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**Re: Evaluation of DM508:**

The course, DM508, Algorithms and Complexity, taught by Joan Boyar, was offered the third quarter of the 2011–2012 academic year. Since it is a second year course for computer science students, a course evaluation was performed at the end of the course. Nineteen students filled out evaluation forms, though there were thirty-two students signed up for the exam. A summary of the responses has been prepared and is attached.

The evaluation of DM508, shows that many of the students thought that the course was difficult. In fact, this is material that is difficult for most students; it is more theoretical than most of their courses.

Overall the evaluation of DM508 gives no indication that major changes in the course should be made. There was a comment that the course should be moved to later in the studies. This would be good for some students, but a problem for students who would want to take elective courses for which this course is a prerequisite. There is also a difficulty in finding where else to place it. One could switch it with the Computability course, but it seems likely that whichever course is first will be the perceived to be the harder one, and Computability is not a prerequisite for many other courses.

This particular class of students was less willing to speak up in class than other classes have been. When asked, they said that they were just quieter,

and the problem was not that they did not understand the material.

Sincerely,

Joan Boyar

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