CHEM-E0115 Planning and Execution of Pulp and Paper Investment Project

Feedback summary

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Lectures and project work: 50 h + 85 h

Number of students: 15 (in 2021: 12)

Study sessions held live (lecture hall and Afry's offices)
- Lassi Laumola & his AFRY colleagues
- Workshops in the AFRY office on campus and in Afry house
- Kyösti responsible of managing the course

Project: MCC plant

Evaluation
- Project work report & presentation, exam
- Peer and self evaluation

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Feedback summary; questions 1-8
n=7; scale 1 – 5 (1 = most negative, 5 = most positive)

Question	Average (2021)	Min. – Max.
1. Overall assessment	3.42 (3.15)	2 – 5
2. Teaching methods	3.71 (3.00)	2 – 5
3. I am pleased with my study effort	4.00 (3.76)	3 – 5
4. Workload compared to other courses	3.42 (3.85)	3 – 4
6. Correspondence to the description	4.00 (4.00)	3 – 5
7. Effect on the study motivation	2.42 (2.75)	1 – 3, 5
8. Difficulty compared to other courses	3.86 (3.85)	3 – 5
9. The course enhanced my general skills	3.86 (3.69)	3 – 5

Feedback summary; resemblance to real life

The course gave me a comprehensive picture about planning and execution of an investment project, especially from the engineering and project management perspectives. E=Not applicable, 1=Strongly disagree, 2=Disagree, 3=Neutral, 4=Agree, 5=Completely agree

Average: 3.71 (n=7; variation: 2 – 5; in 2021: 3.62)

General comments and suggestions

+ **Afry's involvement**	- **Too long and theoretical lectures**
+ **Teaching provided by the Afry's staff**	
+ **Workshops**	- **Second exam time overlapped with another major's exam**
+ **Help was easy and fast to obtain (in workshops and from Lassi)**	

Quotations:
- "Great course, one of the best in the master studies. The project was really motivating and interesting to do"
- "The assignment was very good to understand better the course content, but it could have been better structured (e.g., it was hard to understand from the beginning what needed to be delivered)"

Lassi's comments:
- *Workshops are good way of making sure the assignment groups start the work early enough and get themselves on the right track*
- *Lectures are very dependent on the lecturer and their involvement with the course some being better at it than others. The need for breaks could be emphasized to avoid exhausting the students*

What is your opinion on the project assignment?

+ **The assignment was very good and useful**	- **Project instructions and files not completely clear**
+ **Workshops → DLs for certain parts of the project**	- **Project objectives not clear from the start**

Quotations:

- "The project assignment was one of the best I have had in the Aalto. It was comprehensive. Some of the tasks were not that clear, how to do them, because there wasn't any or almost any examples, even from the Google."
- "The assignment was very useful and much better to understand the course content than the test. In the beginning, the deliverables were not so clear, the way the documentation (quotation require and appendix) was delivered was not so straightforward, however the lecturer was very prompt to answer questions through email."

Lassi's comments:

- Project assignment material is extensive and getting hold of it is reoccurring problem the students face every year.
- The assignment instructions could be further refined for the future to make the starting easier. It is very important that the students attend the first lecture as the assignment is given there.
- The workshop topics could be given out to the students even more earlier to allow better preparation
- There are multiple ways of performing the same tasks within the assignment. Giving too many examples can be suggestive and lock the students into one way of thinking

Conclusions

Overall, the course does not need major changes. Project work instructions and organization requires some fine-tuning. Maybe also there could be more pauses during the lectures?

We will have to consider how the teams are formed, as this year the number of team members was uneven, since some students dropped the course (or did not even start)

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