Course Evaluation

Course Name:	Astrophysical Dynamics
Semester:	Fall 2001
Course Code:	FAS010 (CTH)
	AS3500 (GU)
Lecturer:	Alessandro Romeo
Students:	Jens Andersson (CTH)
	Martha Boyer (CTH)
	Fredrik Janson (CTH)
	Eva Karlsson (CTH)
	Tor Laneryd (CTH)
	Emil Rolandson (CTH)
	Christian Svensson (CTH)
	Jan Lindahl (GU)
	Bengt Tegner (GU)

The course evaluation was written by Tor Laneryd, a student of the course, after a one-hour discussion with other students.

This course was different from most other courses in the regard that there was a large amount of interaction during the lectures and exercises. The lecturer expected the students to answer questions and explain fundamental concepts, but everything was done in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere, so none of the students felt uncomfortable with this. Instead, everybody appreciated very much the enthusiasm of the lecturer and his genuine concern that everyone should understand the important points of the course.

Nine students took the course this year. It was generally agreed that this was almost an optimal number, because with more students it might be difficult to achieve this level of interaction.

There were two distinct groups of students - those who had a special interest in astrophysics, and those who were more interested in plasma physics and fluid mechanics. Still, no one thought having these different types of backgrounds had been a problem, because there had been a good balance between the two areas in the course material. However, it was suggested that the lecturer could prepare a small summary of basic astrophysical concepts for non-astrophysicists taking the course. Maybe he could also hold an extra lecture about this as well.

Many students felt that the course book was difficult to read and not really necessary for the course. Fortunately, the course notes handed out by the lecturer were good, if somewhat difficult to follow if you hadn't actually been to the lecture. Especially some improvement could be made in explaining what the different variables stand for.

There was some disagreement about the virtues of having one large problem to solve during the exercises instead of several small ones. Some students thought it was good, and some thought it was not so good. Another objection raised about the exercise was that it wasn't connected enough to the material presented during the lectures. But everybody appreciated the opportunity to solve the problem for themselves with some guidance from the lecturer, rather than just being presented with the solution.

The exam was in the form of a seminar, where each student presented a topic of his choice. This form of exam was generally very much appreciated, although some students would also value the option of complementing this with a written report. No one thought this should be compulsory though. The students all agreed that half an hour of presentation was perfect, but some thought the discussion afterwards should not take as much time as it did.

Everyone agreed that the difficulty of the course was just right for a 4th-year student.

In conclusion all students thought this was a very good course, and unanimously gave it a grade 5 out of 5 possible.