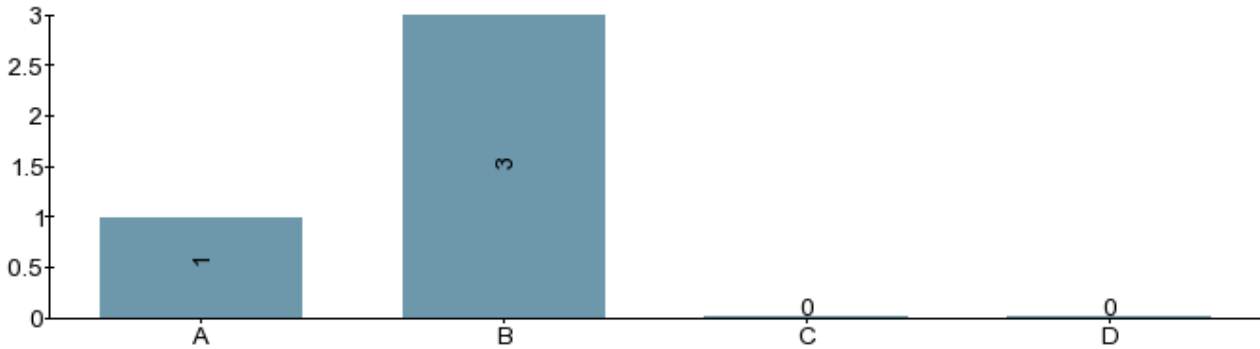
- A) To a very great extent
- B) To a great extent
- C) To a certain extent
- D) To a very little extent/Not at all

2. In the examinations, I had the opportunity to demonstrate if I have acquired the knowledge, skills and other competencies described in the learning outcomes.



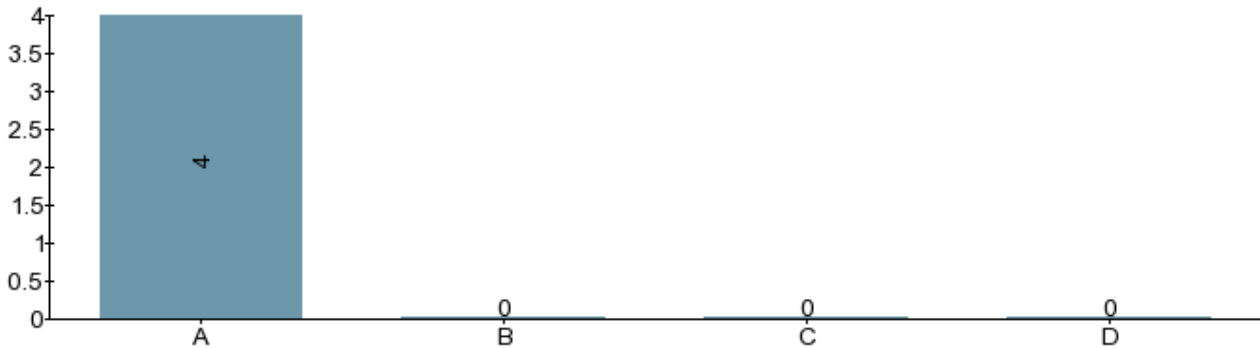
- A) To a very great extent
- B) To a great extent
- C) To a certain extent
- D) To a very little extent/Not at all

3. On average, I spent the following number of hours on coursework per week:



- A) More than 40 hours (or more than 20 hrs at 50% study pace, more than 10 hrs at 25% study pace)
- B) Between 30-39 hours (or between 15-19 at 50% study pace, between 8-10 at 25% study pace)
- C) Between 20-29 hours (or between 10-14 at 50% study pace, between 5-7 at 25% study pace)
- D) Less than 20 hours (or less than 10 at 50% study pace, less than 5 at 25% study pace)

4. During the course, I have found that teachers and other staff have been:



- A) Professional and very accommodating
- B) Professional and accommodating
- C) Professional
- D) Deficient

**should also be analysed here. Any effect of joint courses should be commented on.**

The course seemed to be greatly appreciated by students. They found the instructional methods used in this course to facilitate their learning. Moreover, they felt encouraged to contact the teachers and teaching assistants if they had any questions or needs in the course. One critique on the course is that it covers a very broad area and thus encompasses a fairly large amount of material. Some students would have preferred a more in-depth coverage of a subset of the current course content. Also, some students (around 10%) found the weekly problem sets a bit challenging and did not find them helpful in their studies towards the final exam. The programming assignments in the course were intended to enforce student's learning, however, a non-negligible percentage of the students (around 30%) did not find this to be the case; especially, they found assignment #1 to be too easy and not really giving any insights into distributed computing, and assignment #3 to be a bit too loosely specified and due to this, a bit hard to approach.

#### **Suggestions for changes to the next course date.**

A course follow-up meeting was held after the course had concluded, and in this meeting the following actions were decided:

- Expand programming assignment #1 so that it more clearly shows how distributed computing is carried out in practice.
- Complement assignment #3 with program snippets that show how the mutual exclusion library should work.
- Make the lectures on transactions more relevant by focusing on methods used in cloud computing, e.g., Paxos.

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1. **Number of first registrations for a course:** First registration = the first time a student registers for a specific course.