



Economic Growth and Sustainable Development NA0167, 2009.1516

7.5 Hp

Pace of study = 50%

Education cycle = Advanced

Course leader = Rob Hart

Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2016-01-20 - 2016-02-20

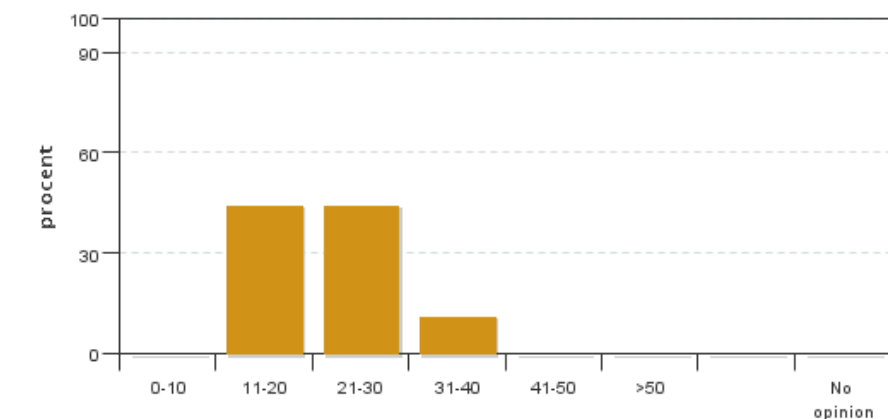
Answers 9

Number of students 15

Answer frequency 60 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. How many hours per week have you on average spent on the course, including scheduled time?

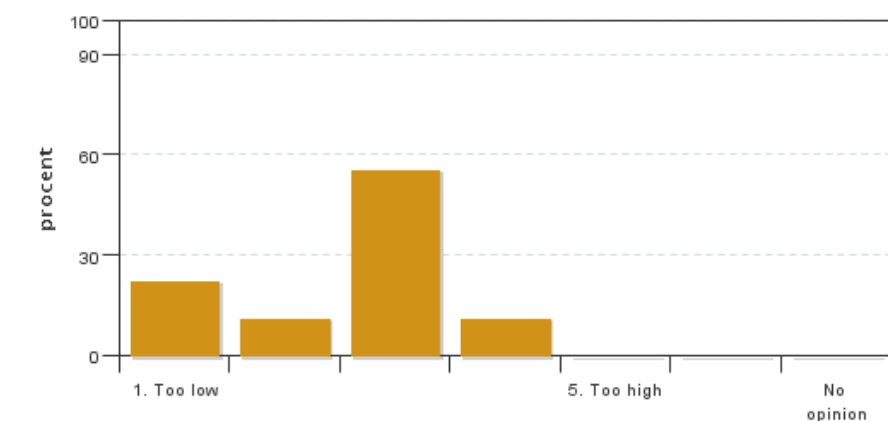


Answers: 9
Medel: 21,7
Median: 21-30

0-10: 0
11-20: 4
21-30: 4
31-40: 1
41-50: 0
>50: 0

No opinion: 0

2. How do you estimate your background knowledge before the course?

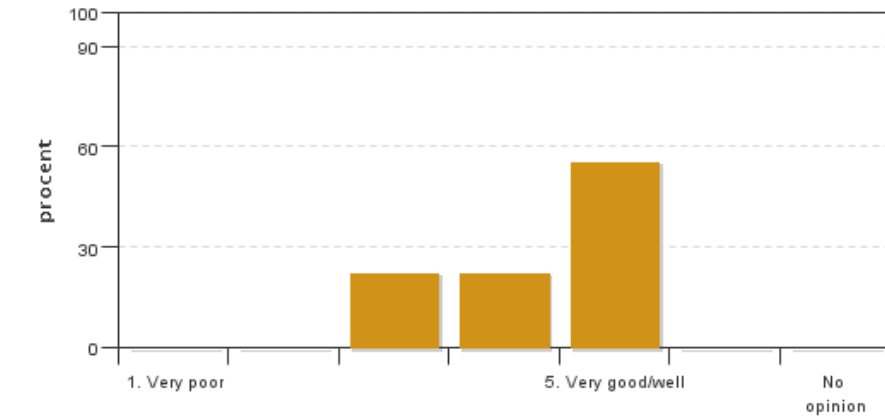


Answers: 9
Medel: 2,6
Median: 3

1: 2
2: 1
3: 5
4: 1
5: 0

No opinion: 0

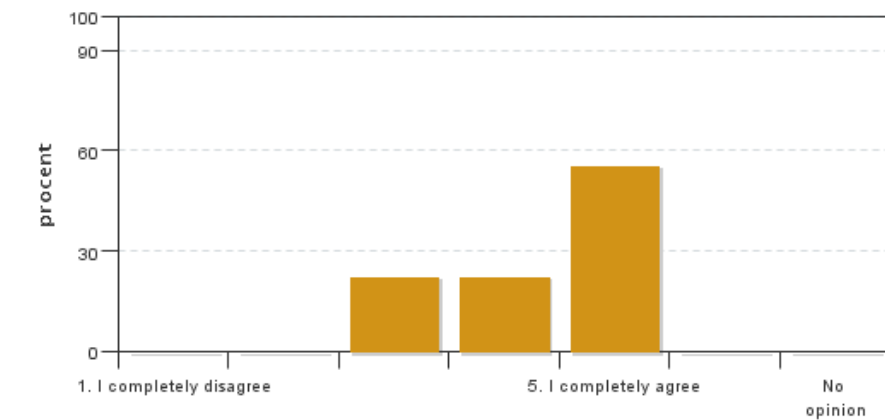
3. How has the administration of the course worked?



Answers: 9
 Medel: 4,3
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 2
 4: 2
 5: 5
 No opinion: 0

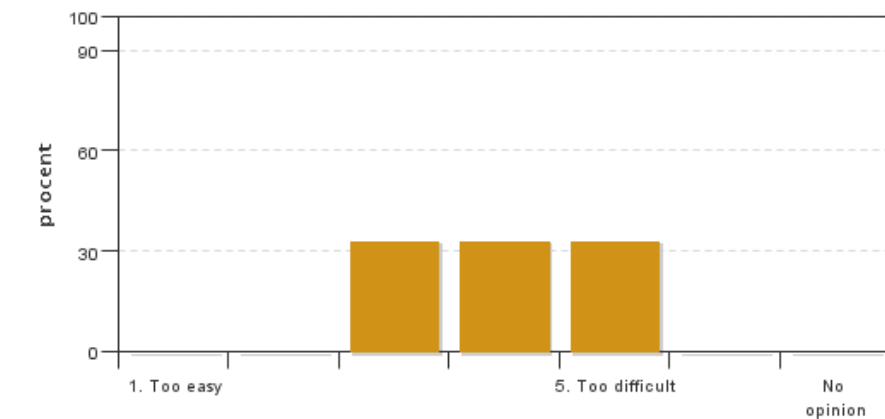
4. The overall impression of the course is very good.



Answers: 9
 Medel: 4,3
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 2
 4: 2
 5: 5
 No opinion: 0

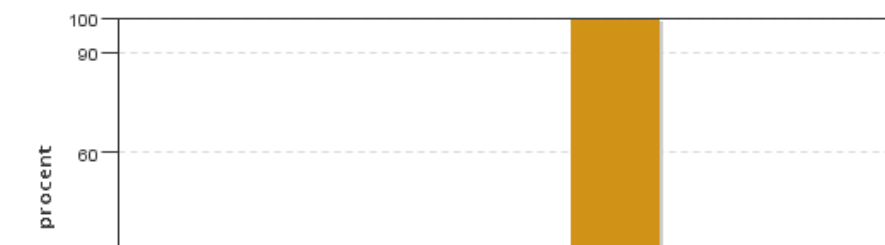
5. The level of difficulty for this course has been



Answers: 9
 Medel: 4,0
 Median: 4

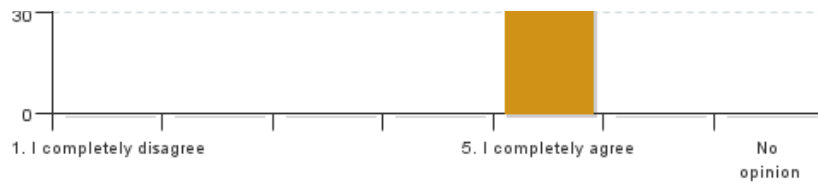
1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 3
 4: 3
 5: 3
 No opinion: 0

6. I consider that this course has taken up all of the learning outcomes described in the course syllabus. If you select (1), (2), (3), or (4) please describe which learning outcome(s) has/have not been sufficiently covered.



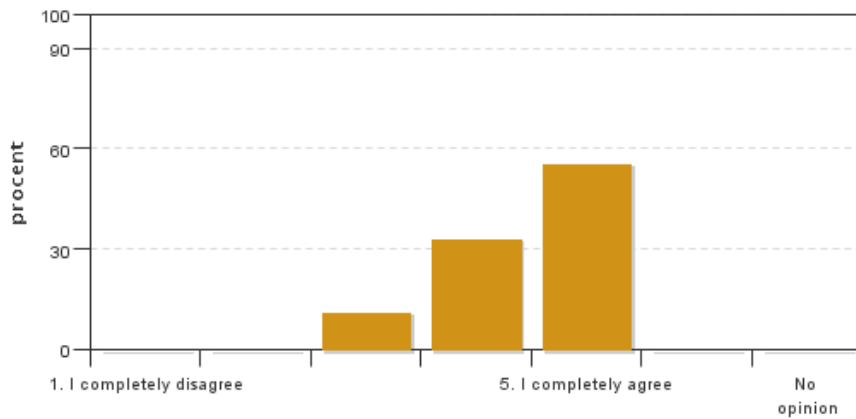
Answers: 9
 Medel: 5,0
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 0



5: 9
No opinion: 0

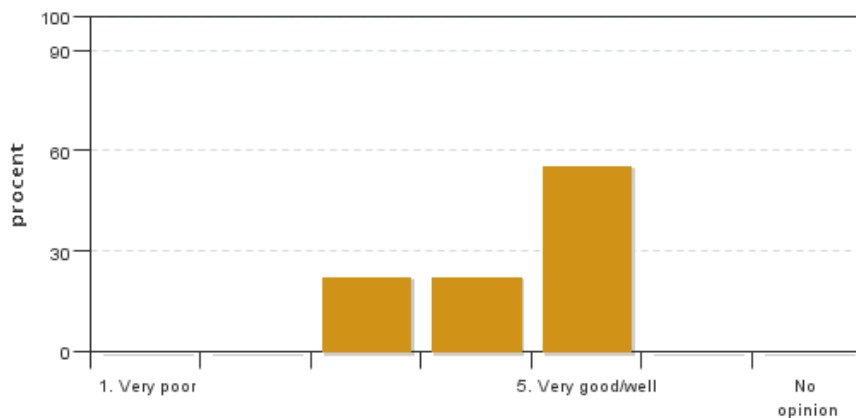
7. The grading criteria were clear and easy to understand



Answers: 9
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 3
5: 5
No opinion: 0

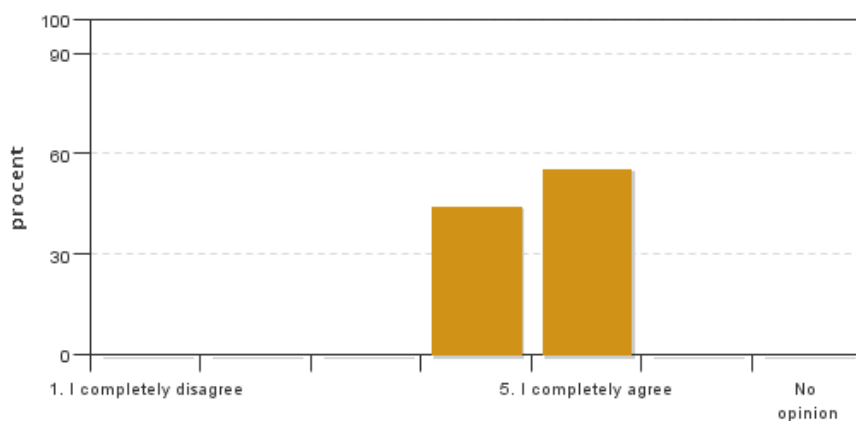
8. I believe that the discussion climate during the course has been good



Answers: 9
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 2
4: 2
5: 5
No opinion: 0

9. I believe that the necessary infrastructure, such as teaching facilities and equipment, has functioned effectively.



Answers: 9
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 4
5: 5
No opinion: 0

Course leaders comments

First of all, thanks to all those who took the course, and thanks especially to those who filled out the evaluation, and thanks also to Helena (student representative) who has made an excellent summary of the comments.

I was pleased to see that you were generally very happy with the course as a whole, and also with the constructive suggestions for improvements. Also, two students suggested that the course should be extended to 15 points. This has also been suggested by several students in the past, and would allow for many improvements to the course, including time for group discussions etc.

The course is challenging, and 3 students thought that it was clearly too difficult. This is a tricky question. I set the level of the course according to what I think is appropriate for the final course at the master's level in economics. Nevertheless, the number of students finding the course too difficult is worrying, and something I will monitor closely in future. One student said that the exercises did not correspond to the exam. I do not agree with this, however it could be that I must be clearer that the exam questions will generally be novel and not identical to questions that students have already tackled in exercises. One student suggested more exercises, eg at the end of each lecture. Implying in turn either more time (and points) or less material. Another suggestion was a basic mathematical appendix. I already have such an appendix, but it could of course be extended.

Regarding the gobbets, for next year I plan to significantly improve the information available prior to the course. I hope this will make the task a lot clearer. I will also think about reducing the number of gobbets to 2, as suggested by 3 students. (On the other hand, one student wanted more of them, and no research paper!)

Other points. Regarding communication, I will check with students next year if they would like messages through twitter or SLU's system. The latter is more work for me, but not unreasonable at all. On the scheduling, I do my best to avoid clashes with other courses as much as possible. Regarding knowledge about sustainability, I have nothing to add to Helena's comments.

Student representatives comments

1. Kommentera alla de fritextkommentarer som känns relevanta i utvärderingsrapporten -- både bra och dåliga.

-The general impression of the course is very good (mean 4.3/5)

-The workload during this year's course was more suitable for the scope of the course than last year. Still there are some comments on the workload to be more than 50% of full time. A general comment is that the course could preferably give more ETC than 7.5, preferably 15.

-Some students (22%) experienced that their pre-knowledge was too low.

-Regarding administration the course web page is positively received however it is experienced as confusing that different courses at SLU uses different means of communication with the students. Twitter is generally not used by students.

-The level of difficulty is rated high (33% rates it too difficult) but good teaching is mentioned as a means for overcome difficult tasks.

-The grading criteria is appreciated for its ability to create incentives for continuous work during the course.

-Generally good impression on the gobbets. Some doubts regarding the content of the gobbets, not completely clear what was expected on beforehand. Suggestions on example gobbets written in previous years, as well as group discussion around gobbets topics are put forward as possible improvements. Enough with two gobbets, or 3 gobbets and no research paper.

- Seminar style group discussion is suggested, around gobbets topics or others. Examples on previous gobbets and research papers and the answers or key to the handouts are requested to be made available, since it is sometimes hard to follow the calculations in class. More exercises could be made on the topics treated during lectures. An appendix of pre-calculations is wanted to make sure everyone are on the right level before the course.

-Make sure that the schedule doesn't overlap with other common courses.

-The exam should match the exercises

2. SLU har ett övergripande mål att "Öka kunskapen om hållbar utveckling och hållbart nyttjande av naturresurser hos våra studenter". Kommentera nedan hur du anser att kursen har bidragit till kursdeltagarnas kunskaper om hållbar utveckling och hållbart nyttjande av naturresurser.

The course does definitely contribute to increased knowledge on sustainable development since it gives practical knowledge in the economic models of growth which has steered macroeconomic theory for a long time and contrast it

with empirical data and show where models have failed to be a realistic image of economic developments. This way students, with the help of logical arguments, reasoning and maths are armed with tools to continuously question the status quo and work towards develop models for the future which are more sustainable.

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