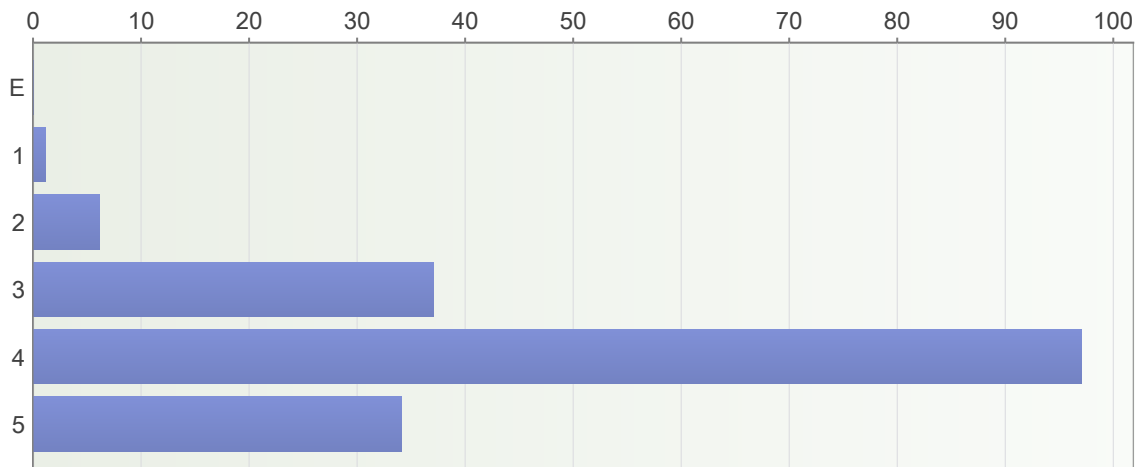


ELEC-A7100 Basic course in C programming (2019-01-10 - 2019-05-17)

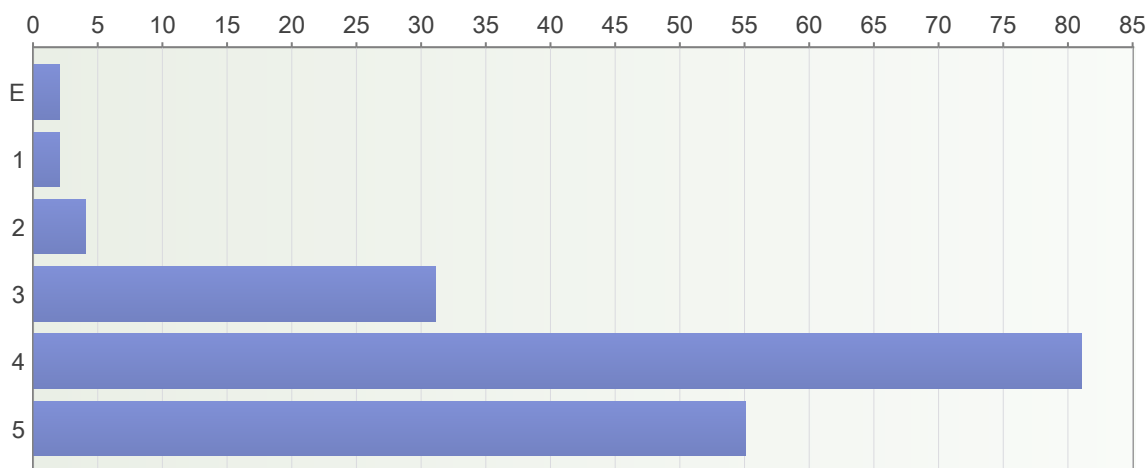
1. My overall assessment of the course E=Not applicable, 1=Fair, 2=Satisfactory, 3=Good, 4=Very good, 5=Excellent

Number of respondents: 175



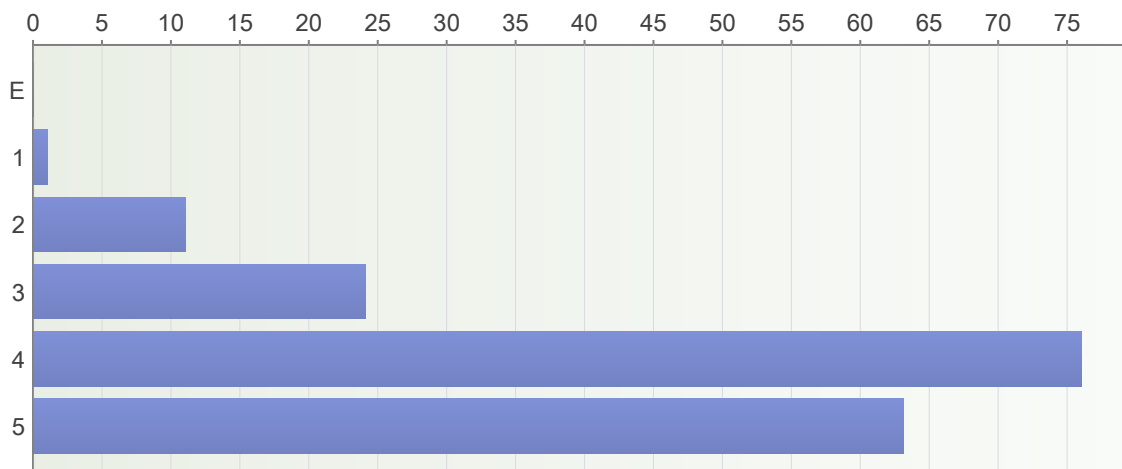
2. The teaching methods (lectures, labs, group work, online study, assignments etc.) supported my learning E=Not applicable, 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neither agree nor disagree, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly agree

Number of respondents: 175



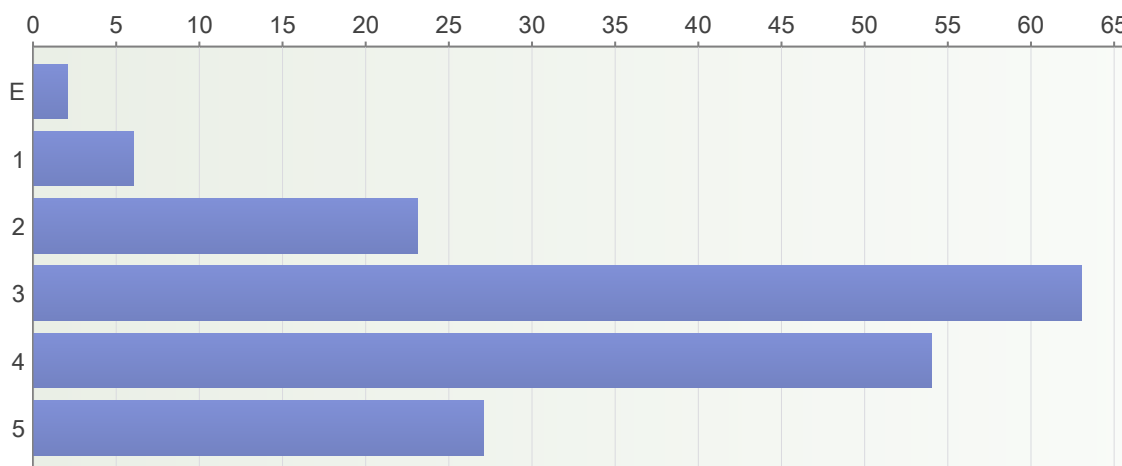
3. I am pleased with my study effort on this course E=Not applicable, 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neither agree nor disagree, 4=Agree, 5=Strongly agree

Number of respondents: 175



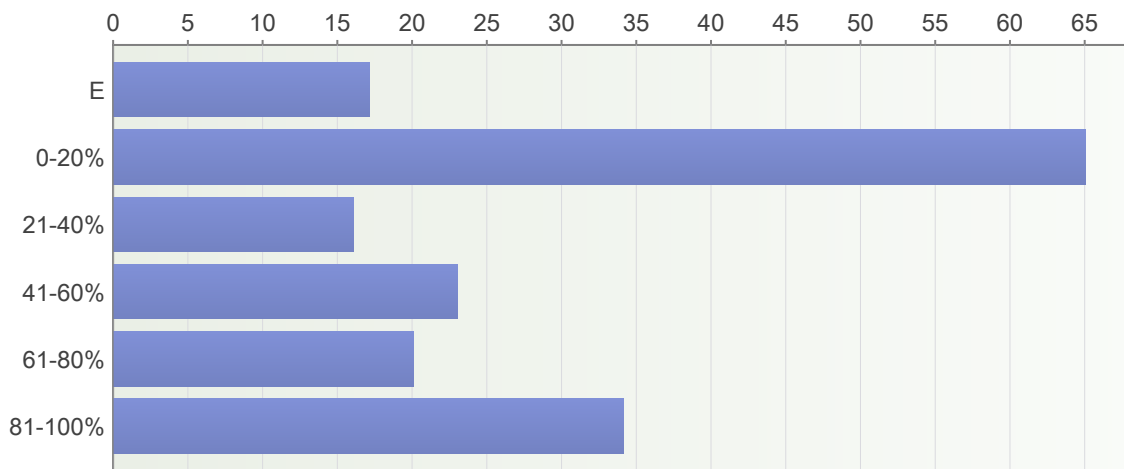
4. How much time did you use to complete the course in relation to the credits obtained (1cr=27h)? E=Not applicable, 1= Considerably less time, 2= Slightly less time, 3= The right amount of time, 4= Slightly more time, 5= Considerably more time

Number of respondents: 175



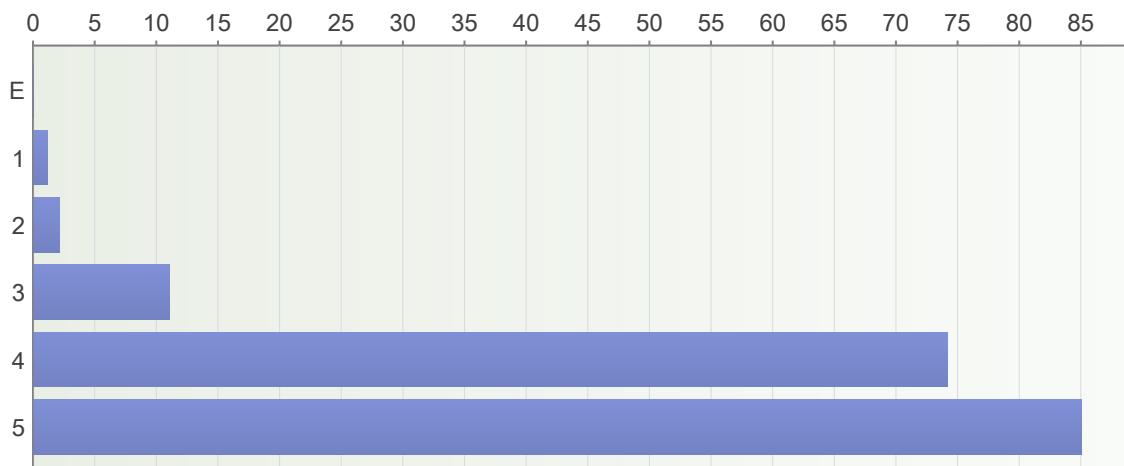
5. I was present and participated in the teaching events (estimation) E=Not applicable, 0-20 %, 21-40 %, 41-60 %, 61-80 %, 81-100 %

Number of respondents: 175



6. I understood what I was supposed to learn in this course E=Not applicable 1=Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neither agree nor disagree 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree

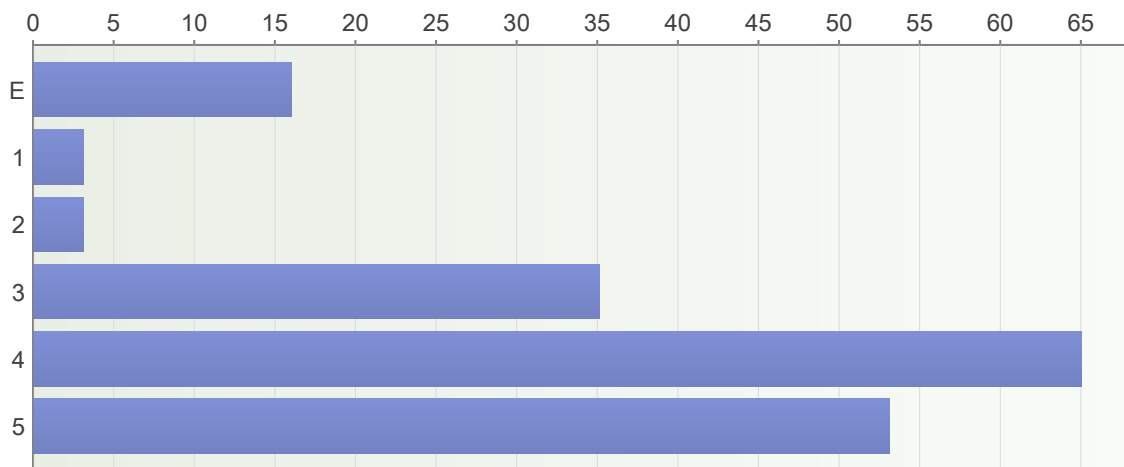
Number of respondents: 173



7. The evaluation was in line with the content and teaching of the course E=Not applicable

1=Strongly disagree 2=Disagree 3=Neither agree nor disagree 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree

Number of respondents: 175



8. The course developed the following working life skills E=Not applicable 1=Strongly disagree

2=Disagree 3=Neither agree nor disagree 4=Agree 5=Strongly agree

Number of respondents: 172

	E	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Average
Teamwork and collaboration skills	38	43	30	32	25	4	172	2.85
Verbal communication skills	37	49	24	38	23	1	172	2.79
Written communication skills	30	30	30	50	29	3	172	3.16
Skills in information and communication technology	8	10	10	34	64	45	171	4.58
Project management skills	5	11	16	48	69	22	171	4.35
Reasoning and problem solving skills	1	1	1	11	68	89	171	5.4
Research and information management skills	8	4	7	33	85	34	171	4.67
Foreign language skills	16	10	18	44	67	15	170	4.06
Practical skills (e.g. measuring)	30	19	19	48	41	13	170	3.53
Total	173	177	155	338	471	226	1540	3.93

9. General comments and suggestions (on such matters as course material, teaching methods, course arrangements, ways of completing the course/examinations and unnecessary overlaps with other course contents, or other matters).

Number of respondents: 47

- "
 - Kurssi oli aika työläs, projekti ja tentti oli ehkä liikaa. Olisi ollut parempi esimerkiksi valita niistä toinen
 - Teacher was really good, everything worked fine! Almost all assistants were good but not all.
 - Good course and well arranged exam
 - Course material was very clear and informative! I did not need almost any other material. Plus for the independence of this course!
 - Some of the rounds during the course weren't quite balanced timewise, even if they were balanced contentwise.
 - -
 - Good course! Maybe a little too much work according to the credits from the course. Workload could be reduced in the future.
 - Hyvä että pystyi katsomaan englanninkielistä teoriaa. Yrittäisin kuitenkin parantaa sen koska monissa paikoissa se oli vaikea ymmärtää. Teoria binäärioperaattoreille (kierros 8?) oli huono enkä ymmärtänyt yhtään.
 - I wish that every main function given to you to test your code would come with the correct output that it should produce when run with a flawless code.
 - The course material was easy to read and the exercises were fast and easy (in comparison to the course programming 2). The project could've been bigger and I personally don't believe that exams are the best way to assess someone's skill.
 - Test was total horseshit but other than that the course was really good. Maybe try to have second project and not some total useless test which only tests your skills to memorize useless shit.
 - Good course but requires more effort than a regular course
 - The exam (mostly the room and the lack of an assistant) was the most confusing and frustrating I have ever done.
 - Slack worked very well, assistants answered always almost right away.
 - -
 - Opetusmateriaali on hyvä. Kurssin jako viikkotehtäviin, projektiin ja loppukokeeseen on hyvä.
 - It would be great, if all the programming rounds would be available at the beginning of the course. One could then balance workload more efficiently respect to other courses.
 - The course was quite demanding, and I didn't always have time to do all the assignments since I also took CS-A1130 at the same time, which was also a time demanding course.
- Overall I was quite pleased, the assistants were good and the material was for the most part good.

When I say for the most part I meant that the English material was a bit flawed at times (bad English grammar in some cases and as a consequence it was difficult to understand it), might be an idea to have Kielikeskus look at it for the next year.

I understand Finnish at a decent level, but for someone who doesn't it was probably very hard to understand the material at times.

- Having only passed the basic python programming Y1 course and having no other programming experience, I felt that this course took more time than 5ects. Not necessarily a bad thing but I think 8ects is more realistic than 5ects.
- Could feature some more "real life" stuff, e.g. build tools etc, even if they are optional
- I'm not sure if the current exam type is the best way to do it. I think you shouldn't have to memorize everything and to be able to write working pieces of code in plain text editor on a basic level course. I'd rather just get a personal assignment with a strict time limit but with no restrictions on resources.

- Course material should have more examples and less links to a source code sites. examples teach more.
- Ainoa miinus kurssista oli ehdottomasti kurssin projektin suorittaminen. Siihen oli annettu liian vähän aikaa. Tenttiviikko oli täynnä tenttejä ja jossain vaiheessa on pakko vetää henkeä, mikä tapahtui siinä väliviikonloppuna. Lopuksi ehti tehdä projektia vain neljä päivää ja joutui palauttamaan projektin myöhässä, vajaana. Järkevää olisi, että projektia olisi todellakin aikaa tehdä puolitoista viikkoa tenttiviikon jälkeen, jolloin projektin tekeminenkin olisi tuntunut paljon mielekkäämmältä. Projektin aihetta pidin oikeasti mielenkiintoisena ja jäi harmittamaan, että se jäi pahasti kesken ja uhkaa kurssin läpipääsyä.
- More simpler excersizes would support long-term learning.
- -
- The fact that one can complete the course remotely is very convenient.
- Course examination system was very good.
- The teaching method was hard to follow since there were not lectures and the documentation was at times difficult to read. Some lectures specially on pointers and data structures would be very helpful.
- Project was interesting and the exercises were also very good for learning
- It is quite a lot of work for 5 credits to have weekly exercise rounds as well as a project AND an exam. Nevertheless, the project summed up pretty well the topics of the course, and the exam was very reasonable. I enjoyed the weekly assignments, although I felt the instructions were often pretty superficial.

Some feedback on the BYOD exam: Instructions were rather unclear beforehand as well as during the exam. For testing the exam environment at home it was not instructed what should actually be tested (just get the system running or try to access something?). In the actual exam situation you should also have better instructions; why not explicitly state what you should click and where to write your student number etc. to begin instead of vague instructions to start the exam? The instructions also had some different terms than the exam environment. I was confused and noticed other people also had trouble starting out. Additionally, a major distraction for me was that I was doing the exam on a mac but the system was linux-based and thus the keyboard commands changed. It was really frustrating to for example not find the curly braces where they usually are and having no way of knowing how to write them because my physical keyboard is still a mac keyboard. You really should remind/caution students that this will be the case if they take the exam on a mac - I know I would have opted to not take it on my computer had I been warned beforehand, as it really slowed down my typing.

- Kurssi vei mielestäni turhan paljon aikaa, sisältäen viikottaiset tehtävät (10 viikkoa), projektin ja tentin, ottaen huomioon että kurssi on viiden opintopisteen arvoinen.
- Grading is terribly late! Unacceptable, should be four weeks, checked school's website. Hope exam grades come before the deadline for the new exam closes or I will have to enroll just in case. Not good!
- Exam needed Aalto password, and this was either not mentioned or I missed it.
- Having the programming project on exam week is probably not the greatest idea.
- What should be better:

Please, PLEASE make a queue system for the exercise sessions in the future. It's annoying to hold your hand up in the air and then depending where you sit, some assistants might skip you even though you were holding your hand before someone else. Honestly this didn't really happen to me but I remember one particular case when a student in front of me once had their hand up in the air for a while. Eventually the person just went to talk to a friend and I could see and hear the person was frustrated for not getting help. If you're going to say in the slides that and I quote "Assistants aim at distributing evenly in the class room, check through students in orderly way" but this doesn't happen then it sounds just lying, particularly when this apparently has happened in previous years as well based on the course feedback.

Looking at the slides of the previous year it says "Ei kannata odottaa käsi pystyssä, assarit kiertävät salia järjestyksessä" and one of the feedback comments said "Kurssien harjoituksissa ei myöskään ollut neuvontajonoa ja sen sijaan kädellä viitattiin apua(ja usein meni ihan rasittavaksi jos sai 20min pitää kättä ylhäällä)". So apparently this same thing has happened previously even though the assistants were supposed

to go around the class checking people orderly. I couldn't find any other examples of this in the feedback but I doubt that person was outright wrong. Probably that person attended at least a few exercises which apparently then had the "hold your hand in the air"-system.

I also don't find the system of checking the students orderly which is what is supposed to be, very practical and elegant. In other programming courses we've had a queue and there's nothing to complain about it in my opinion. Could you please make a queue system for the next ones? I find it difficult to believe that implementing such system would be any difficult for someone here. This is something I particularly would like to see because I'm considering becoming an assistant for this course next year (as Pasi suggested if I'm interested). If this same system continues, I probably can't help but think and notice the frustration some students will get with this current system. So please consider a queue system.

What I liked:

Overall the exercise sessions were good, the assistants were helpful and I always had a better idea what to do after asking when I was having trouble. The Slack workspace was also good, I used it a couple times, particularly jaine was helpful even though I think she's not currently normal assistant for this course.

Other

The grading of the projects and exams has been rather slow. Compared to last year and for example 2017 summer course implementation, the grading seemed to have been done in about 2 weeks (at least for the projects). I'm hesitant to say that this a particularly bad thing or something that could be improved because as a teaching assistant myself I know your own schedule can conflict and you have to prioritize other things over grading the students. So if there really has been some major scheduling conflicts then no problem, but I'm getting somewhat suspicious about why the grading is taking so long, especially when there are so many assistants (or is that the problem, some assistants take a while time and with many it's more likely to happen?).

The electronic exam in the course was alright. It did force me to go back to some chapters and relearn things I had forgotten. Based on the feedback on other years I know many people don't like the electronic exam but a simple exam like this was alright in my opinion. Good thing we had the practice exam even though I struggled with it but then the exam went fine (I hope). I've had other programming courses like Programming 2 and this course was overall quite easy compared to for example Programming 2 and thus so was the exam in my opinion because I've had already quite a bit of programming experience. But for less experienced students I can understand the frustration with the exam.

- Sometimes hard to know what should be done in the programming tasks
- Hyvä kurssi, itseopiskelumahdollisuus on aina erittäin hyvä asia. Pieniä rakentavia kritiikkejä kuitenkin. Olisin kaivannut vielä lisää matalan tason asiaa, bittioperaatioiden soveltamista, ja ehkä erilaisten muiden sovelluksien rajapintojen kanssa vuorovaikutusta. TIM:in materiaali oli paikoin hieman vaikeaselkoista, rautalangasta vääntämistä ja itsestäänselvyyksiltä tuntuvien asioiden selitystä olisi voinut olla enemmän. Tentin teko akvaariossa oli TODELLA turhauttava, dokumentaation äkillinen sulkeutuminen "kielletyille" osa-alueille mentäessä ja TIM:in koodieditorin karheus haittasivat itse asiaan keskittymistä.
- Ohjelmointi 1 & 2 ja Tietorakenteet (SCI) käyneenä meni kokonaisuudessaan noin 70-80h kurssin suorittamiseen.
- Overall, the course was really good.
- Sähköinen koe oli erittäin hyvä uudistus, se tosin tuntui ainakin itselle melko lyhyeltä
- The course is quite heavy! More examples!
-

- Siihen nähden kuinka paljon aikaa mihinkin osioon kuluu, kierrosten osuus kokonaisarvosanasta on aivan liian pieni.
- Prob my fave course that I've taken in my studies! Thanks for all the assistants that helped me with all my programming problems, and doing it in a way that I figured out myself what the problem was and how to fix it. I learned so much in practice classes and in this course overall.
- Laskari ryhmät aina todella täynnä, apua oli ajoittain vaikeaa saada. Niitä kannattaisi järjestää enemmän. Jotkin tehtävät kierroksilla olivat tosi vaikeita tai sitten materiaalin ohjeet oli selitetty helpompien tapausten kannalta.
- The course was very well organised and the independent learning schedule with hard deadlines fit me perfectly. I was able to advance on my own pace when I had more time and the deadlines forced to manage time properly. It would however have perhaps been even better if all of the rounds would have opened simultaneously, as now there were periods where I had more time and would've wanted to advance but the next round wasn't open yet.