

Evaluation KJM5310/9310 - 2024

In 2024, the course was held in the middle of the semester (14/10-31/10) to avoid overlap with other intensive courses. This timing worked well.

Compared to previous courses, the set-up was unchanged, but we updated all lectures as well as the modeling exercise (using AlphaFold). There was very good contact between teachers and students throughout the course. A minisymposium with international speakers was held in the middle of the course, representing the topics of this year's Nobel prizes in Chemistry and Medicine (financed by BioCat). This worked very well and was highly appreciated by the students. The integration of this event in the course (and a joint lunch with the lecturers) was considered very valuable and motivating for the students. At the end of the courses, the students gave presentations, which were at a very high level for most students. The final exams were oral. Preferably the students would like to have the exams a bit earlier (after 3 weeks, which this year was not possible for practical reasons). Next time, we would also like to reenact the possibility of taking make-up exams upon failure.

The evaluation was carried out at the end of the course, after the student presentations and an oracle hour (this time, BioCat did not have the capacity for an anonymous questionnaire). Overall, the course was much appreciated by the students, and no major changes should be made. Concerning the lectures, the one on immunity was experienced as challenging and may benefit from recommendation of a good video as lecture preparation. Especially appreciated was the new exercise.