

PUBLISHED COURSE ANALYSIS



Publishing date: 2017-11-29

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.

Software Systems Architecture, 7.5 ETCS cr. (DVAD11)

Course convener: Sebastian Herold

Basic LADOK data

Course Code: DVAD11

Application Code: 30595

Semester: HT-17

Start Week: 201735

End Week: 201744

Pace of Study: 50%

Form of Study: Campus

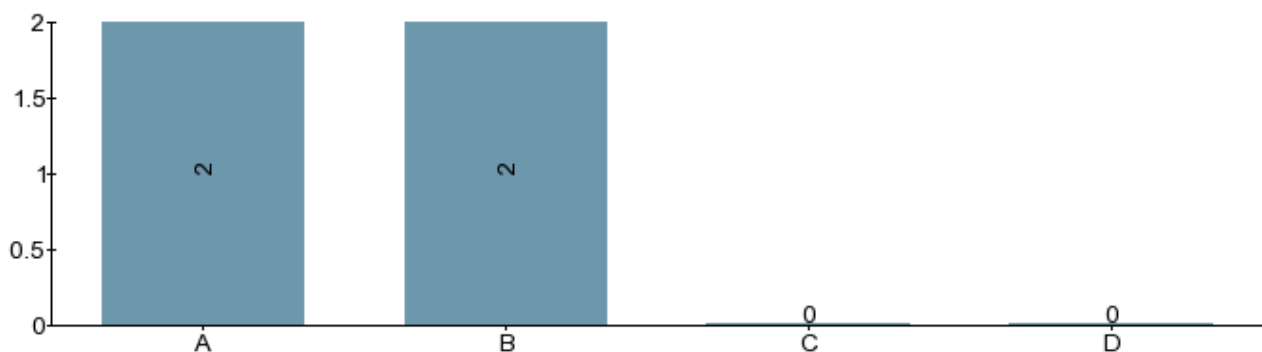
Course Data

Number of questionnaires answered: 4

Number of first registrations^[1]: 11

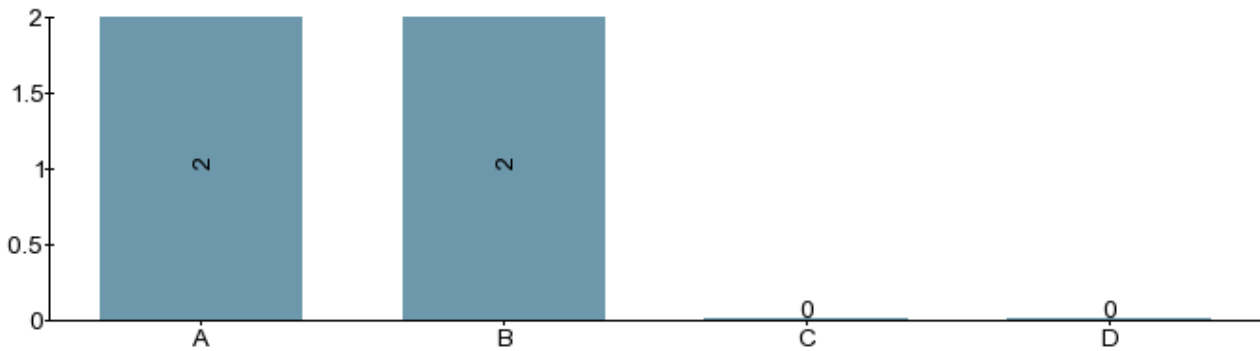
Changes suggested in the course analysis of the previous course date:

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



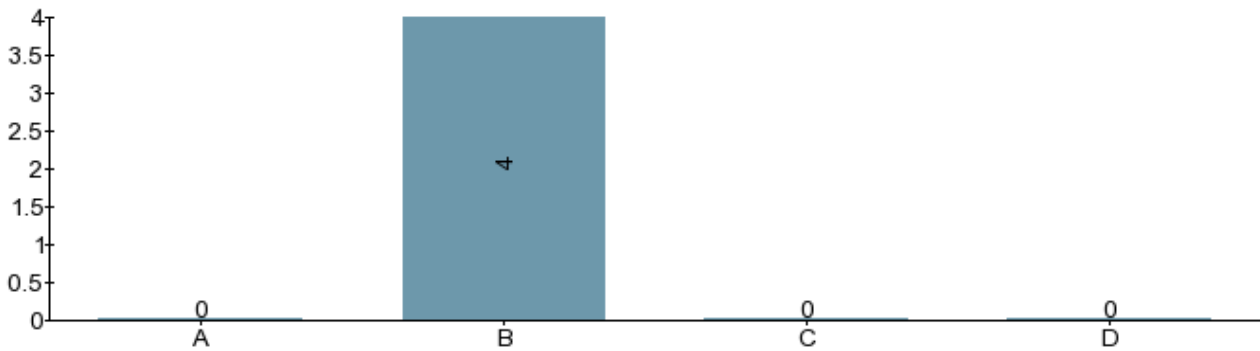
- A) To a very great extent
- B) To a great extent
- C) To a certain extent
- D) To a very little extent/Not at all

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.



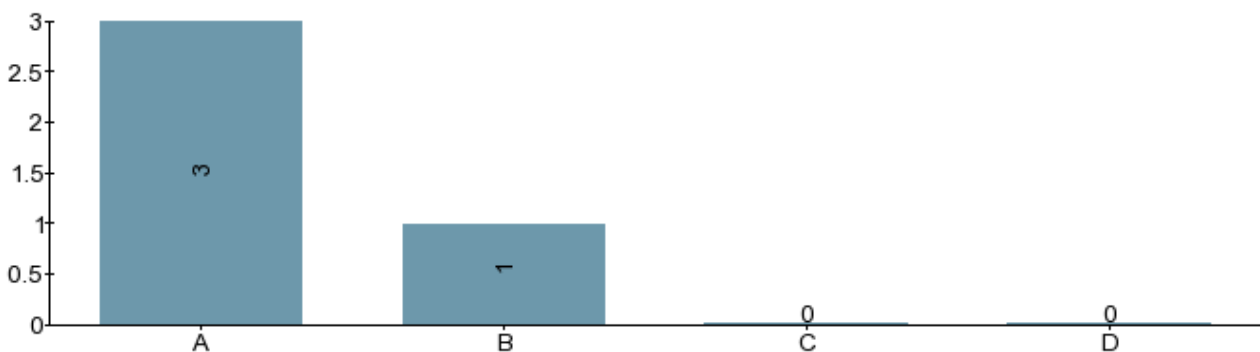
- A) To a very great extent
- B) To a great extent
- C) To a certain extent
- D) To a very little extent/Not at all

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 evaluation results show that the students think that the intended learning outcomes were largely achieved and assessed, providing evidence that the course is perceived as interesting and well aligned. The results also show that the average workload is reasonable in general.

Points for improvement pointed out in the comments:

- 1] Workload quite high at the end of the course (mentioned once)
- 2] One student commenting he/she felt "sometimes" a missing alignment between labs and lectures, unfortunately, without mentioning an example to better understand the issue (mentioned once)
- 3] Hand-in assignments and final exam cover the same content (mentioned once)
- 4] Duration of the exam was too short (mentioned once)

Analysis

ad 1]: the comment refers to efforts for hand-in assignment 4 (due week 10, handed out in week 8), lab group presentation (due week 9), and final exam in week 10. As the presentation and the exam were about the content of the overall lab/course, they naturally need to be positioned at the end of the course. The effort for the hand-in assignment is estimated to be one hour, and the assignment 4 covered content presented in week 7 and 8. The evaluation suggests that this is rather a time planning issue, since the overall workload seems ok.

ad 2]: The reason (but no excuse) for this impression might be the fact that the course was given for the first time, so we also noticed some possibilities to improve the link between labs and lectures among the team of teacher and lab supervisors.

ad 3]: The hand-in assignments were supposed to be an assessment of the obtained domain knowledge while and to complement the final exam which was more about the ability to transfer and apply the knowledge in a new context. It seems that the different purposes were not clear enough.

ad 4]: Valuable feedback as well since the course was given for the very first time, so finding the right "timing" for the exam will certainly improve in the future.

It needs to be stated that each stated point for improvement was only mentioned once in four submitted reviews in a course of 12 students, so it is hardly possible to synthesize any general or fundamental problem in the course from this.

Suggestions for changes to the next course date.

First of all, thanks to all students participating in the course and in the evaluation for the helpful comments! We are glad that you mostly seem to have found this course interesting and useful!

Suggestions for improvement:

- The timeline of the course will be made clearer from the beginning, including estimated efforts for the different activities. Guidelines for the final presentation will be provided early, such that students can plan for the final two weeks in advance.
- The lectures will point out more clearly the relevance for what is going on in the labs. This includes a reordering of topics such that aspects of documentation of architectures (needed for the labs) comes earlier.
- The role of the different assessment elements (hand-in's, labs, exam) and how they complement each other will be made clearer at course start. Optionally, we might make hand-in's leaner with fewer discussion questions and instead a forum in the learning management system for open discussions (not counting for the grade).
- The duration of the final exam will be re-considered.
- For the evaluation of the next course instance, we will add more fine-grained questions about the single types of activities to get a better picture of how they were perceived, how much time was spent on them, etc.

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