Course Evaluation, FYTN08 General Relativity, Spring 12, Department of Astronomy and Theoretical Physics

Summary
Total number of answers 7
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?

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Total Mean 100% 7

Mean 4
5 have commented on this question

**Grade = 2** (one comment)
— Very good excurse in general relativity.

**Grade = 4** (3 comments)
— Very interesting course to have for any type of physicists.
— On one hand the course requires much more work than the number of credits would indicate. On the other hand one can learn a lot. It's hard to imagine a satisfactory balance on this issue...
— Good course, a bit too much content for the allotted time though.

**Grade = 5** (one comment)
— Demanding and rewarding. Worth it!

### B. Literature

**What is your general opinion of the book "A first course in general relativity"?**

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**Mean** 3.9

Comment
4 have commented on this question

**Grade = 2** (one comment)
— A good book.

**Grade = 4** (2 comments)
— Did not like the leap frog manner that things were explained in but overall the book was good. Very little was assumed to be known from start and a very self contained book.
— Sometimes the explanations are too shallow, sometimes they are more confusing than they could be. Other than that, it's easy and fast to read.
Grade = 5 (one comment)
— I think the concepts were explained really well.

C. Lectures

What is your general opinion of the lectures with Johan Bijnens?

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Total 100% 7
Mean 4

Comment
6 have commented on this question
Grade = 1 (one comment)
— Lecture and book were identical, but it was very helpful for me to ask the lecturer questions, even sometimes stupid ones...

Grade = 4 (3 comments)
— I liked how the lecturer occasionally approached some derivations differently than in the book. Looking at things from a bit different angle lets people get a better grasp of the concepts and such. On the negative side, the lectures moved too fast and it was difficult to follow at times.
— Some of the lectures were too focused on explicit derivation which at times took too much time due to the risk of errors. The lectures should introduce the ideas/"the big picture" and leave the explicit derivations as homework exercises instead.
— Again, too much content in the allotted time. A better use of the time might have been to just explain a few things in more detail during the lectures and let derivations and "fill in the steps" be done as preparations for the lectures.

Grade = 5 (2 comments)
— Hans made some of the concepts easier to grasp than in the
book.
— An awesome lecturer, one of the reasons I took the course.

D. Problem sessions

What is your general opinion of the problem sessions with Johan Bijnens?

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5 have commented on this question

**Grade = 3** (2 comments)
— I am not sure if they are worth the time - I would have preferred getting new problems during the session and trying to solve them.
— They’re certainly useful. But perhaps there are too many of them or there are too many exercises in each one (talking about the homework here). Furthermore, most of them were towards the end of the course leaving very little time for other courses.

**Grade = 4** (2 comments)
— Nice, but a bit inefficient if you've already done the problems at home.
— The problems, while already suitable, should include some of the important derivations in the course as homework.

**Grade = 5** (one comment)
— Very good element of the course, not to complete the problems and get a extra point but if something was wrong to be able to understand why it was wrong.

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

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Comment
6 have commented on this question

**Grade = 2** (one comment)
— Were quite easy, but a good preparation for the oral exam

**Grade = 3** (3 comments)
— Most of them were too easy. They could have been given during the problem solving session, while for hand-in exercises there could have be one big and complicated exercise every week or two.
— Need more guidance and help when solving the exercises.
— No opinion of them really, they were what could be expected I guess.

**Grade = 4** (one comment)
— The homework load was quite huge (sometimes seemed like an overkill), but they also made it easier to understand the course.

**Grade = 5** (one comment)
— I assume this means the take-home exam only.

F. Presentation

What is your general opinion of the presentations?
Kommentar
5 have commented on this question

**Grade = 1** (one comment)
— Very helpful for me, but unluckily there was no reward for the hard work one has put into it.

**Grade = 3** (one comment)
— Lots of fringe topics in relation to the course. Good for presentation skills and general overview but did not feel it was too related to the course.

**Grade = 4** (2 comments)
— It took me more than the "one or two days" to prepare my presentation but I guess that is my fault. More feedback on the presentations from the lecturer would be welcome.
— Interesting, unfortunately, most of the students were only concerned in giving their own presentations and not listening to the others.

**Grade = 5** (one comment)
— Very interesting topics!

**G. Oral exam**

What is your general opinion of the oral exam in general relativity?
Comment
3 have commented on this question

Grade = 4 (one comment)
— I always prefer oral exams, so my opinion here would not be objective :) Still, I think this exam was a little too long, i.e. too many questions. Yet again, on the other hand, one is not supposed to necessarily answer them all.

Grade = 5 (2 comments)
— I liked Hans' approach - he didn't ask to memorize details that you can always look up, but was interested whether we understood the ideas behind the derivations etc.
— The requirement of understanding principles and not memorizing formulae/derivations is something more lecturers should adopt.

H. Other comments regarding the course
3 have answered this question
— It would be nice to introduce physics earlier in the course because there is very much math, which obviously is needed.
— I think it's actually more than a 7.5 hp course, at least the workload seemed huge - hand-ins, take-home exam, oral exam, presentations... But I wouldn't want to leave out any of the chapters, so I guess you just have to be ready to work a lot if you take this course.
— One idea might be to run a numerical relativity course in parallel to make up for some of the "too much material too little time" feeling.

Thank you for your participation!