Course Evaluation, FYTN02, Statistical Mechanics, Fall 09, Department of Theoretical Physics

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Summary

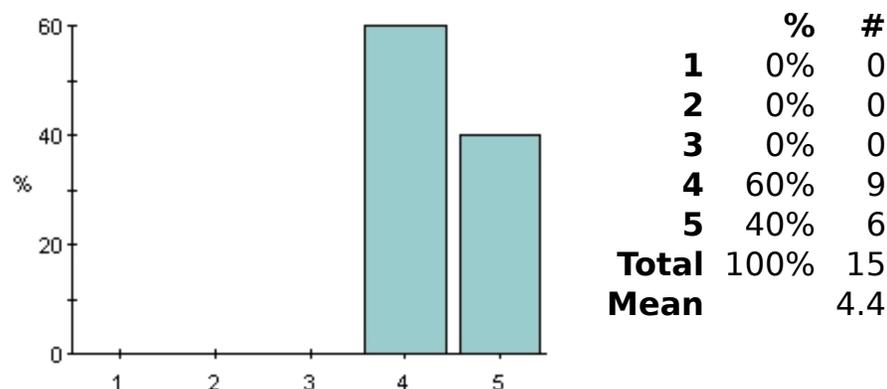|	
Total number of answers	15
Filter	no
Group by question	no

Give your opinion in the scale 1-5.

1 = very negative
2 = negative
3 = neutral
4 = positive
5 = very positive

Personal comments will be appreciated!

A. General

What is your general opinion of the course?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	0%	0
3	0%	0
4	60%	9
5	40%	6
Total	100%	15
Mean		4.4

Comment

8 have commented on this question
Grade = 4 (4 comments)
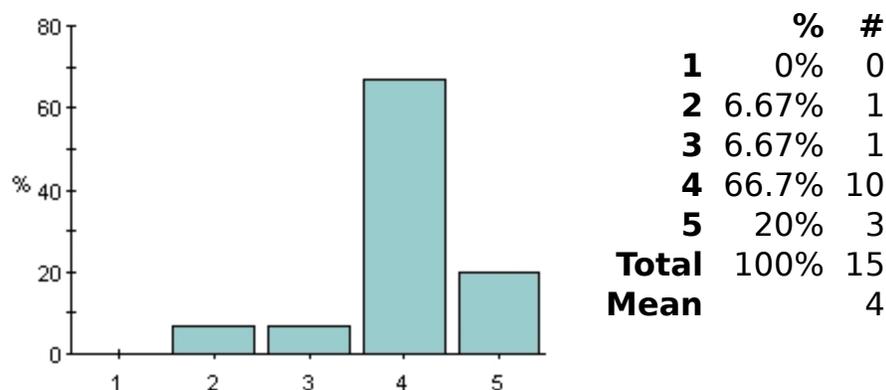— very good content. It's not going too fast so it's OK.

— I think it focused a bit too much on the Ising model, whithout illuminating the applications in a clear way. I'de like too focus more on chapter 4 of chandler and the applications in solid state physics (even tough it's somewhat of a repetition...)
— This course was very interesting but sometimes my low level of mathematics give me some problems to follow every topics.
— Clear, but time-constrained. Would need more time to cover the topics.

Grade = 5 (4 comments)
— very good. All important topics are covered and there is enough time to ask questions during the lessons.
— In general, I have gained much knowledge about statistical concepts which are useful.
— Good content, good book and good teacher
— very good,

B. Literature

What is your general opinion of Chandler's book?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	6.67%	1
3	6.67%	1
4	66.7%	10
5	20%	3
Total	100%	15
Mean		4

Comment

10 have commented on this question

Grade = 2 (one comment)
— In my opinion to brief, so it was difficult to get a clear picture of some things. Some things that were stressed in lectures, such as the transfer-matrix method. Also, that such a large part of the book depends on exercises, which are not all included in the solutionsmanual makes it difficult. Since there are many "prove this but we'll state the results" points in the book, one usually jumps through the reading to quickly and misses important points. Other books that might have been nicer would have been Landau-Lifshitz Statistical Physics book (part 1), which really is extremely clear in the parts I looked through. Though it is more extensive, it

might not be possible to get through it in time if one tries to get through the whole book. But with a readinglist that sets prioroties between different sections, it could be possible. Also Mandl's book seems very clear. The part that is really good is the renormalization group part, but it might be possible to refer to in lectures, and giving out a written copy very similar to the book. Or, Chandler states that that part he mostly took from an article. Might be able to hand out the original article?
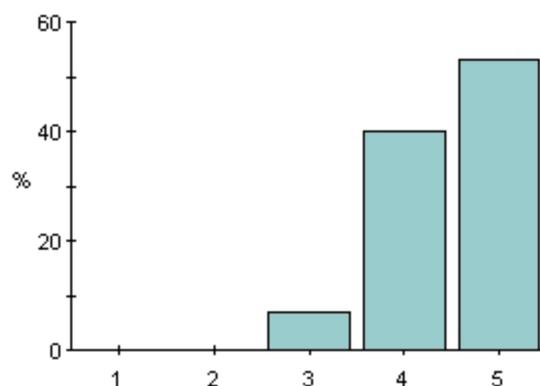
Grade = 4 (7 comments)
— när man väl satt sig in i den så funkar den.
— good
— Chandler's style of writing sometimes tends to obscure easy things a bit.
— missing some demonstration or steps in the calculations. But then the lectures give it!
— suitable for this course, but not sufficient for further studies
— This book is quite good because it lacks of some details sometimes but the solutions manual was helpfull.
— Very short and concise which may be a good thing but can also seem a bit overwhelming at first sight.

Grade = 5 (2 comments)
— Interesting and clearly written
— I like the structure of Chandler's book, and the fact that he has found the balance between mathematical rigour and physical explanations.

C. Lectures

What is your general opinion of the lectures with Anders Irbäck?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	0%	0
3	6.67%	1
4	40%	6
5	53.3%	8
Total	100%	15
Mean		4.5

Comment

8 have commented on this question
Grade = 4 (2 comments)
— bra, lagom tempo
— Good. In the end it got a bit complicated and quick. Would have been more useful with a slower tempo/more examples/more indepth presentation on some of the earlier parts of the Ising Model, and leaving out for example duality. Whilst being interesting, was very complicated for this level of course. And became many different things to learn about the model.

Grade = 5 (6 comments)
— In general very good, just found the part about the duality between low and high temperatures hard to follow.
— The lectures was nice, the teacher don't go too fast and is able to answer questions.
— Anders is a motivated teacher, and explains carefully and in a good manner.
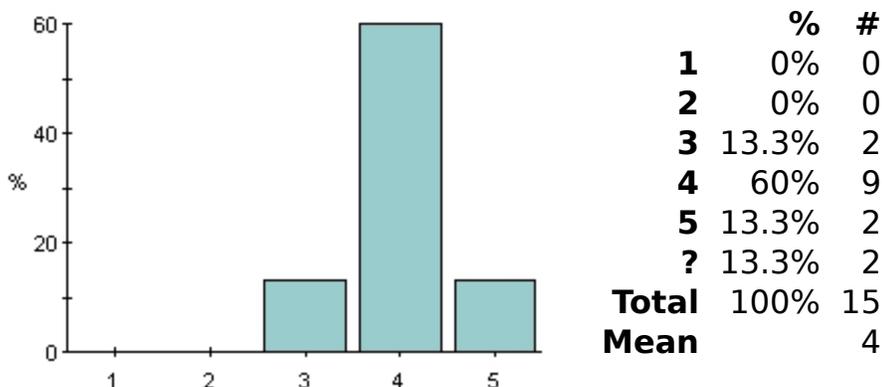— Good with nice atmosphere
— very good: answering questions during the lessons
— he explains in very nice way

D. Problem sessions

What is your general opinion of the problem sessions with Anders Irbäck?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	0%	0
3	13.3%	2
4	60%	9
5	13.3%	2
?	13.3%	2
Total	100%	15
Mean		4

Comment

9 have commented on this question
Grade = 3 (one comment)
— I didn't attend any problem sessions (sorry :)

Grade = 4 (6 comments)
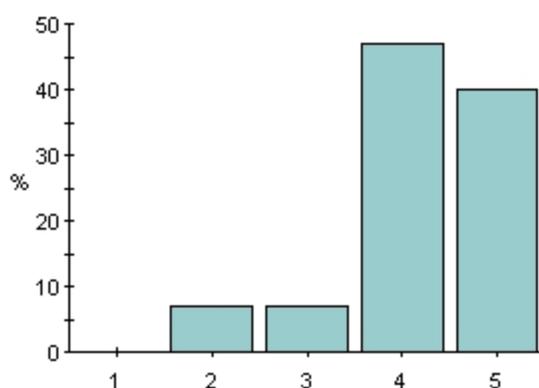— Good. Even though preperation was not large in general, it was

useful to just see the examples worked out on the blackboard.
Very useful for getting an overview.
— It could be useful to have some extra incentive for doing these exercises.
— bra
— It's a good thing to ask systematically for student to go to the blackboard to solve the exercises.
— Helpful but due to lack of time I did not attend so many.
— Unfortunately I was unable to come to every problem sessions because of my schedule and I think that this sessions was quite important to follow.

Grade not given (2 comments)
— Unfortunately, I have not attended so many sessions, so I cannot set a grade. It is a good idea, though
— I did not attend too many so I can't really say

E. Exam

What is your general opinion of the hand-in exercises?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	6.67%	1
3	6.67%	1
4	46.7%	7
5	40%	6
Total	100%	15
Mean		4.2

Comment

7 have commented on this question
Grade = 2 (one comment)
— The first one was descent. But the second one was in bad sync with other courses, so the workload became too much. Also it was way too large and complicated. It took a lot of time. Especially the formulations could be tricky to understand what to do, and since we went through so many examples and techniques on one model it could be very difficult to know where to start.
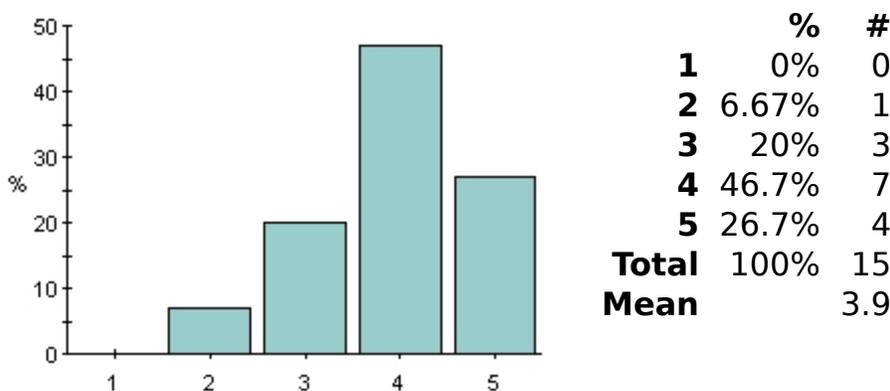
Grade = 4 (3 comments)
— The hand-in exercises sometimes a little technical :)

— The second set was rather difficult compared with the first - consistency would be nice.
— enough time to solve them.

Grade = 5 (3 comments)
— I like the exercises, even though they where pretty hard.
— Rigth level and covered interesting parts of the course.
— The first hand-in exercices were easy but the second one was a bit difficult. Fortunately we had one week to do it and we were able to ask questions to the teacher.

What is your general opinion of the seminar presentation?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	6.67%	1
3	20%	3
4	46.7%	7
5	26.7%	4
Total	100%	15
Mean		3.9

Comment

8 have commented on this question

Grade = 2 (one comment)
— Unfortunately there is no feedback about HOW the presentation was given. Many of those who prepare a presentation could easily improve their techniques if they would have been told.

Grade = 3 (2 comments)
— rätt jobbig att lyssna på alla, ger inte så mycket.
— A little bit too long, it's difficult to stay attentive when there is 4 hours in a row
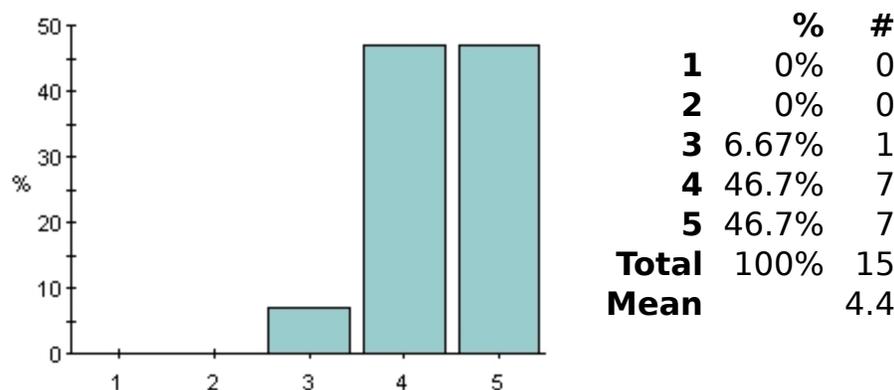
Grade = 4 (3 comments)
— 10 or 15 minutes per person would be better - it's difficult for the audience to concentrate for 20 minutes, and a longer presentation doesn't necessarily develop a deeper understanding for either the presenter or the audience.
— Nice but as always it is hard to get everything. They gave a nice overview.
— Interesting at giving a different way of presenting the other

topics more briefly. Very good that we were in two groups, one before and one after the holiday.

Grade = 5 (2 comments)
— The seminar presentation was fine.
— I think it is a good way to learn new concepts in a short amount of time.

What is your general opinion of the oral exam?

	%	#
1	0%	0
2	0%	0
3	6.67%	1
4	46.7%	7
5	46.7%	7
Total	100%	15
Mean		4.4

Comment

10 have commented on this question

Grade = 4 (5 comments)

— bra

— It's a good thing to have time alone to solve the exercise, but sometimes you are just waiting long time for the teacher to come back.

— It was sometimes difficult to identify the key words/concepts that were being sought - perhaps these could somehow be more emphasised in lectures?

— At first I was a bit irritated because I thought of a conversation with questions and answers. But with the practise question one could easily prepare.

— The preperation questions were a bit too advanced compared to the book. Generally the handouts were more extensive than the book. Would have been good if there was a little less focus on the mathematical part and more on an understanding.

Grade = 5 (5 comments)

— Oral exam was fine. I prefer oral exam instead of written exam.

— its great that andreas irback adjust oral exam so one can prepare easily

— Nice and relaxed atmosphere

— I like oral exams more than written ones, so I liked the exam.

— Friendly but still not too easy.

Thank you for your participation!

Contact person: Anders Irbäck, anders@thep.lu.se
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