

## Results (as of June 30, 2013)

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Passed course: | 60 |
|----------------|----|

## Evaluation Measures

I give an anonymous paper-based course evaluation at the project presentation sessions at the end of the course. This accounts for the relatively high number of responses (47). I have read through all the written comments and present a summary of the numerical measures<sup>1</sup>:

| Category                                    | Average (Scale 1-5) | Standard Deviation |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| Instructor's command of the material        | 3.42                | .99                |
| Value of lectures                           | 2.74                | .95                |
| Recitation leader's command of the material | 3.2                 | .94                |
| Value of recitations                        | 3.33                | 1.09               |
| Instructors administration of project work  | 2.96                | 1.25               |
| Value of projects                           | 3.84                | .94                |
| Overall quality of the course               | 2.80                | .88                |

*Total number of hours per week spent on course (average)*<sup>2</sup>: AVG 8.84 hours (STDDEV 5.51).

## Discussion

This is the first year I gave DD2471, redesigned as a more open-ended project course. In general I am satisfied with the performance of DD2471 in 2013. While the course certainly enabled the students to explore advanced database topics through their (often excellent) project work, for my part, the lectures and the recitation assignments were often too hastily prepared. Moreover a couple of critical cancellations were forced due to travel requirements associated with the EU project I am coordinating. This had the unfortunately effect of throwing the course schedule into a state of flux. Although we recovered from these disturbances, a fair bit of time was wasted in trying to reschedule lectures and recitations that fit schedules. While at the end of the day the course was a 'success', I feel there is a lot of room for improvement.

Except for a minor rewording of the 'number of hours' question, I will use exactly the same course evaluation form as the basis of a longitudinal study of DD2471 performance. I fully expect that evaluation scores in 2014 will be boosted substantially!

<sup>1</sup>The scale is: 1. very poor, 2. poor, 3 adequate, 4 good, 5 very good.

<sup>2</sup>This was a badly phrased question and will be changed next year to *Average number of hours per week including study, programming, lecture, recitation, project work, etc..* A number of students left this question blank or indicated that they could not report a value.