

School of Chemistry

Course Review: Unit Self-Evaluation 2015/16

SURVEY FEEDBACK YEAR 2 SEMESTER ONE

Unit title: CHEM20311		
Unit code: Symmetry, Molecular Structure & Properties		
Unit co-ordinator: Robin Pritchard		
No of students taking unit: 219		
Other teaching staff: David Collison, Robin Pritchard		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	54/219 (24.66%)	4.13
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	54/219 (24.66%)	4.28
This unit was well organised	54/219 (24.66%)	4.50
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	54/219 (24.66%)	3.98
I found the tutorials linked to this course useful	54/219 (24.66%)	4.30
I found the supporting workshops for this course helpful	54/219 (24.66%)	4.48
<i>Please summarise the main themes from students' comments:</i>		
<p>The above scores are encouraging. The 50:50 balance between lectures and workshop seems to be appreciated as well as the black-board resources, blackboard tests, PASS sessions, tutorials, catch-up sessions and supportive staff.</p> <p>There were requests for additional written blackboard notes, more hand-outs and more detailed pod-casts. There were also requests for more lectures, sessions where the lecturer guides the class through the workshops answers, permanent Blackboard practice tests, a greater time gap between a lecture and associated workshop, a reading week, smaller workshop sizes.</p>		
<i>Please provide feedback to students comments:</i> The above points will be discussed at our annual course review but it is worth pointing out at this stage that the course is designed so that most of the learning takes place via the supported workshops. In that respect the lectures are preparations for the workshops and the associated Blackboard material reflects this balance. Each week, every effort is made to ensure that the students have acquired the skills needed to progress smoothly through the course.		
The rescheduling of lectures is a matter for the administrative staff but the possibility of moving the CHEM20311 lecture to Monday was explored this year but led to an unacceptably high number of lectures on the Monday and was rejected.		
<i>Please provide generic feedback on exam performance (eg questions which were particularly well/poorly answered, common mistakes)</i>		
<i>Overall paper average: 65%</i>		
Problems were caused by some students not being able to apply knowledge gained in their 1 st year, e.g. determining oxidation states and d electron configuration, knowing the difference between ethane and ethene.		

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SURVEY FEEDBACK YEAR 2 SEMESTER ONE

Unit title: CHEM20411		
Unit code: Organic Synthesis		
Unit co-ordinator: Peter Quayle		
No of students taking unit: 222		
Other teaching staff: Matthew Kitching, Nathan Owston		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	56/222 (25.23%)	3.95
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	56/222 (25.23%)	3.93
This unit was well organised	56/222 (25.23%)	3.98
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	56/222 (25.23%)	3.93
I found the tutorials linked to this course useful	56/222 (25.23%)	4.20
Unfortunately no response was provided to the feedback		

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SURVEY FEEDBACK YEAR 2 SEMESTER ONE

Unit title: CHEM20421		
Unit code: Fundamentals of Drug Discovery		
Unit co-ordinator: Nick Lockyer		
No of students taking unit: 31		
Other teaching staff: Gavin Miller, Richard Bryce		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	7/31 (22.58%)	3.57
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	7/31 (22.58%)	3.14
This unit was well organised	7/31 (22.58%)	3.43
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	7/31 (22.58%)	3.57
<i>Please summarise and provide feedback to students comments:</i> Thank you for your feedback and we are encouraged that you rate the unit content and teaching very highly. In response to specific areas you would like changes made we propose the following actions for next year: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Making the link between supporting material and lecture content more explicit.2) More integration of the course content so students can see how the different subjects relate to one another.		
<i>Please provide generic feedback on exam performance (eg questions which were particularly well/poorly answered, common mistakes)</i> Exam average 59% (50% last year) with 5/30 fails (10/28 last year). Q1 (Miller) average 66% a little high. Q2 average (Lockyer 61%). Q3 average 50% a little low.		

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SURVEY FEEDBACK YEAR 2 SEMESTER ONE

Unit title: CHEM20611/CHEM61201		
Unit code: Integrated Spectroscopy and Separations		
Unit co-ordinator: Andrew Horn		
No of students taking unit: 254		
Other teaching staff: Martin Attfield, Perdita Barran, Lu Shin Wong		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	70/254 (27.56%)	3.74
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	70/254 (27.56%)	3.71
This unit was well organised	70/254 (27.56%)	3.80
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	70/254 (27.56%)	3.74
I found the tutorials linked to this course useful	70/254 (27.56%)	4.21
I found the supporting workshops for this course helpful	70/254 (27.56%)	4.13
<i>Please summarise the main themes from students' comments:</i>		
<p>There a range of generally positive comments on this module, praising the majority of the delivery and online support (extended notes and tutorial/workshop answers). The workshops are particularly valued, as they allow students to practice problem-solving using the newly-taught material. The less positive comments are centred on the breadth of material in the module and the pace at which it was delivered. It's clear that the students would like to see some of the NMR material (particularly) appearing earlier in the course. Some also comment on the 'extra' NMR support received from the Y2 S-lab activities, which is perceived to give an 'advantage'.</p>		
<i>Please provide feedback to students comments:</i> The need for an understanding of chromatography and an integrated approach to spectroscopic interpretation seems to be widely acknowledged. The comments on lecture delivery, organisation of material and information content have all been passed on to the academic staff. It is clear that much of the NMR material should come earlier in the course (in Y1), since it is a subject which appears in all AS/A2 curricula - this will be dealt with in the on-going curriculum review. In future years, the timely uploading of comprehensive support material (lecture notes, solutions to problems) will be addressed. We will also aim to introduce more online summative quizzes and problems to aid understanding. This year, the exam question structure was streamlined and the paper duration extended in response to earlier feedback – this seems to have had only a small effect, albeit positive. We will have another look at the paper structure in the annual module review.		
<i>Please provide generic feedback on exam performance (eg questions which were particularly well/poorly answered, common mistakes)</i>		
<p>In general, the exam performance was slightly better this session than in the previous 2 years, with a paper average of 54.9% This was in part due to a strong score (~64%) on Q1. Performance on Q4 was similar to previous years (~50%): this needs further investigation because it demonstrates either that the students do not have the skills needed to attempt multi-spectral problems or that they have insufficient time to complete the paper – these problems require different solutions.</p>		

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SURVEY FEEDBACK YEAR 2 SEMESTER ONE

Unit title: CHEM20711		
Unit code: Contemporary Themes in Chemistry		
Unit co-ordinator: Mathias Nilsson		
No of students taking unit: 145		
Other teaching staff: Martin Attfield, Aliaksandr Baidak, Nick Turner, Roger Whitehead, Steve Yeates		
General University Questions	Response	Mean score
Overall, I would rate this unit as being excellent	26.4%	2.16
The feedback that I received on my work was helpful	26.4%	2.16
This unit was well organised	26.4%	2.45
The eLearning resources provided in this unit enhanced my learning experience	26.4%	2.53
<i>Please summarise the main themes from students' comments:</i> Some students seem happy with the broad coverage of the topics while many found it confusing and not engaging. The Chaplaincy as a lecture theatre was not liked. Complaints about not having a real choice for optional courses. It should be noted that student engagement was low with on average only 50-60 students per lecture.		
<i>Please provide feedback to students comments:</i> The format and modules content of this course will be revised as a part of a general curriculum review. We will make our best effort to find more suitable lecture theatres in the future but venues are allocated by the central University and not the School.		
<i>Please provide generic feedback on exam performance (eg questions which were particularly well/poorly answered, common mistakes)</i> Overall paper average: 56.3% We felt that the exam was well balanced. Only a small proportion of students attempted the question for the module on "Ionising Radiation as a Tool for Selective Chemical Modification", possibly because the question was the longest and appeared more intimidating than the others, although it was not deemed disproportionately more difficult by the exam paper review process.		