

## Block Course Feedback HS24

### Note

All of the information you will find in this document has been given by students just like you who have given their free time to provide you with the possibility to make an informed choice. We appreciate it very much if you will repay your debt by filling out the survey so the next block course feedback can be created.

## Disclaimer

The following evaluation has **no claim on completeness or correctness**. All comments are without guarantee and are solely based on the **voluntary contributions** by students in. Courses for which no feedback was recieved are therefore not listed.

The evaluation represents neither the opinion of the VeBiS nor the opinion of all participants of the respective courses. Additionally, **block courses change from year to year**. They are adapted and improved, leading to changes in content and organisation.

The written comments were copied without any changes from the conducted feedback survey with the following exceptions. If a comment has been changed this is noted.

- To guarantee the anonymity of the participants, we did our best to remove any comments which could lead to identification of participants.
- Any comments which were potentially hurtful and without any constructive feedback were also removed.

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We are always looking to improve the block course evaluation and are happy about all feedback! If you have any comments or ideas for improvement, please contact us under studentisches@vebis.ch.

Explanation	
Structure	How structured the course is and how much waiting there is.
Research Orientend	How close the content of the course is to cutting edge research.
Accuracy of Description	How accurate the description of the course given is.
Comprehensiveness	How well understandable the contents of the course are with the knowledge gained in previous bachelor lectures.
Quality	Technical quality of supervision, how competent is the supervisor.
Independence	How much independence is given to the participants of the block course.
Atmosphere	How comfortable the atmosphere in the lab is.

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## 551-0336-00L Methods in Cellular Biochemistry

2 answers **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 09:00 - 17:00/18:00 Longest Day 10h Group Size 3 **Location(s)** ETHZ - Hönggerberg Additonal Work Required none, 10+ h **Block Course Composition Grading Components**  Presentation Lectures Chalk talk Journal Club • Group projects Lab work • Practical lab work - dry lab Practical lab work - wet lab Poster Structure **Research Oriented** unstructured not at all structured very 4.5 5 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness not at all incomprehensive no problem very 4.5 4.5 **Supervision** Quality Independence **Atmosphere** very incompetent not at all very bad very competent very very good 4 3.5 4.5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...disproportionate ...very good ...much less work ...much more work 1.5 4 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical No way! Definitley! ...too practical 2 4.5

At the end of the course there was a poster session to which the IBC was also invited. We received extensive support from our supervisors in preparing the poster. However, because our experiments only worked on the second attempt, things got very stressful for us towards the end of the course. But the effort was worth it and we got a great mark.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

There was a lecture every morning about some method (mass spectrometry, NMR, light microscopy, other bioanalytics topics) which was in principle very nice but if you already participated in the bioanalytics lectures it is a bit too much repetition. But the part that was not repetition was always very interesting.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

We were supervised by two supervisors who worked well together. They worked closely with us in the lab, but we were able to work more independently over time when it came to the analyses. One of my supervisors was very direct and sometimes seemed a bit unfriendly, but both made a great effort.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Having a lecture every day was a bit much for me personally, but you still spent a lot of time in the lab. In my case, we also learned a lot about image analysis, which I found very exciting. Basically, however, the experience is very dependent on the assigned lab, but I don't think any group was very dissatisfied. The presentation was in form of a 2 hours long poster session, which was attended by a lot of different labs and also Prof. Kleele and Dr. Zemp which do the grading.

You prioritize which lab you want to go to and are then assigned to a group of three. Each day starts with a 90-minute lecture on a biochemical method. The lectures are not bad, but partly a repetition of bioanalytics. Afterwards you spend the rest of the day in your assigned lab.

## 551-0337-00L Cell Biology of the Nucleus



#### **Grading Components**

very

- Written exam
- Presentation
- Lab work
- Class participation



#### **Comments on Supervision**

The supervisors gave us great support and were very understanding and helpful

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

I would highly recomment this block course. The lab and the atmosphere were great and the project very interesting.

## 551-0345-00L Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis

2 answers **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 09:00/10:00 - 16:00/17:00 Longest Day 8h Group Size 3 **Location(s)** ETHZ - Hönggerberg Additonal Work Required 5 - 10 h **Grading Components Block Course Composition**  Lectures • Lab meetings • Written exam Group projects • Practical lab work - dry lab Presentation Practical lab work - wet lab • Report Class participation **Research Oriented** Structure unstructured structured not at all very 3.5 4 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness incomprehensive no problem not at all very 2 5 Supervision Independence Quality Atmosphere very bad very incompetent very competent not at all very good very 3.5 4 3.5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...disproportionate ...very good ...much less work ...much more work 1.5 2.5 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? No way! Definitley! ...too theorethical ...too practical 3 4

The exam was open book and super easy. The presentations were group work and the reports were individual work. The reports were only supposed to be 5 pages long, which significantly reduced the workload. As far as I know, the majority of the grades were very good.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Since Professor Hardt's lab deals almost exclusively with salmonella infection, the course description is somewhat misleading.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

I had the impression that the supervisors did not have a lot time for us students. This meant that we could work more independently as they let us repeat the same experimental structure several times with a different research goal. The supervisor helped us a lot for the presentation, provided material and gave feedback.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

groups of 3, we were assigned to a supervisor, he gave us a little part of his project, work with mice we were not as well integrated into the group as in other blockcourses (eg. we didn't eat lunch with them). we went to the lab meetings and could talk to some lecturers afterwards (just the blockcoursestudents and the invited speaker) which was a good experience. I have heard that the block course was better in other years. The lab work was very repetitive and boring in most cases. Nevertheless, I wouldn't describe the block course as bad, but simply as very average.

a short report (max 5 pages) open book exam about 4 lectures given performance in the lab presentation of the project in the group of 3

I think the block course took place at a very bad time. None of the supervisors seemed to have time or good projects for their students. Nevertheless, my supervisor tried very hard and discussed the background to his work with us a lot and I had a very good time.

## 551-0359-00L Plant Biochemistry

	Organisatio	nal Matters		
ypical Day 09:00 - 17:00/18:00	Longest Day 10	h		
.ocation(s) ETHZ - Zentrum Gro	oup Size 2, 3			
Additonal Work Required 5-10 h	ı, 10+ h			
	Lab meetings Practical lab work	- dry lab	<ul> <li>Grading Compo</li> <li>Presentation</li> <li>Lab work</li> <li>Lab journal</li> <li>Poster</li> </ul>	onents
Structure		Research Orie	nted	
unstructured	structured	not at all		ver
	• 5			5
Accuracy of Description		Comprehensiv	eness	
not at all	very	incomprehensive		no problen
				•
	4.5			5
	Super	vision		
Quality	Independence		Atmosphere	
very incompetent very competent	not at all	very	very bad	very goo
		2.5		•
5		3.5		5
	Overall In	npression		
Knowledge Gained per Time wa	S	Compared to	other Block Course	s it was
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disproportionate	very good	much less worl	<r< td=""><td>nuch more wor</td></r<>	nuch more wor
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· · ·	•			4.5

Die Leistungsnachweise (Journal Club & Poster) waren recht streng, jedoch hatten alle von denen ich es wusste nachher auch gute Noten.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Während dem Blockkurs war das Programm sehr zeitintensiv, jedoch musste man keinen Report abgeben sondern nur das Lab journal, also war man nach dem Kurs auch fertig mit den Leistungskontrollen.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Kommt natürlich auf die Supervisors an, aber habe nichts schlechtes gehört und meine waren mega lieb. Natürlich kommt das Program und die Zeiten auch sehr auf deine Gruppe an, meine hatten immer viel Program bis relativ spät.

## 551-0370-00L Einführung in die Ökologie

4 answers

**Organisational Matters Typical Day** later than 10:00 - earlier than 16:00 Longest Day 8h **Location(s)** ETHZ - Zentrum **Group Size** 2, Changing group sizes during the course, All course participants together, no individual groups, Individual work, 3 Additonal Work Required 0-5 h **Block Course Composition Grading Components**  Presentation Lectures Excursions • Group projects Project/experiment proposal Poster • Insights into other research projects Structure **Research Oriented** unstructured structured not at all very 2.75 2 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness incomprehensive no problem not at all very 2.25 5 **Supervision** Quality Independence Atmosphere very incompetent very bad very competent not at all very good very 4.5 4 4 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...much less work ...much more work ...disproportionate ...very good 4 1 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical Definitley! ...too practical No way! 3.33 1

Sehr viel Freiheit und nicht viele Vorgaben bezüglich den Leistungsnachweisen.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

This Blockkurs was like super chill. Because two days of the week we did have only selfstudy in the mornig, but our selfstudy were only a presentation and a poster which was not soo much work. You don't learn anything about Ecology, but there are some presentation about projects of Master and PhD students, which wrre interesting.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

If you want a Blockkurs where you don't have to do a lot and where you can organize your own time this block course is perfect but if you want to learn about ecology it's not the best choice. It really depends what you want. If you search for a chill time, this is your Blockkurs. If you want to learn something about Ecology I would consider a different course.

Ein sehr gemütlicher Blockkurs :)

## 551-0421-00L Biologie und Ökologie der Pilze im Wald



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#### **Comments on Supervision**

The supervisors were very nice, and the atmosphere was very comfortable.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

The block course gave a great insight into different areas of mushroom research. The people were very nice and in the last week we had a lot of free time to write the lab report in our group and we also had time to study for the exam and prepare the presentation. We often went into the nearby forest to collect samples, which we then examined in the laboratory. That was very fun and interesting!

## 551-1119-00L Microbial Community Genomics



#### **Comments on Supervision**

Great supervisors!! Always patient and ready to help us whenever we needed them.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

For people interested in bioinformatics and like to work on a real small research peoject this is a great opportunity to learn many new things and to dive deeper into a specific biological question. The bioinformatics course which is in the bio-curriculum is enough to understand all the concepts of the course.

## 551-1129-00L Understanding and Engineering Microbial Metabolism



50% report, 30% presentation, 20% participation

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The block course consists mostly of wet lab work such as cloning, transforming bacterial strains, SDS page, gel electrophoresis, PCR, inoculating bacterial colonies, but depends a bit on the supervisor. There were lab meetings where each time a different person presented results of their studies, lab seminars with lectureres from different universities and coffee meetings with these lecturers. The organisation was very good.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Each group of two students was supervised by the same supervisor throughout the hole time and we performed experiments that were relevant for the work of the supervisor which I liked a lot. The supervision itself is very dependent on the supervisor but I had the luck to be supervised by a very motivated PHD student which explained everything in detail and was happy to answer any questions that we had. The atmosphere was really nice.

great supervisor

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

I can really recommend this blockcourse as you work together with the supervisors on their real projects and not something made up for the blockcourse. This gives a good insight into a realistic scientific workflow. Also the whole lab was very friendly. It is however quite a bit of work afterwards to write the report which felt to me as having quite a high bar of expected quality compared to other courses.

The atmosphere was welcoming and our supervisor took the time to explain to us what we were going to do and also the concept behind it. it was a great blockcourse, i would definitely recommend it. I felt like the Professor was actually interested in the block course students and makes a lot of effort to provide a lot of learning opportunities both professionally and personally (coffee lectures). This block course absolutely sparked my interest in microbiology and would recommend it to anyone who is even slightly interested in microbiology!

50% Report, 30% Presentation, 20% Lab work

sometimes the lab work was not finished at 17:00 but if we would have wanted to go or had other appointments, we could have.

All the supervisors seem very competent and friendly. In general, the whole lab has a great atmosphere.

# 551-1201-00L Computational Methods in Genome and Sequence Analysis



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

First 2 weeks are always in class which and everyone is programming together. The levels of programming are very different from student to student which makes it very boring for some students and still too fast for different students. Last 1,5 weeks are independent work, which I enjoyed a lot.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

I did not like the style of the first two weeks at all, but other students were very happy with it. So the experience is very dependent on the previous knowledge.

### 551-1309-00L RNA-Biology



The exam is based on three papers (open book), which were discussed with the respective professors. At the beginning, this seems very demanding, but the exam was fair and the majority of the papers were graded well.

Although you give the presentation on your own, you are allowed to prepare it with your lab partner, which saves a lot of time. The question session after the presentation is long and demanding, but the grades were okay.

The presentation and the exams do not take place in the same week.

The presentation in the end was followed by an "oral exam" (it was not stated as such but felt like it), questions on the project were asked to stimulate our critical and creative thinking. It was communicated in the beginning that maybe difficult questions will be asked, that we should not take it personally and that we should prepare well.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

You could prioritize different labs and were then divided into groups of two. I was assigned to the Corn Lab, which is an extremely great lab but doesn't work much with RNA, at least not at the moment. In general, I didn't learn very much about RNA on the course, but that didn't bother me too much. at the beginning the projects were presented to us by the supervisors and we could choose which project we wanted to go and were then assigned based on this to the projects. The projects were in different groups and very diverse.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

I had a great supervisor. She gave us a mini project where we could do a lot of methods (cell culture, western blot, qPCR, Flowcyto) and devoted a lot of time to us. When we did something for the second time, she sometimes left us alone, which was very cool. She also gave us time during the block course to prepare for the exam and the presentation.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

The experience depends heavily on the lab you are assigned to. I got my first priority and was assigned to the Corn Lab, where I had a really great time. great supervisor, also the vibe in the Jonas lab was great

## 551-1403-00L Imaging Bacterial Cells in a Native State by Electron Cryotomography



Written exam was a quiz that could be solved after the block course and then sent back.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

During the computational part there were a lot of waiting times since all the students were in a big group and had to work with a programme that nobody has worked with before. Smaller groups would have been nicer.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

All the supervisors were very nice and helpful.

## 551-1421-00L The Mechanisms of Natural Transformation in Competent Gram-Negative Bacteria



You had to hand in a handwritten lab book, which was very time-consuming. The report is also relatively detailed, but you get old reports, which helps with writing. All submissions and the presentation have to be done alone and it is a lot of work overall.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

We were divided into groups of two and three, in which each of us carried out the experiment ourselves or as a whole group.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

The supervisors were all very nice and dedicated a lot of time to us. You felt really included in the group and sometimes even the professor ate lunch with us.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

It was definitely my most time-consuming block course, but I would choose it again in a heartbeat. You spend a lot of time in the lab and can therefore learn a lot. There is only a short lecture at the beginning and you learn the rest of the theoretical background through discussions with your supervisor, which I personally found a very pleasant way to learn. Report 50%, presentation, 25%, lab journal 12.5%, lab conduct 12.5%

## 551-1525-00L Cancer Progression: Mechanisms, Targets and Therapeutic Approaches



Note immer noch nicht erhalten...

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

it's a nice block course, it gives you insights about many techniques in the lab that you probably never did yet, but the time to invest is a lot. During the block course time, it's only lab, there is almost no time to prepare reports and presentation of a paper, and the reports (2) are big. We had 2/3 weeks after the block course to submit them

Die Stimmung war entspannt und lustig. Die Organisation war nicht mega gut, ich wusste oft nicht genau an welchen Experiment wir gerade arbeiten, was das report schreiben danach sehr mühsam macht.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

They explained what we would do every day and then we basically were on our own (we could of course ask questions)

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

There was mostly lab work, only a couple lectures

The reports took 3 weeks to complete (especially because both me and my lab partner had another block course afterwards). Sometimes it can be a bit confusing/overwhelming since the amount of lab practices/theory behind the experiments is a lot

## 701-2437-01L/EEE 318 Aquatische Ökologie/Aquatic Ecology



There are 2 exams for the two different identification courses, one exam about the lectures and a report about your research questions. Since the course spans over two semester quarters all the evaluation take place in the last week and is therefore in the end quite stressful.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Very well structured

#### **Comments on Supervision**

The teaching assistants and the overall atmosphere Nice people was very nice.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

It is very social and because of the 7 weeks you will get to know each other quite well.

2 Bestimmungsprüfungen, 1 Vorlesungsprüfung, Report

## 752-4020-00L Expt. Lebensmittelmikrobiologie für Biologen



### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Very interesting and chill blockcourse

## BIO 203 Primate Behaviour & Ecology

2 answers

**Organisational Matters Typical Day** 09:00 - 17:00 Longest Day 9h **Location(s)** University of Zürich - Irchel, Zoo Zürich Group Size 3 Additonal Work Required 5 - 10 h, 0 - 5 h **Block Course Composition Grading Components**  Iournal Club Presentation • Group projects Practical lab work - wet lab Report Class participation • Lab work and lab journal in minor percentage **Research Oriented** Structure unstructured structured not at all very 5 4.5 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness not at all incomprehensive no problem very 4.5 4.5 **Supervision** Quality Independence **Atmosphere** very incompetent very competent not at all very very bad very good 5 4 5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...much less work ...disproportionate ...much more work ...very good 2.5 3 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical No way! Definitley! ...too practical 4 4.5

No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.
# BIO 208 Current Debates in Evolutionary Biology and Human Evolution

3 answers

answers		Organisatio	nal Matters		
ypical Day	10:00/later than 10:00			<b>Day</b> less than 8h	
	University of Zürich - Irchel, Zoological Museum		<b>Group Size</b> All course participants together, no individual groups, Individual work, 2		
dditonal W	<b>/ork Required</b> 10+ h,	5 - 10 h			
<ul> <li>Block Course Composition</li> <li>Excursions</li> <li>Journal Club</li> <li>Afternoon: debate about the papers</li> <li>In the morning: presentation of a paper</li> </ul>			<ul> <li>Grading Components</li> <li>Oral exam</li> <li>Presentation</li> <li>1. Grade for participation 2. 3 essays of 1500 words 3. 2 x 30 minute presentation 4. One debate (prepare questions on several papers and discuss with students)</li> <li>3 Essay</li> <li>Class participation</li> <li>3 Essays</li> </ul>		
Structure			Research Or	riented	
unstructured structured 3.33			not at all ver		
Accuracy o	f Description		Comprehens	siveness	
not at all very			incomprehensive no probler		
	3.5			3.5	-
		Superv	/ision		
Quality		Independence		Atmosphere	
very incompe	etent very competent	not at all	ve	ry very bad very	good
	3		3	3.5	
		Overall Im	pression		
Knowledge Gained per Time was			Compared to other Block Courses it was		
disproportionatevery good			much less w	vorkmuch more	worł
					_

## The Block Course was...

2

...too theorethical ...too practical

Would you recommend this Block Course?

No way!

Definitley!

3

Participation (attendance), you have to write 3 essay (1500words) and compare two papers that were discussed. The last one gets graded. You have to present 2-3x a paper (but don't stress, they are not very strict) and prepare 2-3 debates (with a partner)

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

This course includes a lot of essay writing and paper reading which can be done at home so you only have to attend for presentations and the discussion

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Sometimes the atmosphere was weird. Especially during the debats, if no one was saying anything

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Do not take this course unless you're really interested in anthropology and are willing to read in detail 8 to 10 papers per week. You can get by by reading 1.5/8, but you'll be bored and/or confused if you lack the context provided by the papers during the discussions.

Otherwise I liked the 1 to 1 essay feedback that we got and the course supervisors were really nice despite their questionable organizational skills.

I would only take this course if you are willing to read two research papers and discuss the topic each and every day. Personally, I found it really repetitive and I did not enjoy this course. Be aware that it is also extremely work intensive if you want to take it seriously. All in all I would not recommend but others seemed to enjoy it more. 1 grade point each for presentations and leading a discussion as well as 0.5, 1, 2.5 grade points for three subsequent essays that have to be written (with feedback for the first two)

We debated about topics regarding the evolution of humans. Its interesting to get opposite views an the same topic (often two paper which declare the opposite). Sometimes its not very clear what the teachers wanted us to debate but it always worked at the end. The essays are bit annoying but also good, because in the first 2 years we never had to do this, don't panic!

# **BIO 210 Human Behavioural Ecology and Cultural Evolution**

4 answers



Every day a different group has to present a paper in the style of a journal club, which is assessed. In addition, a report and its presentation will be assessed.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

A report/paper must be submitted on the last day, for which there is very little time during the course.

## **BIO 232 Herbivore-Plant Interactions**

2 answers



paper presentation (20%), small exam about the lectures (10%), research presentation (20%), research report (50%)

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

The first 2 weeks were practical which was really nice. The days were always quite packed, there were little breaks and the schedule was tight, but the prof was able to change it, when we were behind. Then in the last week the data had to be analysed, there was an exam and the presentation about the report had to be held. This last week was really stressful. But all in all the course was nice :)

## BIO 253 Research cycle in genomics

1 answer



the grading is fair in my opinion. It is easy to get a passing grade, but then very much harder to get a really good grade

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

most of the time is reserved for project group work with well organized and timed theoretical inputs

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Very knowledgable and supportive supervisors, they are always available and happy to answer any questions.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

I only want to highlight again how kind and helpful the course organizers were. Good and transparent structure. Time flies by very fast. The apero at the end of the course is another big plus. No suggestions for improvement, all questions I would want answers to when deciding for a block course are included in this questionnaire.

## BIO 258 Cancer, Immunotherapy, and Inflammation Research

3 answers



Man musste 1 figure von einen Paper am Schluss präsentieren. War sehr fair und braucht nicht soo vil Aufwand

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

There was a big difference between the three labs involved. Levesque and Magnani were among the best I had in any other course so far. Scharl was not organized at all.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Man geht in 3 verschiedene Labs. In 2 von denen war die Stimmung super und dir TAs waren toll. In einem Lab war das nicht so aber es war trotzdem in Ordnung. Final exam was a figure from a paper that had to be presented

# **BIO 260 Molecular Biology Course for Biology and Medicine**

1 answer



## **Comments on Organisational Matters**

great block course to get an insight into CRISPR and other molecular methods

## BIO 263 Marine Megafauna in deep time

3 answers



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

We had to read a lot of papers, not only for our project but almost everyday

#### **Comments on Supervision**

The professor and teaching assistant are really nice and try to help as much as possible

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Catalina and her TA Kristina make such a good job, this block course is a lot of fun! You learn many new things in a comfortable atmosphere and the topics for the group projects are very nice! You're going to read a lot of papers but it's worth it. Definitely would recommend :) I think this blockcourse definitely fits someone who is interested in Paleobiology, fossils, reading lots of papers and working on their own report half the time.

## **BIO 267 Paleobiology and Evolution of Vertebrates**

1 answer



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

In the afternoon we usually worked alone on our projects so you could actually leave anytime you want after about 3pm.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

The professor was usually absent in the afternoon when working on our projects. You could ask him question but we felt rather left alone with our work. Other than that, he was always happy to help and answer our questions.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

The course was fun but very technical. We learned a lot about anatomical features of fossils. Also the project was difficult to do alone but in the end it is not harshly graded eventhough you are not really sure what you are doing. We went to the Dinosaur museum in Frick which was fun too.

## **BIO 282 Methods in Molecular Plant Biology**

1 answer



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

## **BIO 284 Systemic Microbiology**



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

# BIO 285 Genetic and Epigenetic Control of Plant Development

1 answer



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

We did not collect our own data (as mentioned in course description). We received data from already existing research projects. With this we created a pilot study which was then the basis for our Master Research Proposal.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Pretty much all the time is spent working individually, researching our topic and writing our master proposal as well as creating a scientific poster and preparing for the presentation. There are very few lectures.

## **BIO 314 Plant Epigenetics**

2 answers



#### **Comments on Supervision**

The supervisors and professors were extremely kind also always happy to answer questions about their own research and overall this contributed to a very nice and friendly atmosphere.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

I always liked to go to this blockcourse as I new I would learn a lot in a day but also because the atmosphere was so nice. I also liked it that they gave us a protokoll for the labwork of the whole week, so we already new what is awaiting us at a certain day. Sometimes we had a little bit waiting times during the expieriments but mostly we could use this time for the poster or little presentations. The only thing that could be improved is that not everything is cramped into the last week; there we had in 3 daxs the paper discussion, exam and poster presentation. However last but not least I enjoyed the botanical garden itself very much as I have never been there before and there are a lot of interesting plants to see there.

# BIO 317 Advanced methods in genomic and cellular manipulation

4 answers **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 09:00 - 17:00 Longest Day 10h **Location(s)** University of Zürich - Irchel Group Size 2, 3 Additonal Work Required 0 - 5 h, 5 - 10 h **Block Course Composition Grading Components**  Lectures Iournal Club • Report • Group projects • Lab meetings Class participation • Examining prepared samples • Insights into other research • Poster projects Presentation • Practical lab work - dry lab Practical lab work - wet lab Lab work Lab journal **Research Oriented** Structure unstructured not at all structured verv 4.5 4.5 Accuracy of Description Comprehensiveness incomprehensive no problem not at all very 4 4 **Supervision** Independence Quality **Atmosphere** very very bad very incompetent very competent not at all very good 4 4 3.5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...disproportionate ...very good ...much less work ...much more work 3.25 4 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical Definitley! ...too practical No way! 2.5 4

The workload is quite much for a blockcourse, but all is very useful

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Since the block course is very popular, the students in the course are rather good and the course could get quite competitive for people who can't handle this.

# BIO 319 Targeting cell migration control in invasive brain tumors



On the friday of the first week we had a presentation on a protein chosen from phosphoproteomics raw data, then 2 weeks of lab and a presentation on one experiment on the last day of the blockkurs. The lab report was on one out of the 6 experiments (free choice) and pretty short (no discussion, limit of amount of word in introduction and rationale --> ca. 4 pages considering the references/appendix)

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The first week was dry lab (searching for proteins/ enzymes in a phosphoproteomics dataset), then the other two weeks were wet lab (6 different experiments)

# BIO 321 Modern Microscopy in Life Science Research

6 answers **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 09:00 - 17:00/18:00/earlier than 16:00 Longest Day 10h Location(s) University of Zürich - Irchel, Schlieren Group Size 2 Additonal Work Required none, 10+ h, 5 - 10 h **Block Course Composition Grading Components**  Lectures • Lab meetings Written exam Group projects • Examining prepared samples Presentation • Insights into other research • Practical lab work - dry lab Class participation projects • Lab work Practical lab work - wet lab pass/fail guestions in groups about a microscopy demonstration morning **Research Oriented** Structure unstructured structured not at all very 4.5 4.5 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness incomprehensive no problem not at all very 4.5 4.5 Supervision Quality Independence Atmosphere very incompetent not at all very bad very competent very good very 4.5 3.33 5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...much less work ...much more work ...disproportionate ...very good 3 3.33 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? Definitley! ...too theorethical ...too practical No way! 3 5

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

In the beginning, we had lectures- the lectures can be intense if one did not take Physics 2 or Physical Chemistry 2. For the exam: take a look at fiji partnearly the half of the questions were from that part.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Our supervisor took a lot of times to help us and guide us. It was great.

really dependend on the lab you were in

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

The whole block course is about getting to know the different types of microscopy. There were 9 groups of 2, 8 of which dealt with different variants of light and fluorescence microscopy and one with electron microscopy. The amount of work involved in the course depended very much on this division. Even though I had the impression that everyone was happy with their supervisors, some people had to stay until 6, while I was allowed to leave around 4. I can highly recommend the project by Piotr and Johannes, who worked on CRYO EM. We got a good impression and Piotr in particular really looked after us in great detail. The exam is a bit annoying at the beginning, but the rest of the course is relatively relaxed, especially in less stressful projects. All in all, I can highly recommend the course.

I really learned a lot and I think it will be very helpful for everyone who will do a master thesis involving work on a microscope! Projects were assigned randomly without preferences. Some got boring projects, some got cool ones.

very dependent on research group but in general people were happy

first week: lectures, start with lab work second week: exam about lectures, lab work third week: lab work, electron microscopy lecture and demonstration fourth week: presentations, lab tours

# **BIO 322 Cell Biology of Viral Infections**

1 answer



## The Block Course was...



3

## Would you recommend this Block Course?



Random techniques will be asked during the oral exam. They asked about a technique that they did not talk about, and we also did not work with it in the lab.

# BIO 325 Systems dynamics in cell and developmental biology

1 answer **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 08:00 - 17:00 Longest Day 8h **Location(s)** University of Zürich - Irchel **Group Size** 4 Additonal Work Required 5 - 10 h **Block Course Composition Grading Components** • Oral exam Lectures Iournal Club • Group projects • Practical lab work - dry lab Presentation Practical lab work - wet lab **Research Oriented** Structure unstructured not at all structured very 5 5 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness not at all very incomprehensive no problem 5 5 Supervision Independence Quality Atmosphere very incompetent very competent not at all very bad very good very 5 3 3 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...disproportionate ...much less work ...much more work ...very good 2 4 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical No way! Definitley! ...too practical 3 2

Random things were asked in the oral exam.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Some supervisors gave you the feeling that you were disturbing them. Others, however, were very approachable.
## **BIO 327 Neuroscience Communication Course**



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Mainly focused on learing of how to give presenations much time during the blockcouse to work on these presentations

#### **Comments on Supervision**

very supportive atmosphere which is great for the presentations

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

This block course is not primarily about acquiring knowledge but rather about improving your presentation skills. It's great to see the improvements everyone achieves throughout the course. Classes are only in the mornings, consisting of lectures and presentations by your peers. This leaves the afternoons free for you to prepare your own paper presentations. very organized

# BIO 372 Virology: Methods in Molecular Biology, Pathogenesis, and Control of Human Viruses



2 presentations in pairs: one about a paper and one about your project, the interaction in the discussion was taken into account for grading

we had to individually write an expert commentary after the course (ca 1100 words plus a graphical abstract)

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

a schedule was provided at the beginning of the course which was very accurate which is great for planning your life

20 students, we could choose if we wanted to work with HIV (10 students) or with influenza (10 students)

we learned different techniques and also how to produce and interpretate the data

the whole group of 10 students performed the same experiments but with a different sample, 2 supervisors (changed often) were present for giving instructions and help with the data processing the HIV group could work in a BSL3 lab which was a cool experience

#### **Comments on Supervision**

they were nice and explained a lot

# BIO 373 Next Generation Sequencing for Evolutionary Functional Genomics

1 answer

0



80% exam, 20% presentation

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Time needed after the official duration of the course, was preparing for the presentation, for which we got almost no time during the block course, and studying for the exam

# BIO 399 Fairness in Drug Development: A Role of Researchers



#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

the course name changed this year to: BIO399 Ethics of Rare Diseases

great for those who prefer to avoid wet lab work

# BIO 409 Veterinary Medicine: comparative morphology and pathophysiology



Only the 2-hour exam on the last day counts towards the grade.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The course consists mainly of lectures and a few practicals where we were able to see prepared samples.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

Most of the lecturers were very motivated.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Some of the lectures overlapped with lectures in the Grundstudium. Even though 'Veterinary' is in the name, it felt like the focus was always on humans. Only some lectures focused entirely on animals.

# BIO 440 Evolutionary Medicine: Morphological changes and pathologies



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Dozent nicht da, viel Zeitdruck und Stress

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

Lot of 3D imaging analysis. We had to segment, rearticulate and landmark pelvises. It gets quite monotounous after a while.

# **BIO 446 Applied RNA Methodology**



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

1st Week: general introduction into working with RNA

2nd Week: working on major project (you get assignet either into NMR or FRET)

3rd Week: working on a poster for the major project + minor project in the other field (e.g. NMR major = FRET minor)

4th Week: poster presentation (you get to keep it in the end), some science talks

Generally interesting, however the amount of work for the minor project is equal to the major project and a lot of calculations had to be done after the fact because not enough time was accounted for the experiments. For the minor you need to submit a report 1 week after the course finishes, which took (me) an additional 8h of work. Additionally the information regarding what was expected for the report was given very late and a lot of TAs that helped with the experiments didn't even know about the details.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

the course seems to be more of a biochemistry than biology course

## BME 303 Diseases of Autonomous Systems



Their maximum is a 5.5 at least for the presentation out of principle, which I think is a bit unfair.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

I depended a bit on the lab you were in, in one lab it was very organized in the other not that much.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

The people we worked with were all very kind and happy to answer our questions.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

I'd definitely recommend this blockcourse, because you can choose between 6 groups each participating in 2 different labs and you really see ongoing research and have an impression where you could do your master's thesis.

# BME 304 Vital Functions: Measurements on the Human Body

1 answer **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 08:00 - 16:00 Longest Day 10h **Location(s)** University of Zürich - Irchel Group Size 2, 3 Additonal Work Required none **Block Course Composition Grading Components** • Group projects Practical lab work - wet lab • Written exam Presentation Structure **Research Oriented** unstructured structured not at all very 5 2 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness not at all incomprehensive no problem very 4 4 **Supervision** Independence Atmosphere Quality very incompetent very competent not at all very bad very good very 4 4 5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...much less work ...disproportionate ...much more work ...very good 4 2 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical ...too practical No way! Definitley! 3 5

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The last week was a bit stressful but manageable. There was a multiple choice exam as well as a project presentation.

# BME 307 Microbiomes in health and disease



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

Great course! The professors really help us understand the topics and experiments. The schedule was really well organized, with sufficient amount of breaks and time give to work on our posters that we had to hand-in at the end of the course.

# BME 310 Research methods for studies on human health and disease



they're very generous with their grading

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

very easy, you don't have to do much. it's a block course to relax with a bit of statistics

#### **Comments on Supervision**

there was no exam and just 1 small presentation of 10min

## BME 312 Epigenetics and Disease



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

## BME 323 Brain Disorders



#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

We had 2 weeks lectures and then very short time for a research proposal presentation and latet a report. The lectures were not useful at all for the proposal and a bit of a waste of time since 8h of lectures is too long. Also the supervision in each group was very different and no one really knew what exactly was the task.

# BME 330 Quantitative Biomedicine



#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

At the beginning you have to choose one of the projects in the various research groups. You then work there in pairs / group of three for the entire block course. The working hours vary greatly between the groups.







The grade was based on 3 presentations.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The course provides interesting insights into other fields. The things we learned about materials and technologies (eg, 3d printing) can be used everywhere, not only dentistry. I enjoyed it and can recommend it. The prof was very nice and always gave an interesting, scientific answer to every question..

# BME 346 Tissue Engineering of the Skin



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

### BME 349 Immune disorders and assessment



On the last day we had 2 presentations of ca. 30 min (with discussion afterwards, the entire group together, so ca. 5/6 min per person) and an oral exam, in which the entire group was present, each speaking ca. 10 min

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The schedule was changed many times during the practicum, so sometimes it was not very clear what activities we would perform on a given day/ week. Nonetheless once in the lab the supervisors explained very well the actives and were very open to questions

#### **Comments on Supervision**

We were supervised a lot during the labs, so we were not very independent, especially in the first days of the labs (the course was divided into 3 different labs, one per week)

# BME 358 Animal disease models in modern biomedical research



#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The course exeeded my expectations and I learned a lot. It depended on the group you got, but I was in the wet lab most of the time. Depending on the group, people either worked with frogs (tadpoles) or mice. The prof and the team were very nice and helpful.

In previous years they had done all experiments with both groups. But this time they split it in half, which was good because otherwise the schedule would have been really tight. It also helped when something went wrong and we had to repeat one of the experiments. You spend almost half the time of the course alone with self study about the disease you have to research. The practical part of the course isn't that big.
## BME 362 Pediatric Immunology



This blockcourse was really good. The people in the lab were very nice and you could always ask questions.

## BME 364 Mechanisms of allergic disease



It depended on the group how organized it was during the time in SIAF in Davos, in our group everything was a bit unorganized but I heard from the other groups that it was well organized.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

We were a bit micromanaged, which was slightly disappointing. Because of that we couldn't work independently and much time was wasted when we could have worked on our stuff. Also sometimes we just had to watch somebody do the experiment while we just stood there.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

We didn't know in advance that 2.5 weeks of the block course are taking place on teams, so we were quite surprised and maybe a bit disappointed. The course was composed of many lectures, sometimes about 10 lectures a day which was a lot. We also had very little time to work on our stuff during the course so we mostly had to work during the lectures. Also the active participation during the teams lectures was graded. The week in Davos however was great and the people were very kind. It was the first time they did it and we gave them some feedback, so I am sure next year it will definitely be better. If you like immunology, go for it, you will learn a lot!

## EEE 314 Biodiversity in Urban-Rural Landscapes



We had to do a whole project ourselves, including writing a proposal, doing some presentations, creating the whole experiment, and analyzing the data. We had supervisors, which we could ask, but we didn't meet often in person. For being my first Blockkurs it was too independent.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

I think I said that before :)

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

You will make Project that are related to PHD projects, and in our case, they mostly covered insects, slugs, or plants. And you will not learn much about the topic, but about how to work in a group, how to solve a lot of problems that will accur and how to generate a project. I would not recommend to take this Blockkurs as a first, but if you have already taken some, it will be a cool experience. Conducting own research project including field work and analysis. Good knowlegde of data analysis required.

# EEE 316 Tropical Plant Families: identification, ethnobotany, and chemistry



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

## EEE 320 Sociobiology in Animals



We received data from already existing research projects (not as mentioned in catalogue , there it says we will collect own data). With this data we created a pilot study, which we then based our final Master research proposal on.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

There were very few lectures. Most of the time we spent woking individually: researching literature , writing our proposals and creating a poster and presentation.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

The people running the course were fantastic. The course is very writing intensive and you will be sat most of the time researching literature and writing your proposal on your computer. It does give you an insight into what research is a lot of the time and teaches some valuable lessons in how to execute some of these aspects well.

## EEE 324 Project Development in Biogeography and Biodiversity

2 answers **Organisational Matters Typical Day** 09:00 - 16:00/earlier than 16:00 Longest Day 8h **Location(s)** Botanical Garden Group Size 3, 2 Additonal Work Required 0 - 5 h, none **Block Course Composition Grading Components**  Lectures • Group projects • Written exam Project/experiment proposal Proposal written proposal Structure **Research Oriented** unstructured structured not at all very 3.5 3.5 **Accuracy of Description** Comprehensiveness not at all incomprehensive no problem very 3.5 5 **Supervision** Quality Independence **Atmosphere** very incompetent not at all very bad very competent very very good 4 4 4.5 **Overall Impression** Knowledge Gained per Time was... Compared to other Block Courses it was... ...disproportionate ...very good ...much less work ...much more work 1.5 1 The Block Course was... Would you recommend this Block Course? ...too theorethical No way! Definitley! ...too practical 2.5 4.5

#### **Comments on Grading**

really easy exam

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

can be frustrating, you should like to sit down, discuss and write on a proposal with a slow progress during the whole course time

## EEE 328 Experimental Invertebrate Biology



#### **Comments on Grading**

We had a say in deciding what we would do, though this might have only been possible because of the smaller group size.

#### **Comments on Organisational Matters**

The professor in charge organized this course for the first time, and there's still room for improvement. We provided feedback, so I expect it will be even better next time.

#### **Comments on Supervision**

We were only five people in this block course, which was very comfortable. Because of the small group size we could work in their research lab, what was very cool. But I think this would not be the case if there are more people in the group.

#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

expected something different based on the course description, as I thought we would work with a variety of insect species. In the end, however, we only worked with Drosophila. This wasn't the original plan of the professor, so I'm hopeful that next time the course will offer a broader range of species to study.

## EEE 330 Population Ecology



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

## EEE 332 Herbivore-Plant Interactions



No comments have been given. That's a shame, isn't it. Make sure you fill out the survey so that the generations after you always have something to rely on.

## EEE 334 Biodiversity from Species to Landscape Scale - Concepts and **Methods in Spatial Ecology and Remote Sensing**



#### **Comments on Overall Impression**

If you are interested in learning/practicing how to use ArcGIS, R and some other remote sensing and analytical tools and how they can be applied for Biodiversity purposes,

is a great chance to do this.