

Outi Aho
UMK Center for New Materials

UMK Colloquium on New Materials (Tfy-125.4432) - Course Feedback

UMK Colloquium on New Materials seminar series course, Tfy-125.4432, has been renewed. A feedback from students taking the course during the fall semester 2010 was required and eighteen students of twenty did reply to the questionnaire.

There were altogether twelve issues which are presented in the end of this document. Evaluation grading was with a scale: 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (poor corresponding to 1 and excellent corresponding to 5). The average grades of the first eight issues are presented in Figure 1.

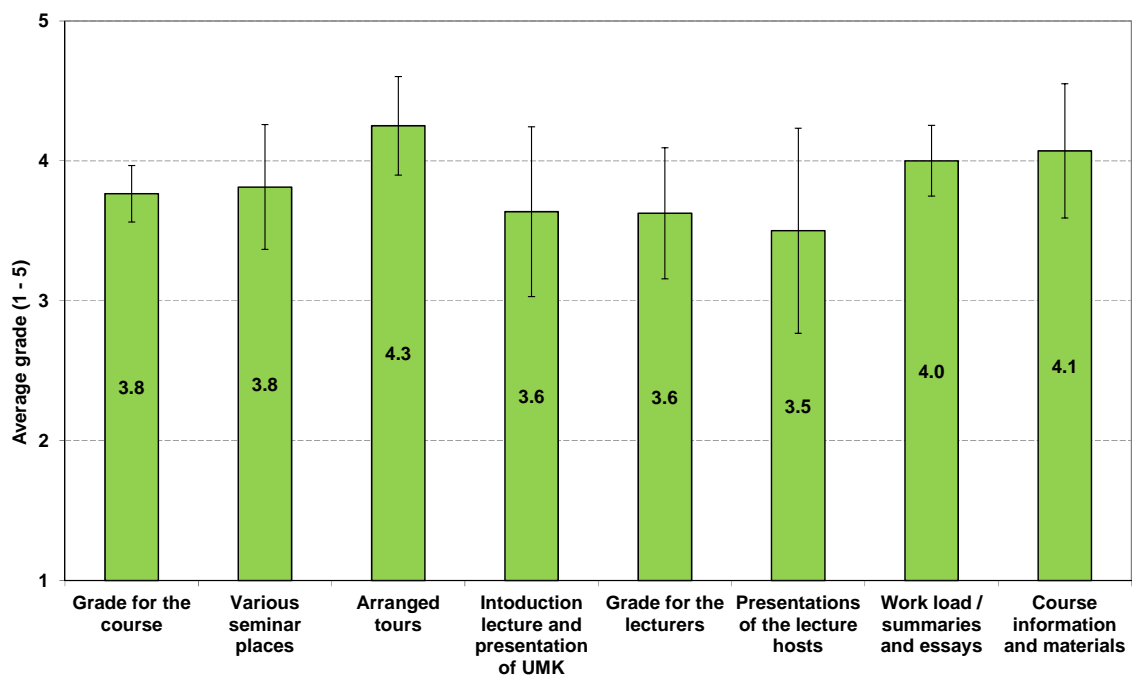


Figure 1. Average grades of UMK Colloquium on New Materials course feedback – fall 2010.

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Overall grade for the course was 3.8 which equals to the average of evaluated course parts. All in all feedback from the students taking the course in fall 2010 was very positive. The changes, i.e., various seminar places, arranged tours, introduction lecture, presentations of lecture hosts, and starting to use Noppa-portal were highly approved.

Various seminar places were considered to be great idea. It opens up possibility to learn more about the various places in Otaniemi area and arranging tours. Three places were evaluated to be convenient. Only 17% of students preferred one place for all the seminars.

Arranged tours to the UMK member research facilities were considered to be useful. Those who did not participate in tours mostly for the lack of time found arrangement to be good. All in all tours were evaluated to be useful in regards of seeing available facilities which may be utilised in own studies later on. The tour in Micronova was a little disappointment due to not able to enter in the clean room.

The introduction lecture with presentation of the UMK was not obligatory for the students. Those who were familiar with the UMK Center for New Materials in advance or had participated in the UMK Colloquium on New Materials before did not attend the lecture. Otherwise the lecture was considered to be informative and useful. The introduction lecture was proposed to combine with some other lecture and presenting collaboration between the UMK member research groups was considered to enhance the lecture.

The quality of lectures was considered to be good but there was a lot of variation between the lectures. Some lecturers presented more information that could be taken in. On the other hand some of the lecturers did not take account the various backgrounds of the audience.

The best lecturer according to the feedback of students was Professor Olli Ikkala with eight votes (57%) the second being Professor Orlando Rojas with three votes (21%). The total amount of votes was fourteen.

The presentations of lecture hosts were mostly considered to be useful even if there was the biggest variation in the given grades. Equipment information was evaluated to be the most beneficial. Presentations were suggested to be focused

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on what a specific UMK member research group can offer including experiments, equipment, and collaboration.

Work load of the course corresponded to the credit points well according to the students. Only one additional credit point for a writing essay was mentioned not to be enough.

Starting to use Noppa-portal as a main information channel for the course materials was considered to be good. Now all the materials are situated in the same place with other courses. Some comments about varying quality of lecture materials, delays of lecture materials appearing to Noppa-portal, and missing lecture materials were arisen. Mentioned drawbacks affected a writing of summaries.

In addition to the grading various parts of the course students were able to comment the whole course. Students were mostly heard about the course either from other students who have participated in the course earlier, emails or through course New Materials, MT-0.6024. All in all students liked the course with lectures originating from various research fields. A new concept was considered to be well working. Two hours lectures were proposed while some other mentioned 45 minutes to be good.

A combination of lecturers both from universities and companies were preferred. A concern with lecturers from companies is that presentations can be more marketing orientating and general than scientific. Lecturers from universities were considered to offer more recent research results. Some attention should be paid in order to ensure lectures be explanatory, background and use of acronyms, to interdisciplinary audience and content to be scientific. Some additional material, e.g., articles related to the subject of the lecture, both for students who are not familiar with the subject or students who are interested in learning more about the subject was to a great extent desired.

Some more ideas to be taken account in future courses were suggested:

- More visible communication about a course start
- Host could also start a lecture instead of Coordinator
- Writing all required details to the attendance lists take too much time
- Chance for advanced graduate students to present their research

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UMK Colloquium on New Materials course feedback – fall 2010

- 1) **General grade for the course (1 – 5)**
- 2) **Various seminar places (1 – 5):** Instead of arranging the course in the one place like the main building before the seminar place was changed. What did you think about this arrangement?
- 3) **Arranged tours (1 – 5):** The main idea of arranged tours is to present the facilities of UMK Center for New Materials member research groups and the research they have. Did you participate in the tours? If you did, were the tours useful?
- 4) **Introduction lecture and presentation of UMK Center for New Materials (1 – 5):** An introduction lecture with a presentation of UMK Center for New Materials was held for the first time during this fall on the first day. How familiar you were with UMK Center for New Materials before? Did you find the presentation informative?
- 5) **General grade for the lectures (1 – 5):** We would like to reward the best speaker based on the feedback from attendees. Who would you suggest?
- 6) **Presentations of the lecture hosts (1 – 5):** A host of the lecture originating from UMK Center for New Materials member research groups presented either their equipment or research. Did you find these presentations to be useful?
- 7) **Work load / summaries and essays (1 – 5):** Did the workload correspond to the credits given?
- 8) **Course information and materials (1 – 5):** Previously all course information and lecture materials were on the UMK Center for New Materials web pages. Nowadays information and materials can be found on the course pages in Noppa-portal and enrolment on the course is done via WebOodi. Did this change improve the course?

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- 9) **Overall evaluation for the course:** What are your proposals for the following; something to maintain, something to develop, something to add, and something to remove?
- 10) **Where did you find information about the course for the first time?**
- 11) **Possible lecturers:** Lecturers are invited from universities including Aalto University and other universities, research institutes as well as companies. Do you prefer lecturers from universities to lecturers from companies and research institutes?
- 12) **Miscellaneous comments:** Last but not least you may write various comments related to the course.