

SWD245 - Advanced and Distributed Databases

SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY

UNIT REPORT 2006-2007

Unit Code: SWD245	Unit Name: Advanced and Distributed Databases
Unit Leader:	Faculty: TEC
<p>Key strengths and issues arising from student performance. Including any actions taken from last year;</p> <p>Assessment 1 requires students to write a paper (in 2 hours) to address 3 issues supported by design and implementation artefacts produced to a regular schedule (once every 4 weeks for each of the 4 themes) and previously uploaded to Learnwise. Performance was again good by those students who kept to this brief, attended the 2 hour practical classroom session each week and who were also able to benefit from the formative feedback available for the uploaded artefacts. However, the performance of some students was severely impaired because they did not keep, in whole or in part, to this brief.</p> <p>Assessment 2 requires students to evaluate an advanced database technology arising from each of the 4 themes. Electronic forums ran over the first 16 weeks with the clear pedagogical purpose of informing student choice of topic (for when the assessment starts in earnest in week 18), and to provide a base of initial collaborative research and discussion that all students could draw upon. Performance was again good by those students that kept to this brief. However, these forums were less effective (exacerbated by a cohort of only 10) than in previous years due to the lack of engagement by, again, the same students. This is particularly surprising as it (clearly) contributed 20% to the marks for Assessment 2.</p> <p>Unit reports show that this unit has been continually improved through the years, and has always been available in Learnwise. These students did not have to choose this unit which became optional for the first time this year.</p> <p>The improvement implemented to the “Modelling and Analysing Data for Decision Support” theme this year, particularly the OLAP resources, led to improved performance in this theme by those that engaged.</p>	

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Key strengths and issues arising from student feedback. Please indicate how feedback was obtained during the year;

Within unit feedback in this small cohort of 10 students (of whom only 4 attended regularly) was collected on an informal basis virtually every week. Student feedback was very positive, as it was normally possible to react immediately to any needs.

Online unit feedback was provided by 3 students (30%). Feedback included a lowest mean value of 4.33 and four 5s. All comments about the strengths of the unit were highly positive including it was “difficult to think of anything to improve it!”

Actions for improvement next year;

The following improvements have been made by the unit leader in time for the next delivery in 2007-08:

- 1. Implement in myCourse using tools as appropriate for this blended unit.**
- 2. Introduce "Data Mining/Knowledge Discovery in Databases" as a new, fifth (and practical) theme appropriate to both the Computing and BIT students.**
- 3. Modify the Assessment 1 criteria to make them somewhat less generic and more specific (following external examiner comment).**

SWD245 - Advanced and Distributed Databases

Analysis of Student Performance as of 20/07/2007 09:45:31									
	No	Mean	SD	0 - 34	35 - 39	40 - 49	50 - 59	60 - 69	70 - 100
Group Report 1	10	48.4	15.83	2	1	3	1	2	1
Time-constrained Coursework 1	10	44.4	12.1	1	3	3	1	2	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overall	10	47.1	13.41	1	2	3	2	1	1

Student Survey Results	
No Registered	11
No Completed	3
Rate	27.27

Analysis of Unit Feedback Survey	
I was clear what I was meant to be learning on this unit	4.33
The teaching in this unit helped me to learn effectively	4.33
I have developed new or existing skills on this unit	4.67
I found the balance of overall workload was manageable	4.67
The assessment in this unit allowed me to demonstrate what I had understood	5
I have been given the opportunity to share my views on this unit with my tutor	5
I can see the relevance of this unit to my degree	4.67
I received useful feedback on my course work	5
Overall I was satisfied with the quality of the unit	5