

# Course Evaluation, FYTN05/TEK267 Theoretical Biophysics, Fall 11, Department of Theoretical Physics(kopia)

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### Summary

Total number of answers 9

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Give your opinion in the scale 1-5.

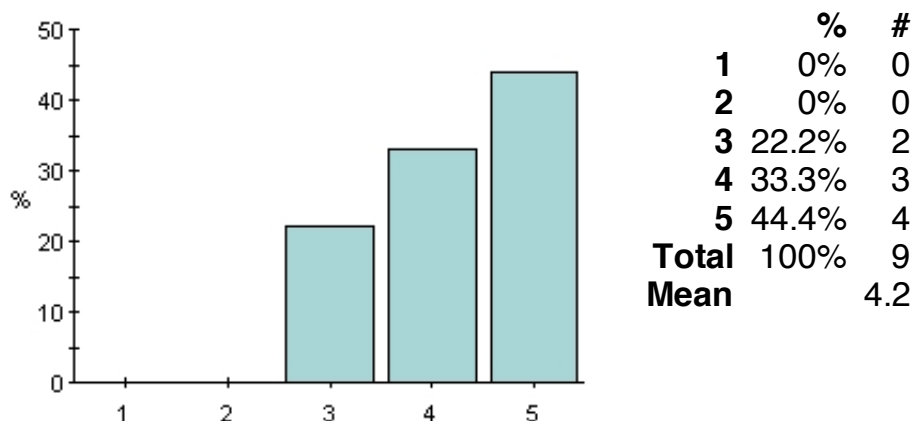
1 = very negative; 2 = negative; 3 = neutral; 4 = positive; 5 = very positive

Personal comments will be appreciated!

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### A. General

#### What is your general opinion of the course?



#### Comments

2 have commented on this question

**Grade = 3** (one comment)

— It was quite interesting, I however expected something very different considering this was supposed to be a theoretical course on master level. Many derivations very only roughly sketched and mathematical correctness not always respected. I liked that you tried to get across the big picture behind the different topics and how their linked. Sometimes, it would have been nice to go more into the biological details rather than cover every single chapter of the book. The overall concept of having four lecturers is

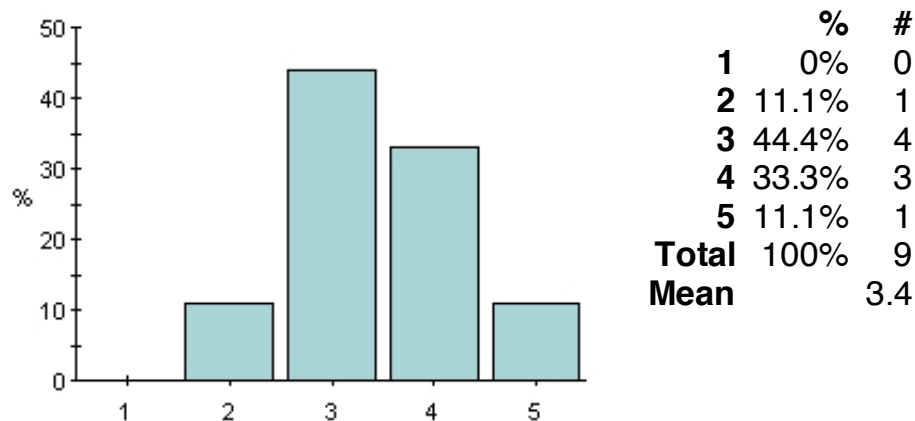
something I found a little bit hard to get used to as everyone had his own way of teaching and once you got used to it, the next one continued...

**Grade = 4** (one comment)

— A nice course in applied physics. Results could be derived more carefully.

**B. Literature**

**What is your general opinion of Nelson's book?**



**Comments**

5 have commented on this question

**Grade = 2** (one comment)

— Most arguments are very handwaving and are tailored to yield the correct result, but are not really applicable for different but similar problems. The calculations are not very detailed. Sometimes the results of the "your turn"-exercises (small embedded exercises) are needed to go on but not stated.

**Grade = 3** (3 comments)

— This book can be in just 300 pages and serves all purpose. Also it is more useful for bachelor because of its simple contents

— Again, the book lacked a bit too much mathematical accuracy for my taste. It was quite easy to read, but I found it tiring to read through those very long chapters and would have preferred to read a more dense book that really gives you the facts first and then some examples.

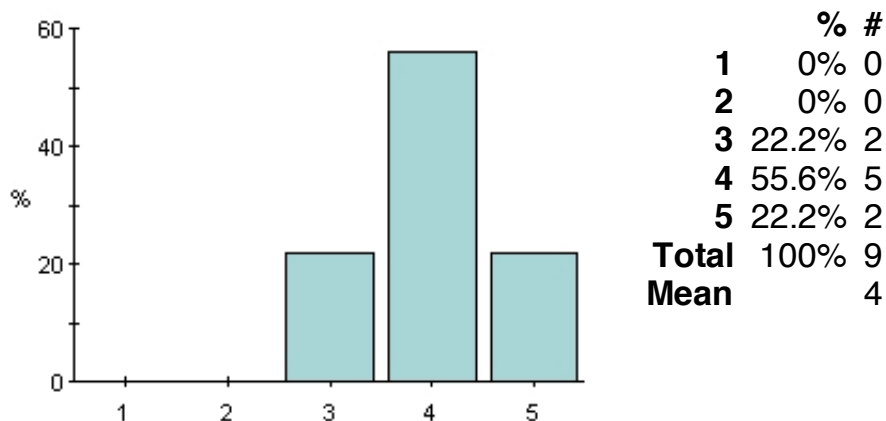
— important parts too short, not so important parts with too much text

**Grade = 4** (one comment)

— it talks too much

**C. Lectures**

### What is your general opinion of the lectures with Carsten Peterson?



#### Comments

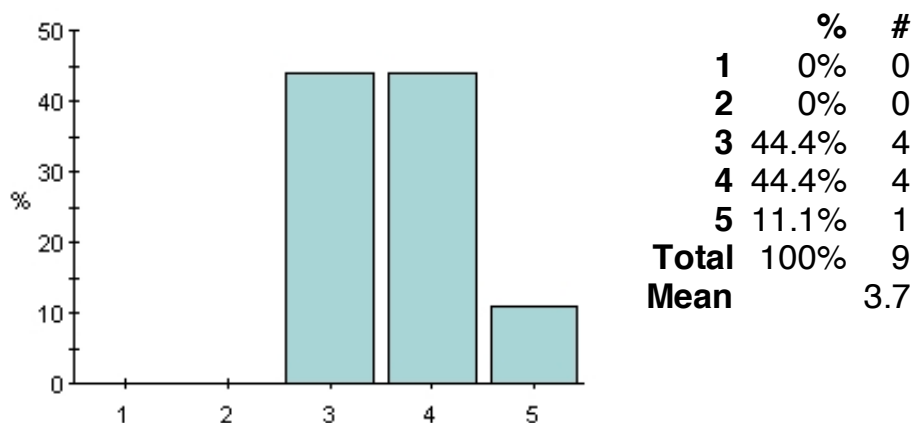
2 have commented on this question

**Grade = 4** (2 comments)

— Good introduction to biology of cells. The part on information processing could be enlarged.

— Very nice overview, but some more details would have been nice. What I'm concerned (and I assume this is most likely true for many other students) this part was below the level of late high school, so it would have been nice to hear something a little more challenging. But I liked that Carsten Peterson's lectures were very well structured and that he gave us this very nice handout.

### What is your general opinion of the lectures with Bo Söderberg?



#### Comments

3 have commented on this question

**Grade = 3** (3 comments)

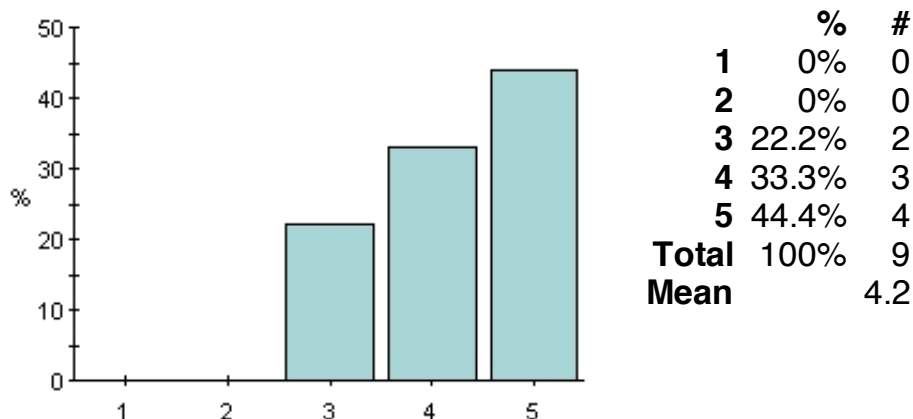
— too fast, it was hard to follow which lead to problems in understanding

— Had I not have heard most of these concepts before, I am not sure whether I could have followed these lectures, for they were really chaotic. I thought the choice of topics was good and the concepts were rather well explained but oftentimes it was just very hard to follow or just read what was written on the board. And the derivations were really sloppy.

— His derivations are sometimes in the style of Nelson's book, handwaving and unjustified. Considering the audience, a more elaborate approach, e.g.

to the diffusion equation, would be better.

### What is your general opinion of the lectures with Henrik Jönsson?



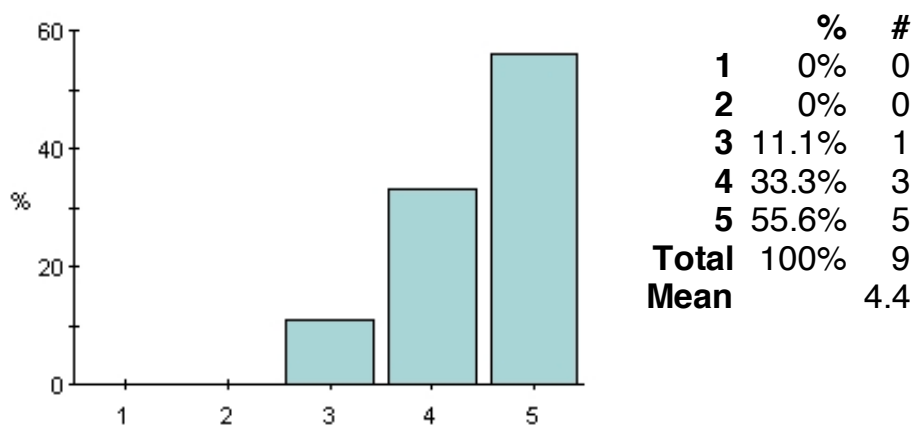
#### Comments

One has commented on this question

**Grade = 5** (one comment)

— This part I liked very much. Everything was very clear and well explained and we could see that Henrik Jönsson really cares about whether the students understand. I especially liked that he tried to get us interested by presenting some applications of the topic. And he seemed very enthusiastic about what he was saying, which is certainly a good thing.

### What is your general opinion of the lectures with Stefan Wallin?



#### Comments

3 have commented on this question

**Grade = 5** (3 comments)

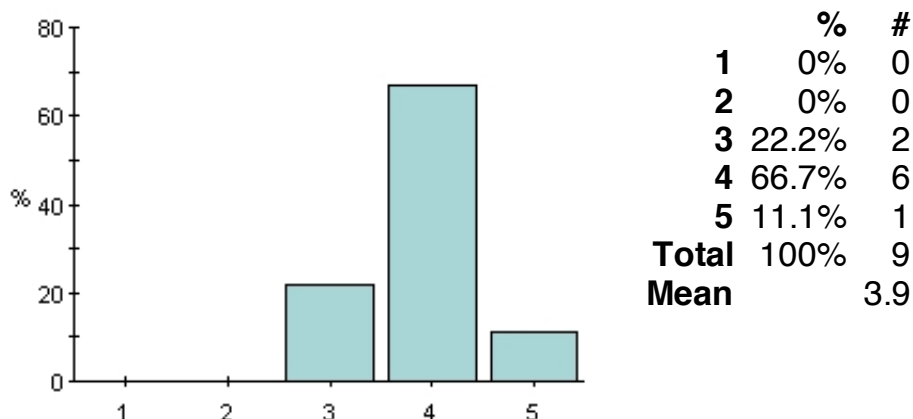
— Very good. I liked that his lectures were very well structured and that you could always understand the concepts. He is very friendly and easy to talk to.

— He was great in everything!

— He knows his subject and is a talented teacher. if something is not clear, good explanations are given.

## D. Computer Assignments

### What is your general opinion of computer assignment 1, "Depletion forces" ?



#### Comments

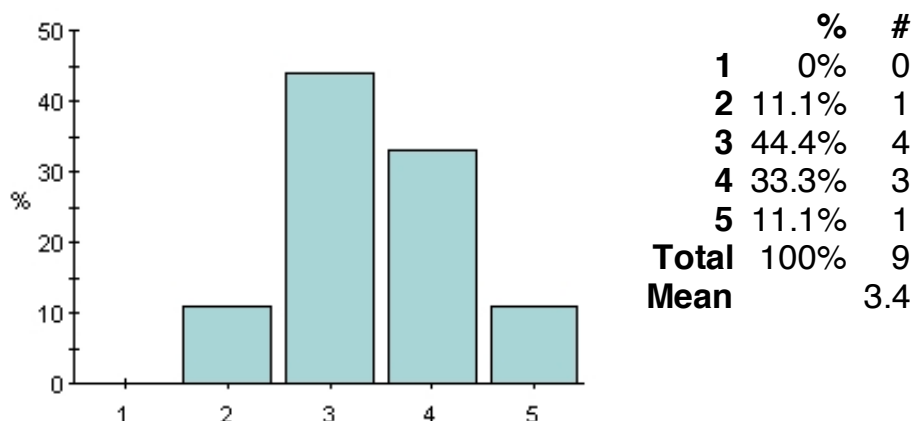
2 have commented on this question

**Grade = 4** (2 comments)

— Generally good, but the problems were a little bit too easy, there was no need to think much. The preparation exercises are sometimes too long and don't give much insight.

— This was quite interesting and the assistant was helpful (even stayed longer) and answered our question. I just found it was quite a monotonous work, especially what the first exercise is concerned. Maybe this could be cut a little bit. You would probably learn more if you had to do a little bit less, but for example write the gnuplot code by yourself.

### What is your general opinion of computer assignment 2, "Modeling reactions and molecular networks" ?



#### Comments

4 have commented on this question

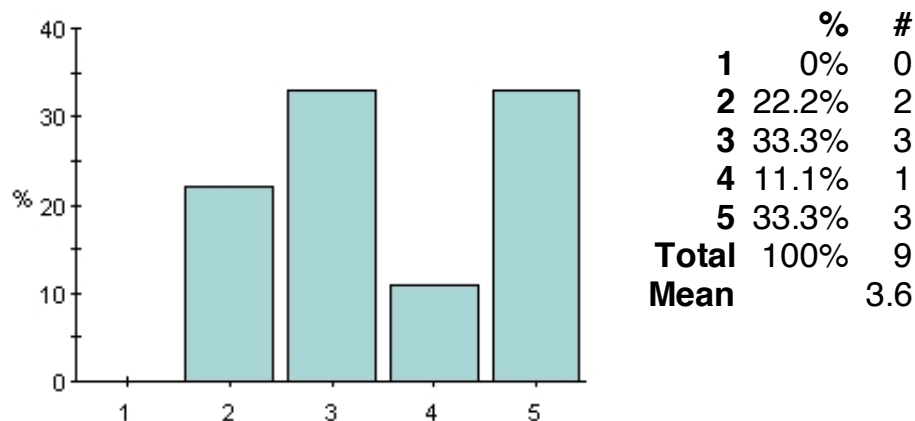
**Grade = 3** (4 comments)

— Quite a bit of necessary information was missing in the manual, which was not always provided by the assistant. Instead we got the answer "I cannot tell you everything." to (in my opinion) rather reasonable questions. The simulations were interesting but again I think a little less but more in depth would make you learn more.

- I didn't have any knowledge about some part of this assignment.
- tasks were not really clear to us
- The first problems and the preparation were mostly concerned with ordinary differential equations, where exact solutions would be interesting but not offered/demanded. The part about reaction networks was very unclear.

## E. Seminar Presentations

What is your general opinion of the seminar presentations?



### Comments

4 have commented on this question

**Grade = 2** (one comment)

- the students should be asked more to focus on their audience, that means the other students, instead of trying to impress the tutors

**Grade = 3** (one comment)

- This is not really a mistake of the lecturers, but I thought that many students did not really take the presentations very serious and it was oftentimes really hard to follow, because they very not very well-prepared. Maybe it would help to make this part of the grade, so that you get an acknowledgement for your work. This would also increase the diligence of students and therefore to better presentations that are worth listening to by the other students. And it would have been nice to get a feedback. If you do not know what you've done wrong you cannot improve.

**Grade = 4** (one comment)

- should have had an influence on the grade, power point of everyone would have been nice, online collection of the presentations to download for everyone

**Grade = 5** (one comment)

- A very good idea to merge presentations into the lectures. Unfortunately not graded and thus many talks were not very good.

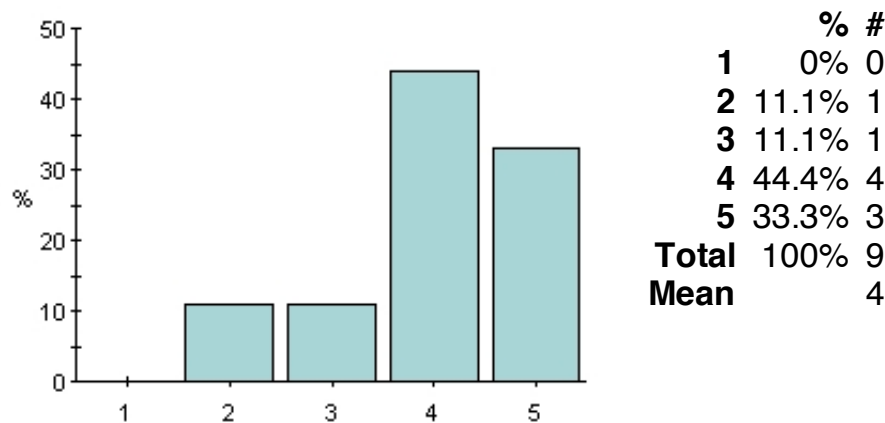
### The presentations were held before chapters 1-9 in Nelson had been completely covered in the lectures. Was it a problem?

4 have answered this question

- This was not really a problem, since most students can be expected to have a knowledge about the underlying physics.
- no, they were rather independent
- Not really a big problem but it would of course have been easier with some preknowledge. We sometimes had to go back and read over certain passages from earlier chapters but as the book is very easy to understand, this was not difficult.
- I think it's not a big problem, and it's a good idea not put all the load in the end.

### F. Oral Exams

#### What is your general opinion of the oral exams?



#### Comments

3 have commented on this question

**Grade = 4** (3 comments)

- nothing to be frightened of just Bo Söderberg makes me confused!
- I mean, they are really in favour of the students so I do not want to complain. Maybe it is a little bit unequally distributed as the first part was mainly a general introduction and therefore so much easier. The professors were very friendly and tried to create a good atmosphere. I'm just wondering whether the mere reproduction of things treated in the lecture suits the level of this course and makes the students think by themselves, as is required in theoretical physics.
- Depends very much on the examiner, learning derivations by heart just to be able to reproduce them quickly is in my eyes a silly task.

### E. Other questions.

#### How would you change the course, if you were course leader?

7 have answered this question

- Maybe add more exercises which are not necessary part of the grade, but corrected. I did not really know if I am good or not until the exams.
- somehow it would be nice to be checked in every field in the oral exam, not only in 2, because you learn a lot during the exam as well
- it is very intensive 400 pages during 24 hours! Remarkable...
- - give more exercises - perhaps one computer assignment, but compulsory exercises ?
- considering the book which has some unnecessarily long parts perhaps some more lecture notes would be helpful. There are many more useful topics in the course than depletion forces for a project.
- As my previous entries might suggest, I would rather leave out some topics, but work through the other ones more in depth and on a more theoretical basis. But as I hardly know anything about Biophysics, I don't have the arrogance to suggest something specifically. What I was missing were problem sheets to work with on a regular basis (and their discussion) that would have helped to get more familiar with the topics.
- it would be nice if we could know what biophysicist doing now or what is the hot area in biophysics (but time always a problem..)

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Thank you for your participation!

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