Evaluation report Signal Processing for Acoustics & Vibrations

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The evaluation committee has evaluated the course Signal Processing for Acoustics & Vibrations by handing out a questionnaire on paper to 8 students. 7 students filled in the questionnaire, which gives a response of 88%.

This course scores an average grade of 3.5, which is exactly the minimum required grade for a master course. Students think the course is reasonably relevant for their academic development, the course is considered interesting and the information about the course was adequate. The availability of the teacher to ask questions during lectures scores very well, but some students remark that the teacher wasn't available for questions apart from the lectures. The subject became reasonably clear to the students, but there is still room for improvement on this aspect. Several times it is mentioned that the lectures and study material focused too much on mathematical derivations, but the context in which to use them was lacking. The use of whiteboard and PowerPoint is pretty good and so is the quality of the study material. Insufficient is the grade for suitability for self-study. This can be caused by the study material that lacked explanations involving the mathematics. Finally, the grades considering the exam are good.

Of the seven students who filled in the questionnaire, three were following an Electrical Engineering Master, and four a Master in Mechanical Engineering. Most respondents think the scheduled time for the course was sufficient. The tempo of the lectures is mostly considered good.

These are the main conclusions of the evaluation. The interpretation is based on the remarks of the respondents. For an overview of the results, see the graph at the end of this report.

Recommendations of previous evaluation

No previous report was found. It is therefore not possible to state the recommendations of the last evaluation.

Recommendations by the committee

The quality of the course can be improved. Based on the results of the questionnaire, some recommendations for improvement are provided. The most important recommendations are:

- Improve the availability of the teacher outside lecture hours, so students can ask for help with their assignments.
- Explain the mathematical derivations better and put them in context, so it is clearer for students how to use them.
- Make the course more suitable for self-study. A mentioned suggestion is to add notes to the sheets, so they can be understood better without attending the lecture.

Remarkable facts

- One student mentioned he had never used Matlab before, and therefore finishing his assignments took much more time than average.

Overview

- All marks are given on a Likert-scale from 1-5. For master courses, a mark of 3.5 or higher is sufficient.
- The height of the bars in the graph represents the mark. The thin line at the top of the bars gives the standard deviation.

Explanation of marks

- Total 'first impression rating' is the mark given to the question: Overall appreciation.
- Ability to study is the average point of the marks given to the part of study material.
- Relevancy is the mark given to the question: Relevancy of the course.
- Quality of education is the average point of the marks given to the parts "lectures" and "practices".
- Coordination / Planning is the average point of the marks of "Adequate Information on Blackboard" and "Teacher available for questions".
- Examination / Assignments is the average point of the marks given to the Examination /Final Assignment part.
- Average is the mean of all given marks.

Marks	
First impression rating	**3.1**
Ability to study	**3.1**
Relevance	**3.1**
Quality of education	**3.3**
Coordination / planning	**3.7**
Examination / Assignments	**4.1**
Average	**3.6**

	1	2	3	4	5
My overall appreciation of the course is:					
The learning outcome of the course is relevant for my academic development					
The contents of the course are interesting					
The information about the course was adequate					
The teacher was available for questions					
The organization of the lectures was good					
During the lectures, the subject became clear to me					
The use of black- or whiteboard, sheets or powerpoint was good					
The study material (written and electronic) covered the subjects sufficiently					
The course was suitable for self study					
The quality of the study material (e.g. layout, accessibility, level, index) on paper was good					
The requirements for the exam were clear					
The exam / the assignment(s) was / were well related to the major subjects in the course					
The questions / assignments were clear					