Noppa.us User Interface Guide

Aalto University School of Science, T-111.5360 WWW Applications. Spring 2012.

Noppa.us is a web app developed using jQuery Mobile in the frontend and Django with Beautiful Soup 4 in the backend. The purpose of the application is to provide an interface for Aalto University Noppa course service with the ability to rate and comment courses.
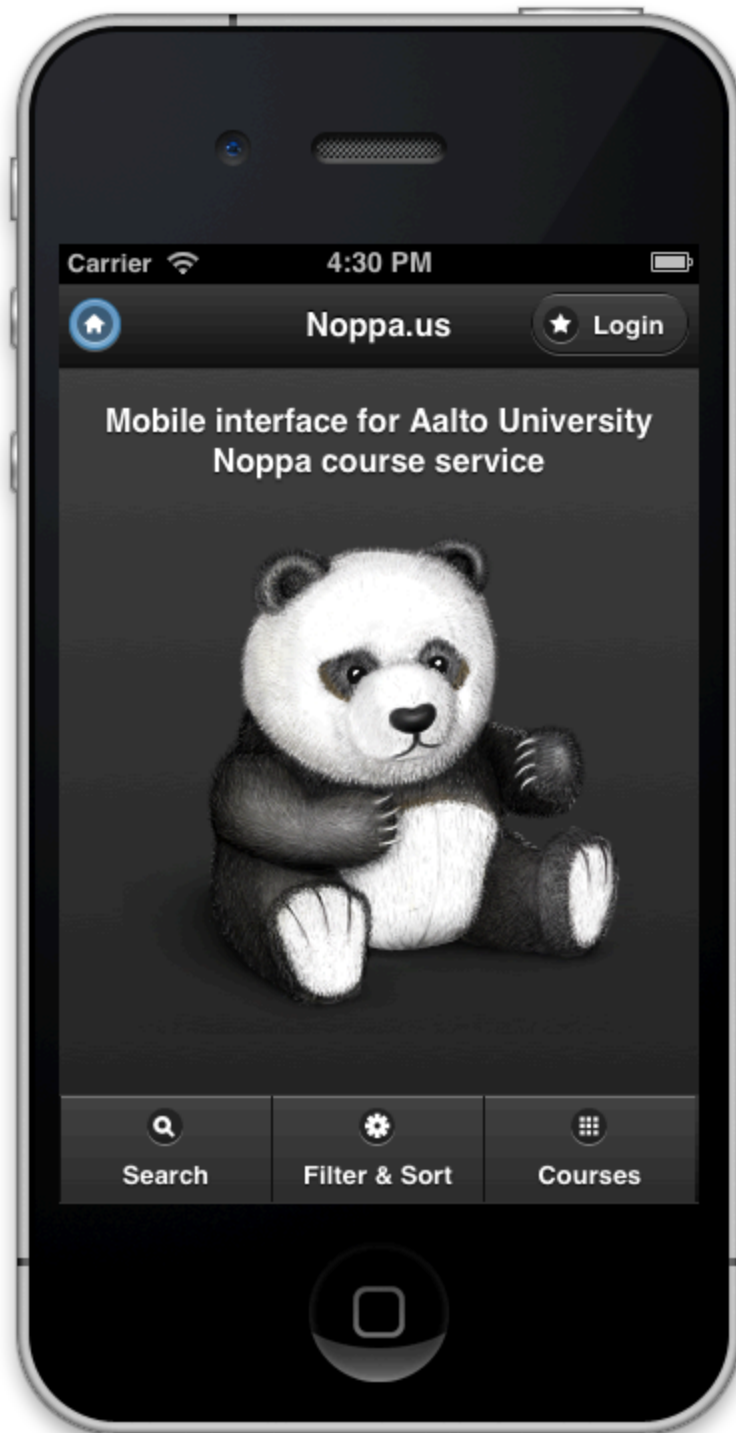
|

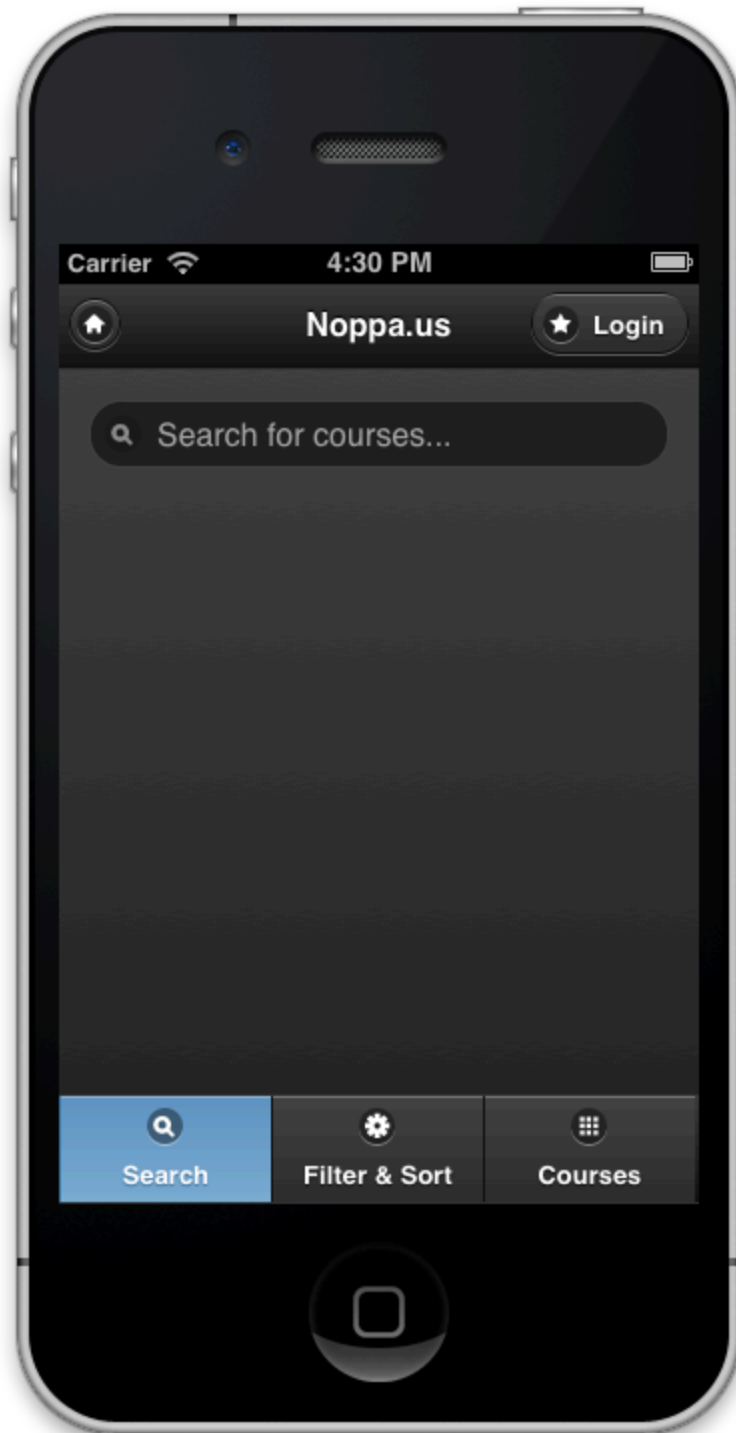This document describes the user interface and its functionalities.
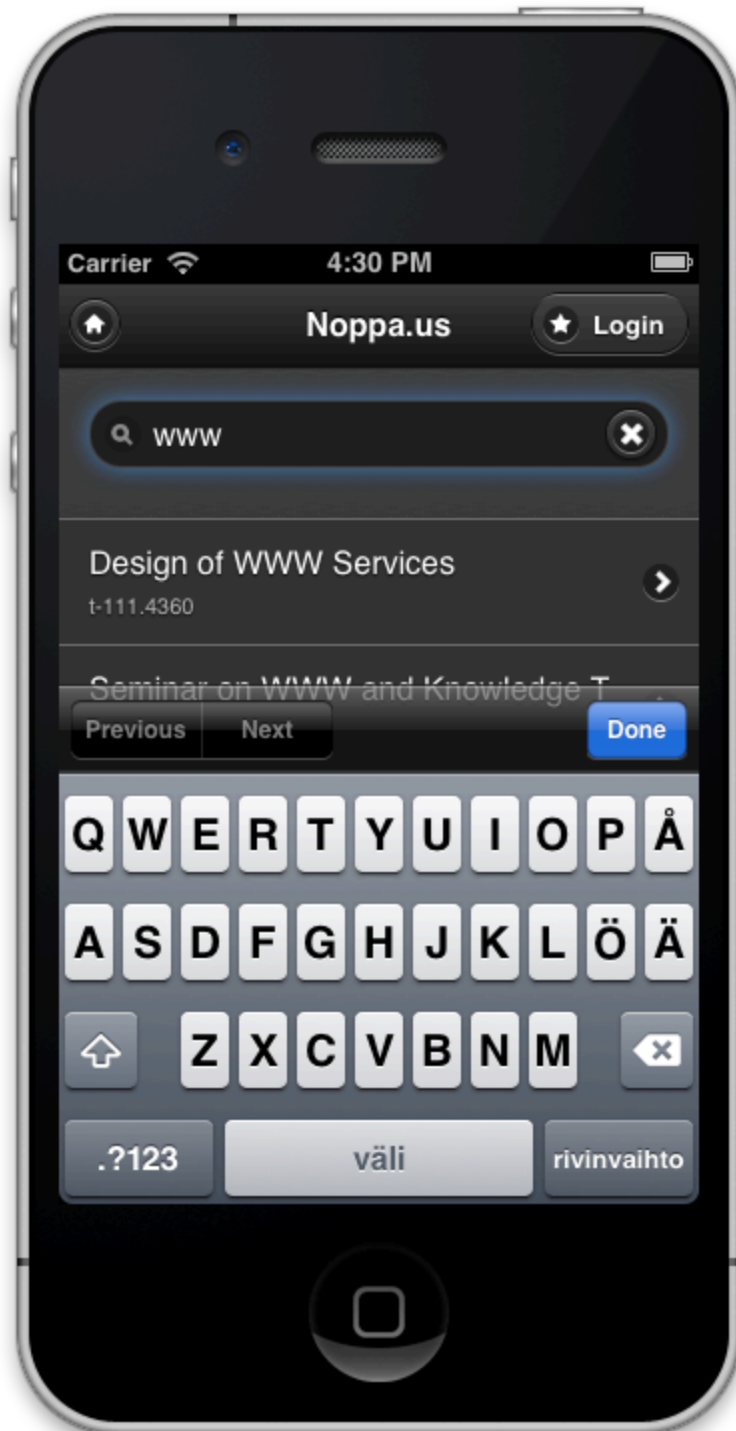*Authored by Rami Alatalo on May 14th 2012*

Depending on the device used the web app can be added to the home menu and accessed the same way as native applications. Thanks to the HTML5 local storage all app specific settings are saved as long as they are not removed manually from the browser settings. In Noppa.us for example blacklisted (hidden) courses, selected faculties and course sort method are saved.
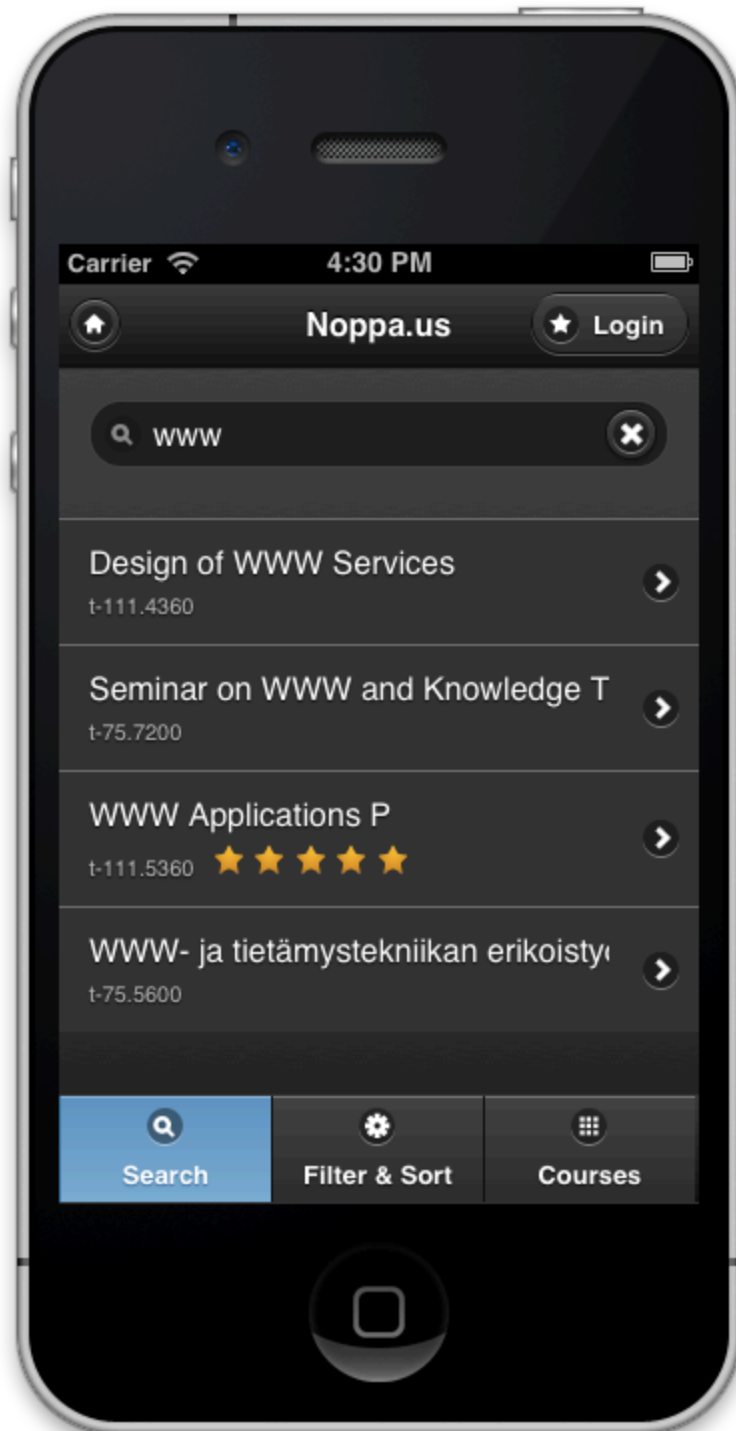
This is the home view which will be presented when the application launches. The view can be accessed anytime using the home icon in the top left corner. No additional information such as user guide is provided for users at this time. User can access four different views from this view: search, filter and sort, courses and login using the navigation buttons.
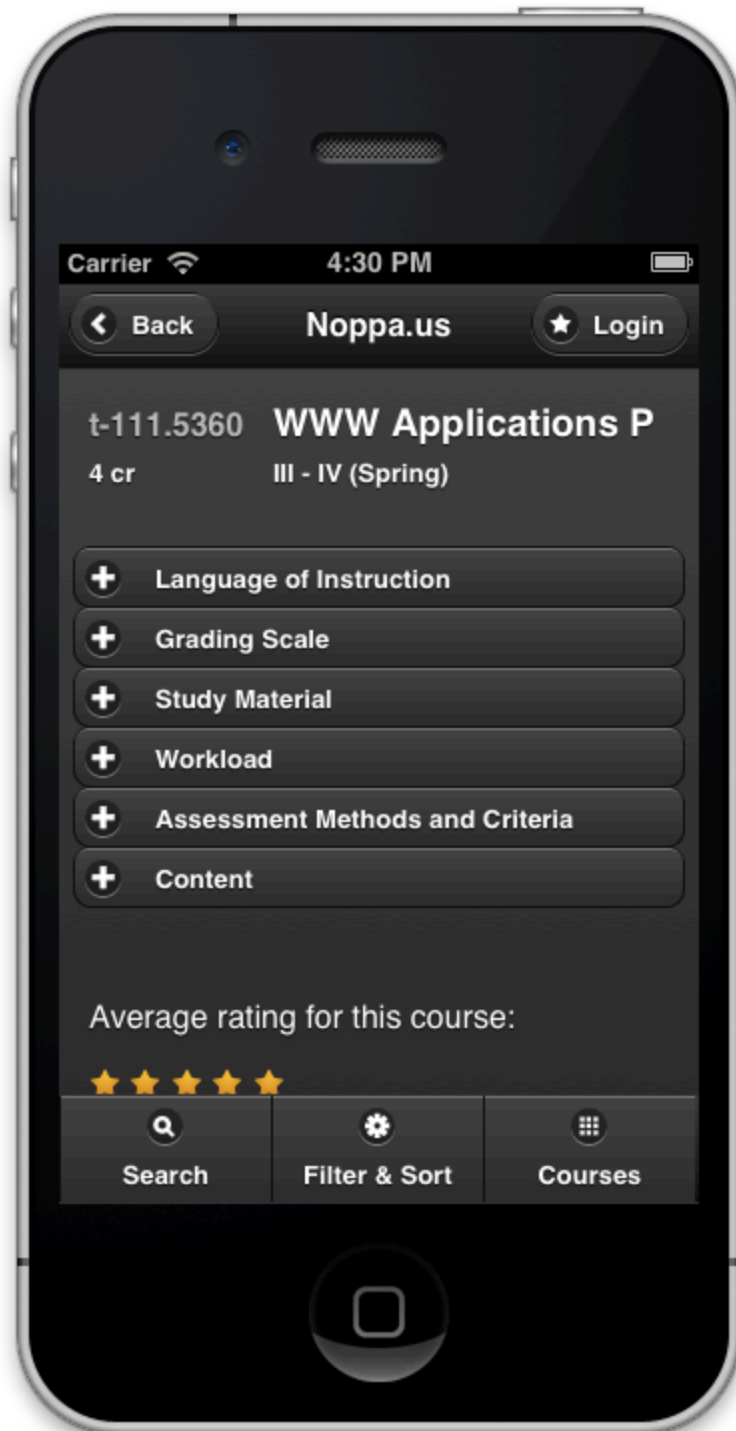
By pressing the search button user is presented with the search view which is designed to quickly search for courses with a single search string. The search works the same way as in the real Noppa service.
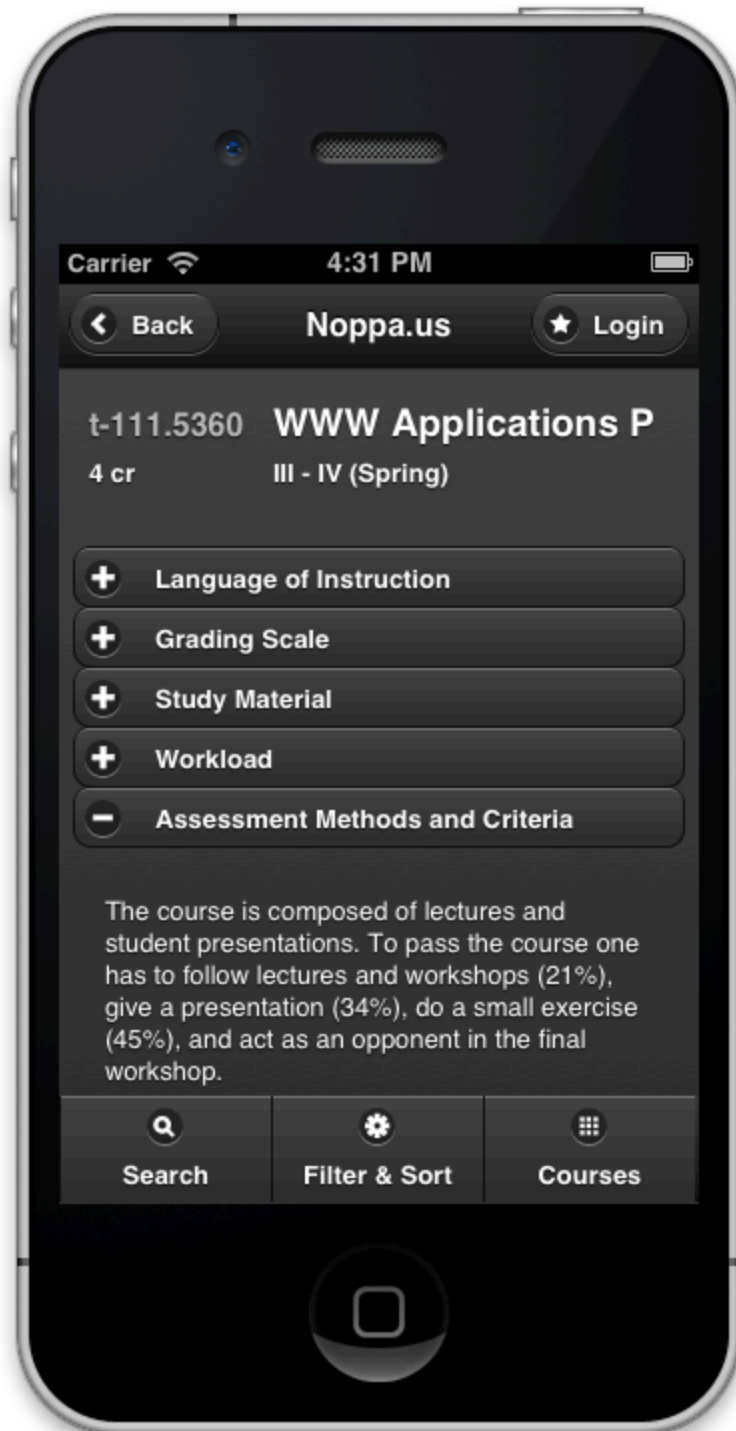
By pressing the input field user can write the desired search string, such as in this example, *www*. Only search strings with at least three characters are accepted and the search is done instantly when a new character is input.
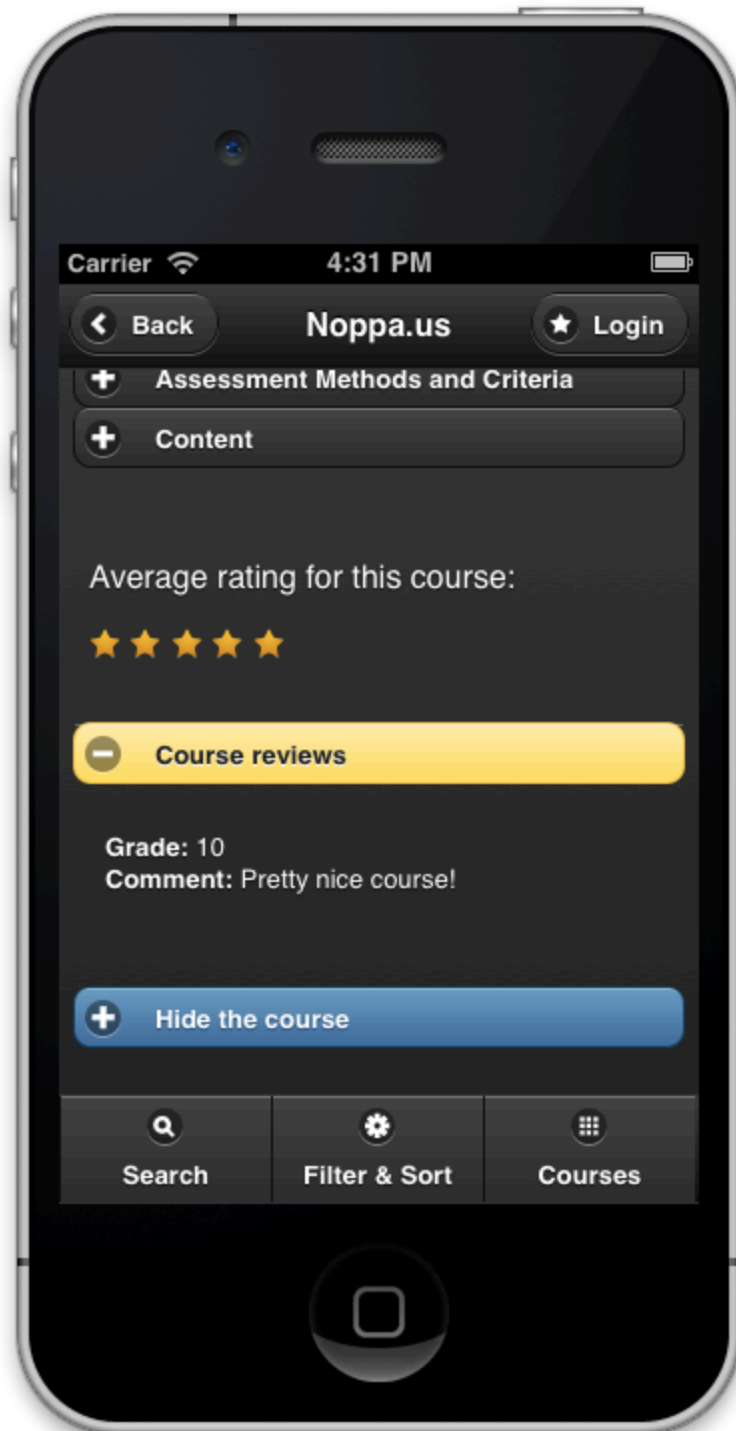
The results of the search are listed below the input field with an order defined in the filter and sort view. The default sort order is alphabetical, but other possibilities include the overall rating and (stars) and course code. The results can be accessed by touching (or clicking) them. The search field can be cleared anytime using the small cross inside the populated search field.

Carrier 4:30 PM

< Back   Noppa.us   ★ Login

t-111.5360   **WWW Applications P**
4 cr   **III - IV (Spring)**

\+   **Language of Instruction**

\+   **Grading Scale**

\+   **Study Material**

\+   **Workload**

\+   **Assessment Methods and Criteria**

\+   **Content**

Average rating for this course:
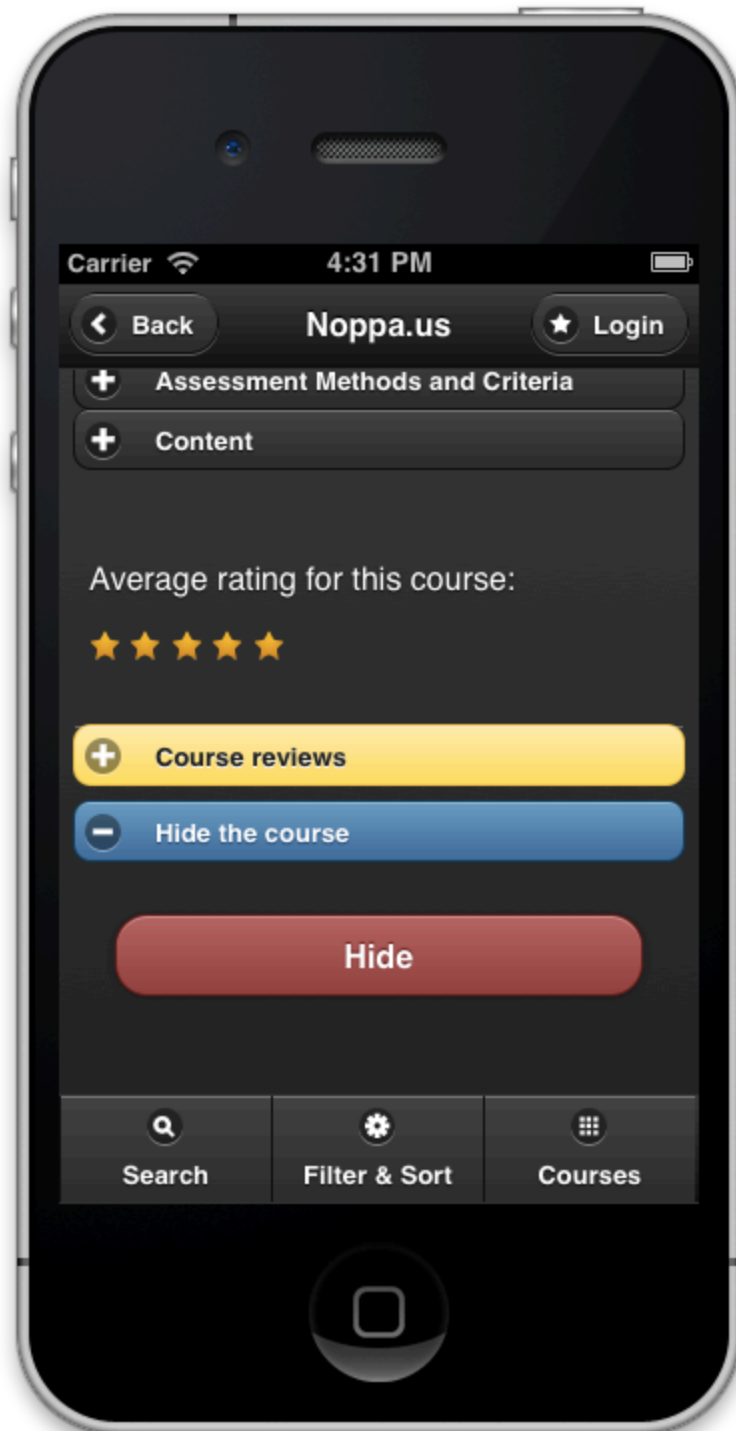
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

| Q Search | ⚙ Filter & Sort | ⊞ Courses |

When a course is selected from the results list, a course details view is presented with the course information. Different course details are accessible by expanding the detail in question. User can go back to the search (or courses) view from this view by pressing the back button in the top left corner. The scrolling position of the previous view is remembered by the user interface so that the user can easily continue viewing the list further.
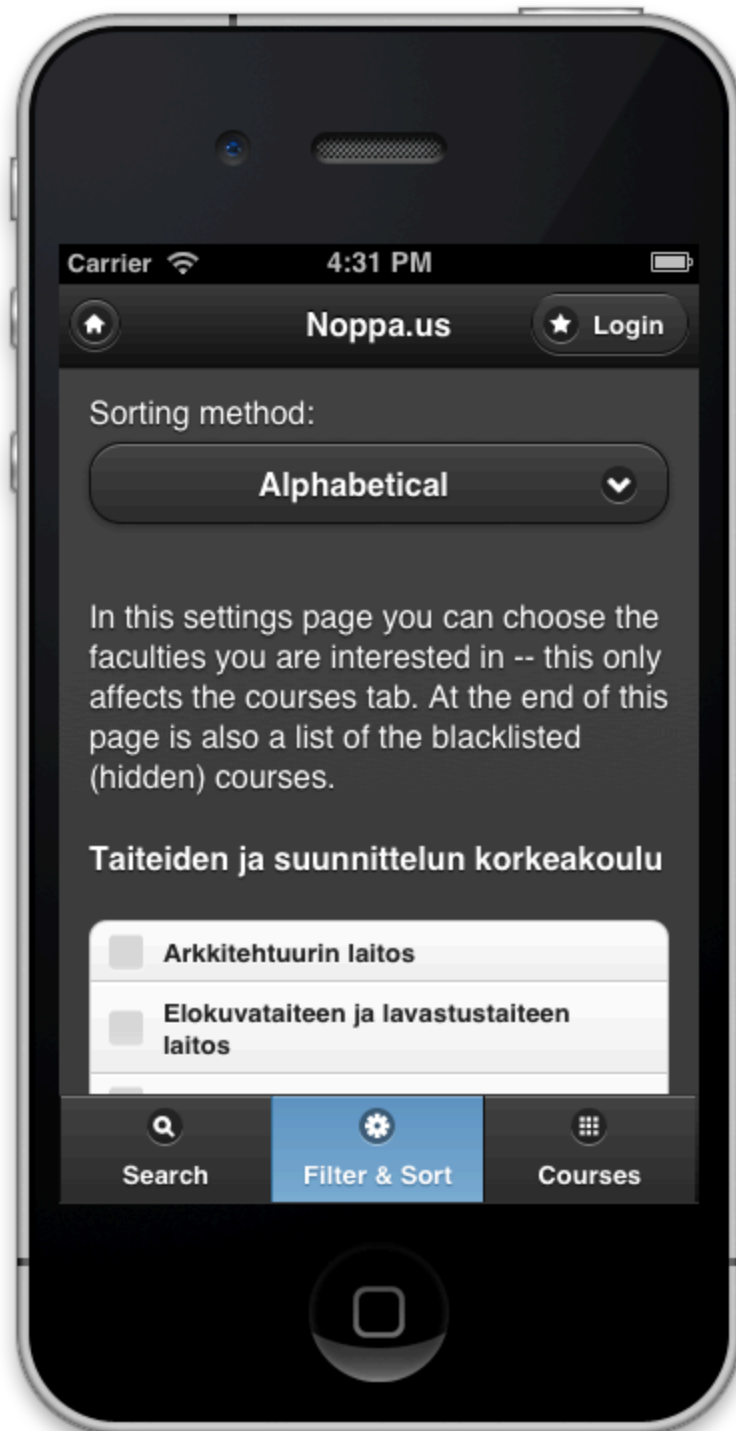
Example of expanded *Assessment Methods and Criteria* course detail. Only one detail can be open at a time, so that the previously opened detail is always closed when a new detail is selected.
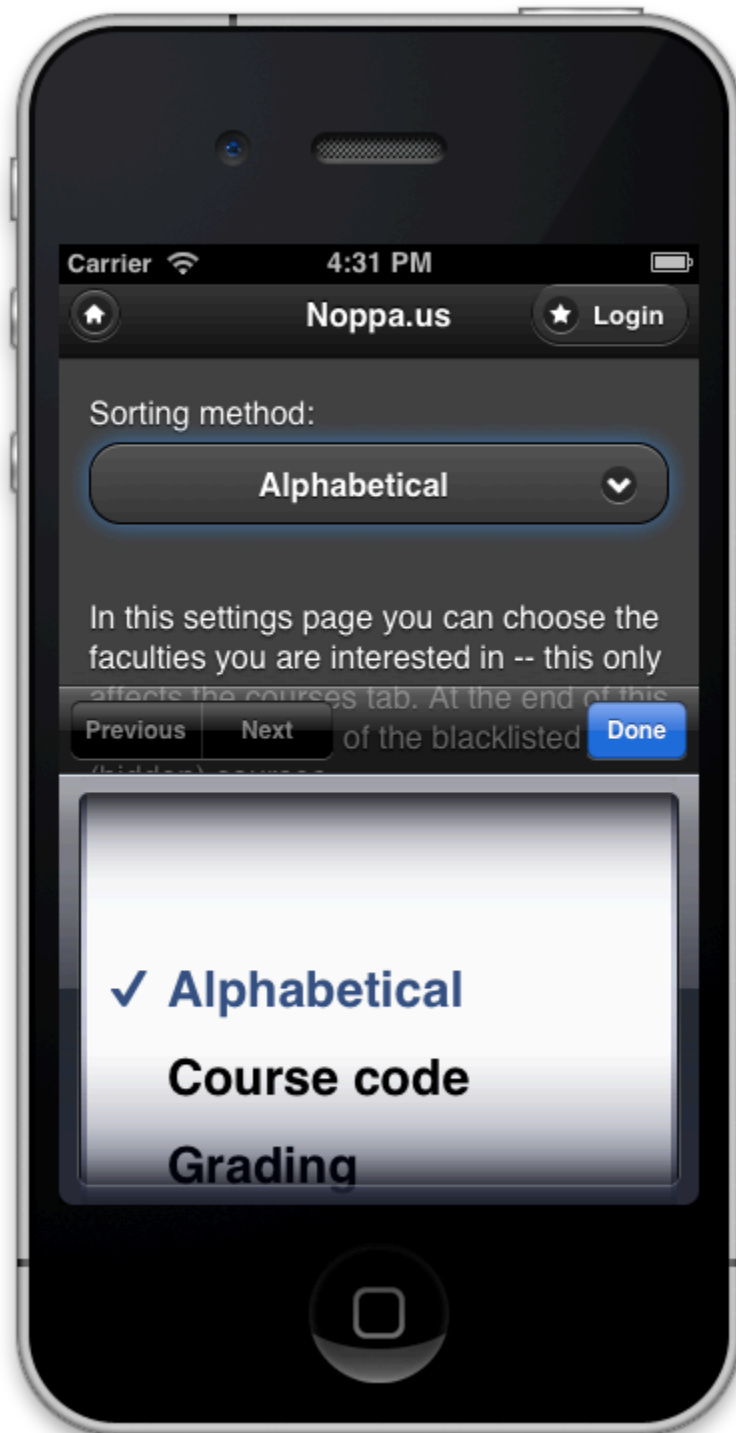
The course details view also includes the average rating visualized by stars if course reviews has been made for the course. The course reviews are also presented in the separate course reviews section. One review includes a numerical grade from 0 to 10 given to the course (translated to stars by dividing with two) and an optional comment.

The viewed course can be blacklisted (hidden) from all result listings by selecting the hide button inside the hide the course section. All blacklisted courses are stored into the local storage of the web browser so they are remembered even when the web app is closed and opened again. Users may want to hide courses if they have already taken the course or they have reviewed it.
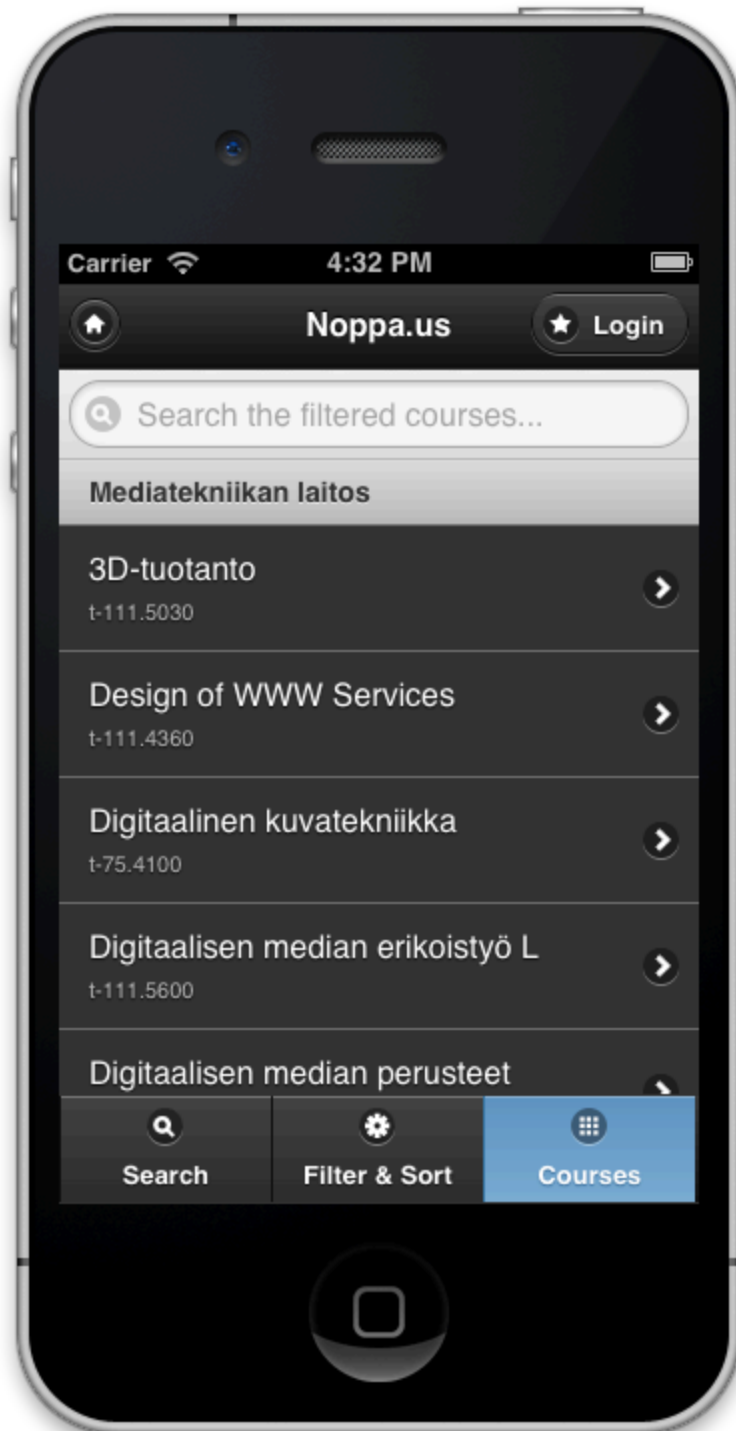
By selecting the filter and sort tab from the footer navigation user is presented with the filter and sort view which contains the sort method selection, faculty listings (filters) for the courses tab and blacklisted courses (filters). These are all settings which are stored into the local storage.
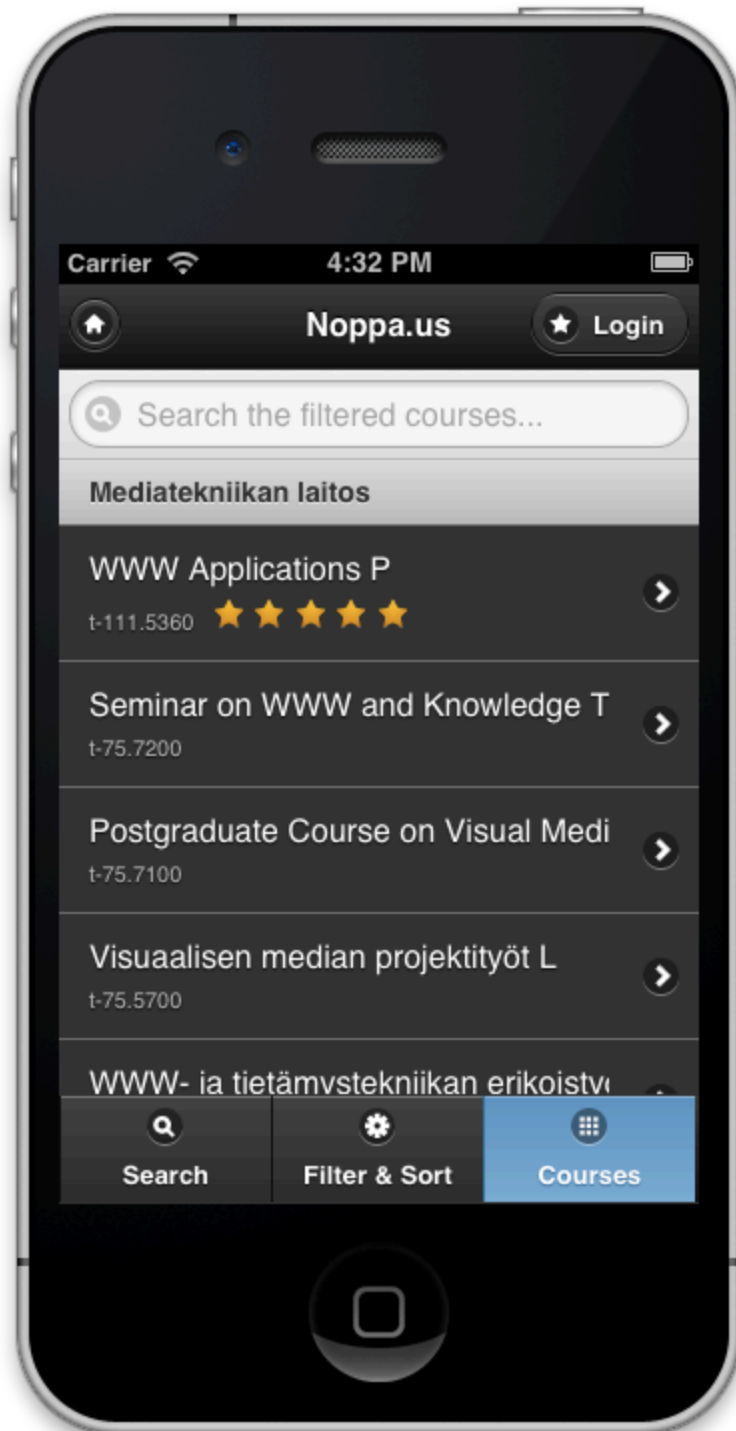
Sorting method is set as alphabetical by default, but may be changed to course code or grading. This settings affects both the search and courses tabs.
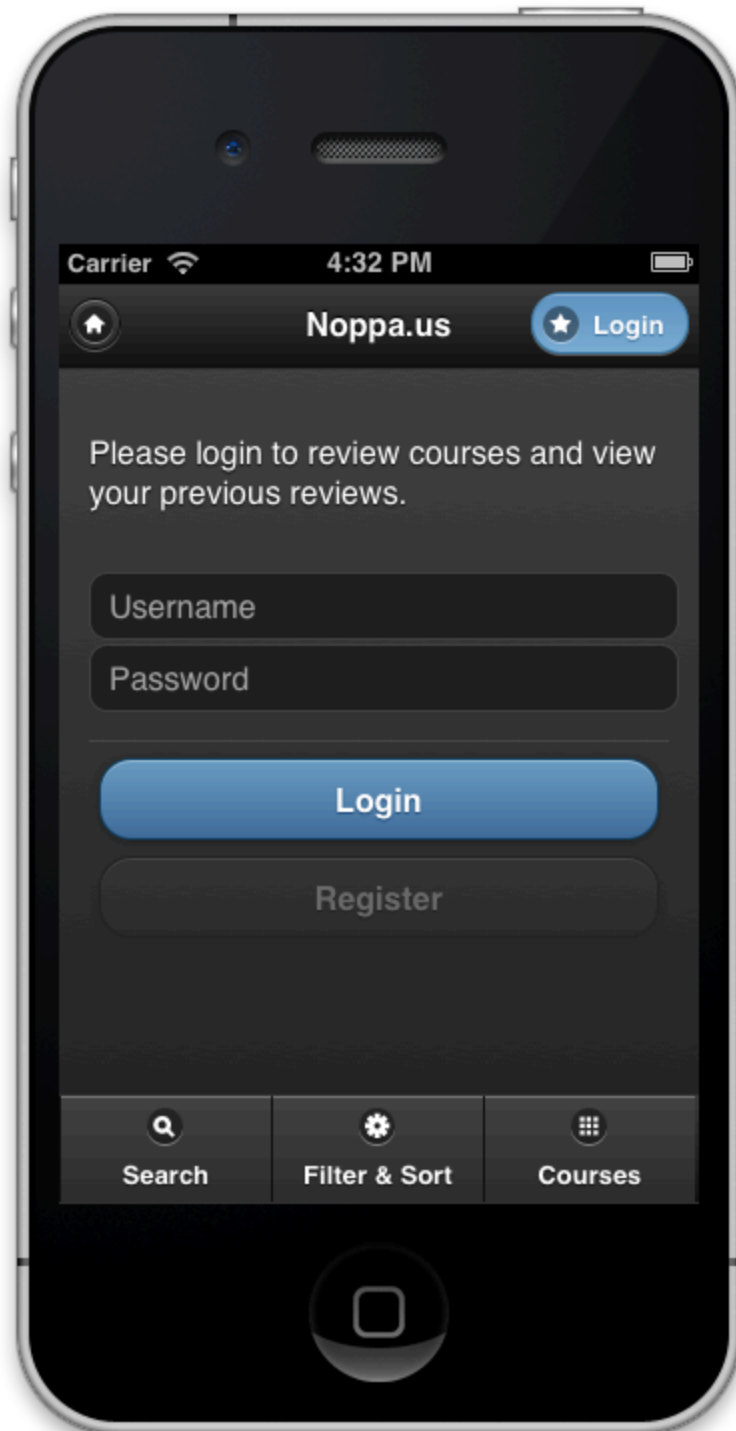
The filter and sort tab contains also all the available departments and faculties from which the user can select those which have a special interest for the user. The courses of the selected faculties are loaded into the courses tab (on the bottom right corner) from which the user can filter courses using a string search or for example see the courses with the highest grading (by selecting the sort method to grading).
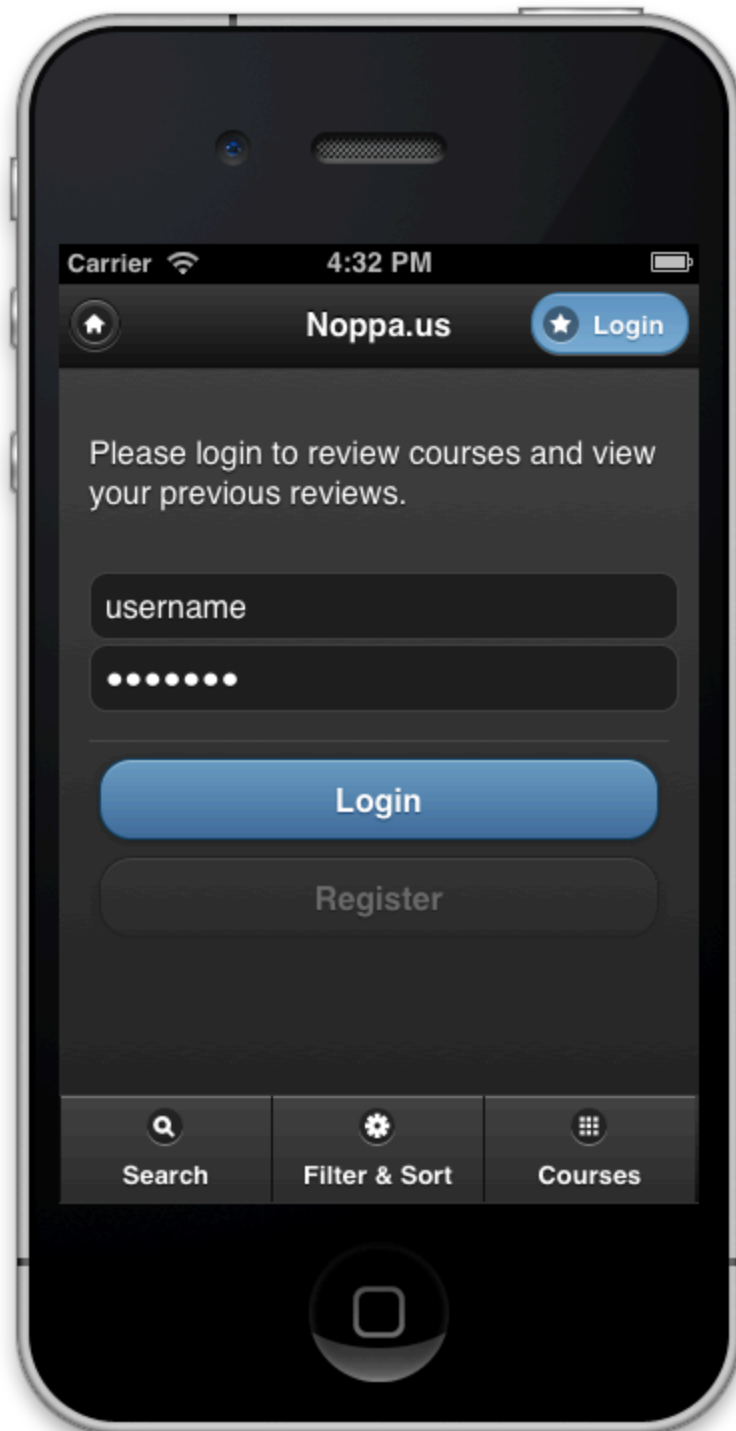
This is how the courses tab looks like when *Mediatekniikan laitos* has been selected from the faculty listing of the filter and sort view. All the courses of this faculty are listed with alphabetical order. The courses are accessed the same way as in the search view and they can be filtered by entering a search string to the input field on the top of the view.
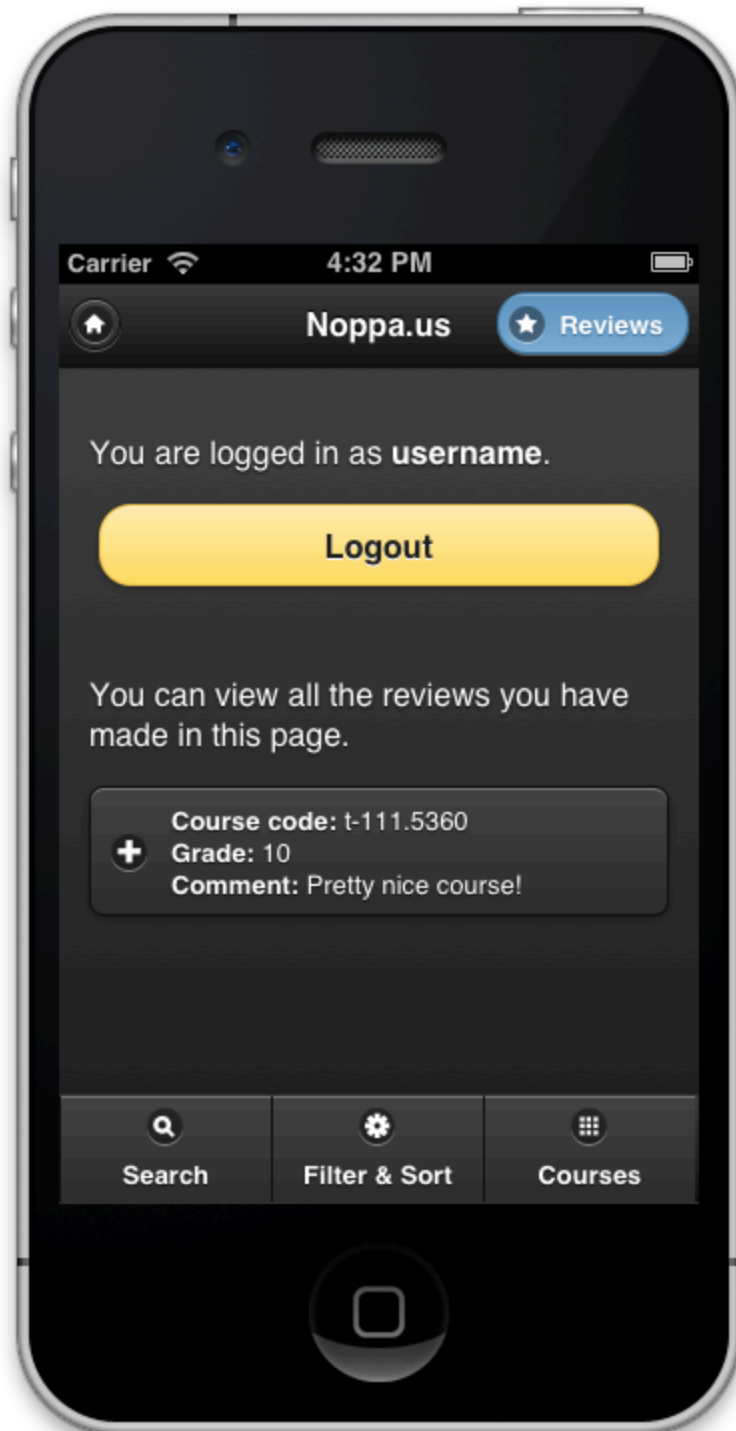
The courses can be listed in any view by their rating. This is how the courses view looks like when only one course has been rated.
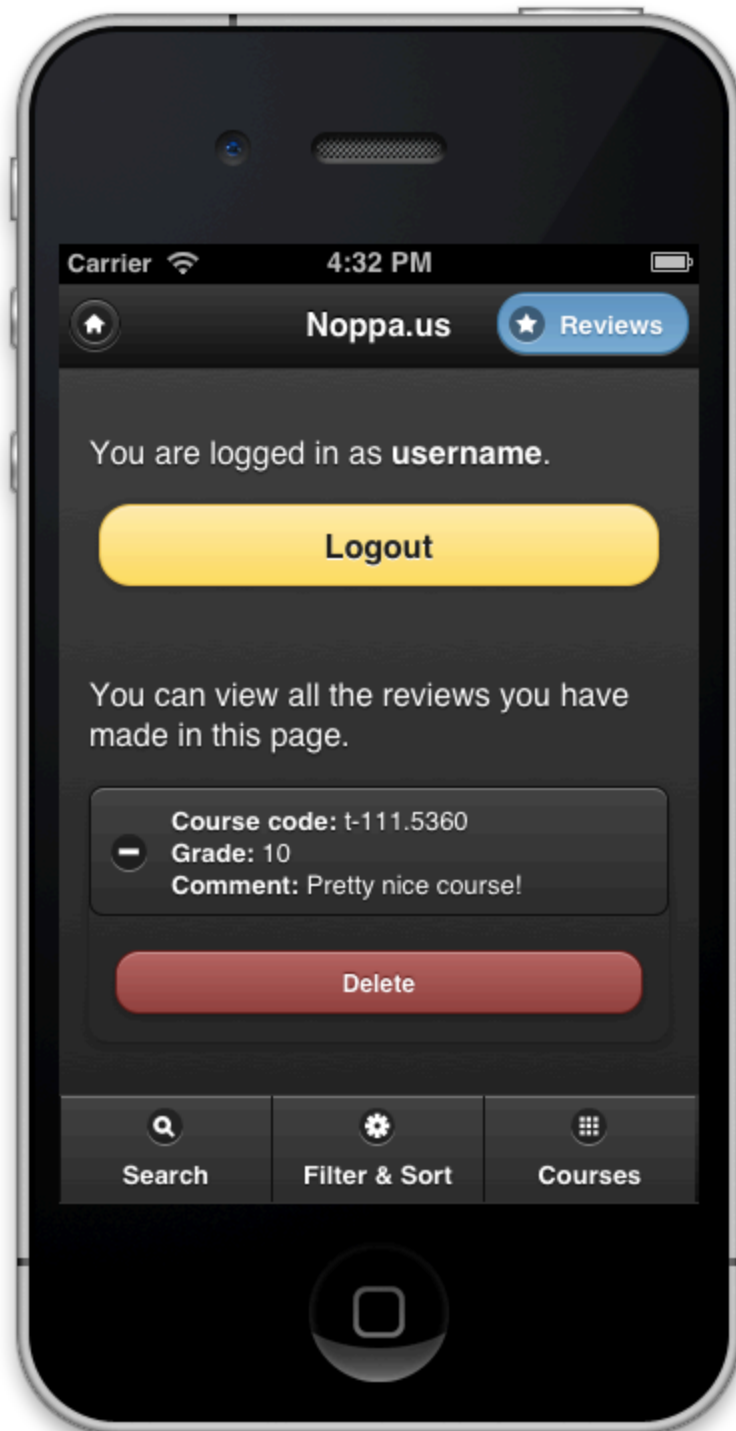
By selecting the login button from the top right corner the user is presented with the login and registration view. By registering and logging in the user can create reviews for the courses found in Noppa service. The reviews are associated with the username and can be modified or deleted afterwards by the user in question.
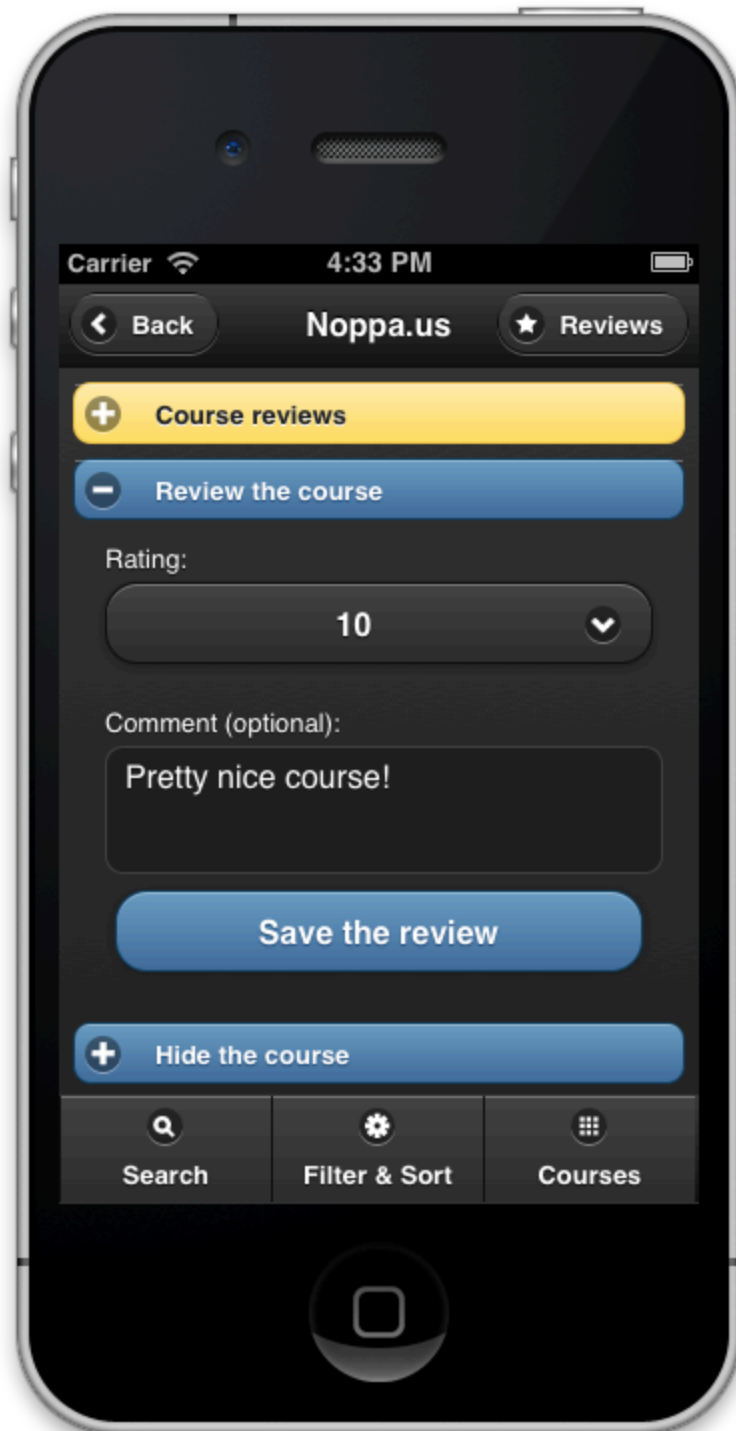
The login and registration view detects automatically whether the username has already been taken and disables the login and registration button respectively. If the username has been taken, only the login button enabled. If the username is available, only the registration button is enabled.
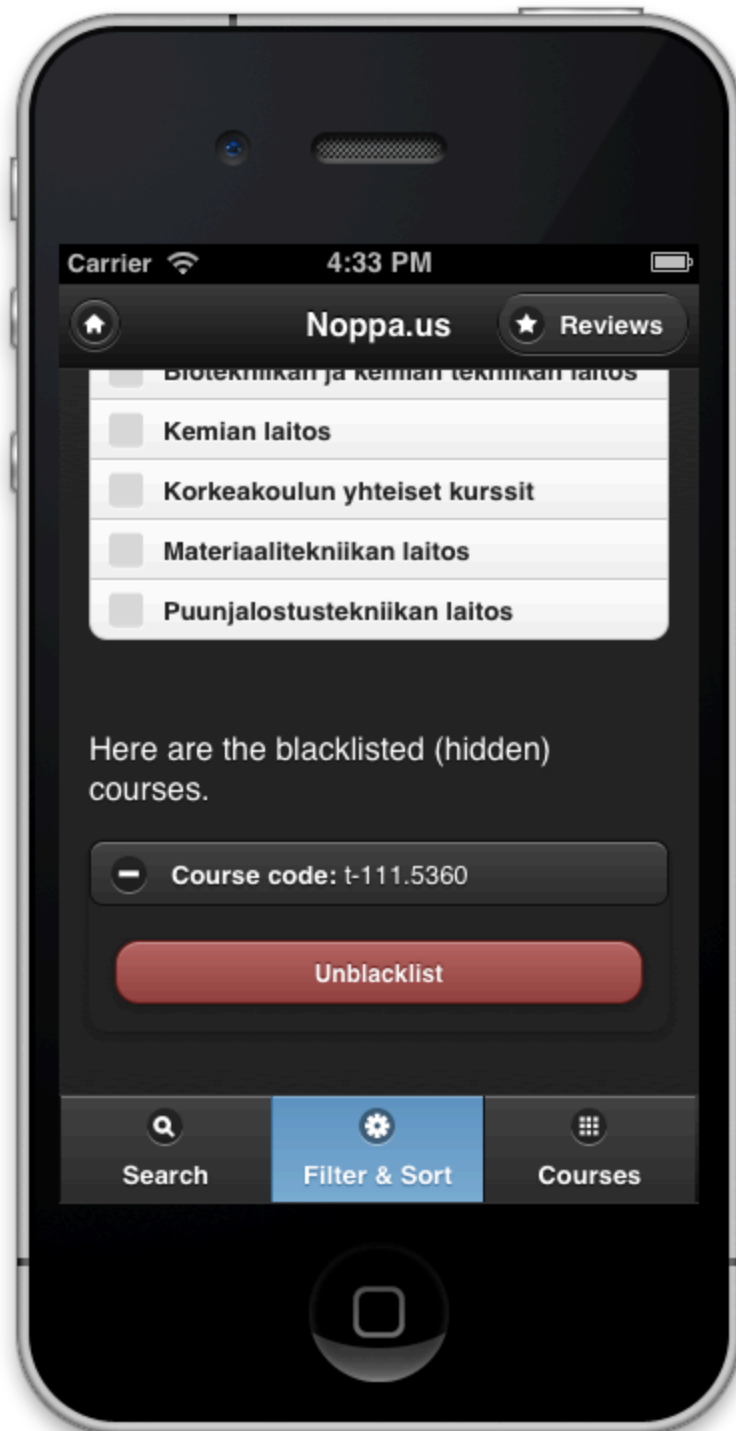
When a user is logged in the button in the top right corner changes into reviews button. This leads to a reviews view where the user is also transferred into when the initial login takes place. From the reviews view the user can logout if desired. However, the main purpose of the view is to list all the reviews user has made and enable a possibility to delete them upon request. The reviews are listed so that the most recent appear on the top.

When selecting a course from the reviews view a delete button is presented. By clicking the button the review in question is deleted from the service. The deletion cannot be undone, but the process of deletion needs the user to click two times to prevent accidental deletions. As the course names are not associated with the reviews they are not presented in this view to make service faster on larger review counts. The user has to look up the course on the search view.

When logged in a new section appears on the course details view. Users can review any course by selecting the section. The review includes a mandatory rating from 0 to 10 and an optional comment. After the review is saved, the review is fetched and pre-populated into the review form every time the same course is viewed. This makes it possible to easily edit the review and also notice whether the course has been already reviewed by the user.

One more thing. The blacklisted (hidden) courses are listed in the bottom of the filter and sort section. There they can be selected and an unblacklist button becomes visible. By pressing this button the course in question is removed from the blacklist and appears normally in all course search views, search and courses respectively.