



Applied Population Ecology BI1301, 20054.1819

15 Hp

Pace of study = 100%

Education cycle = Advanced -

Course leader = John P. Ball

Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2019-01-13 - 2019-02-03

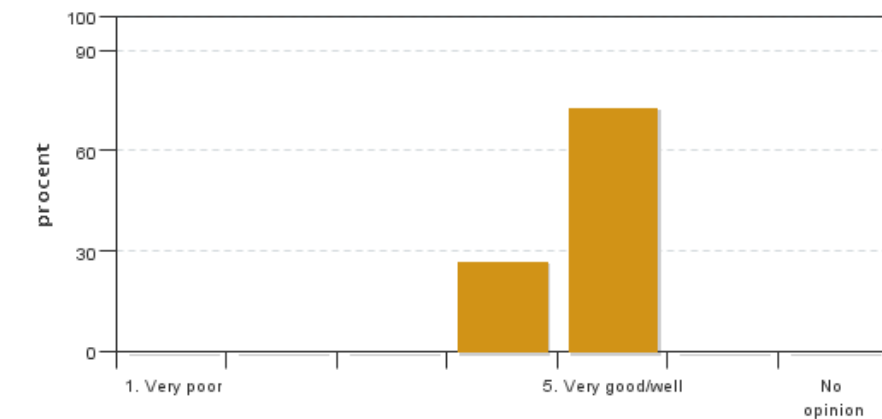
Answers 11

Number of students 16

Answer frequency 68 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

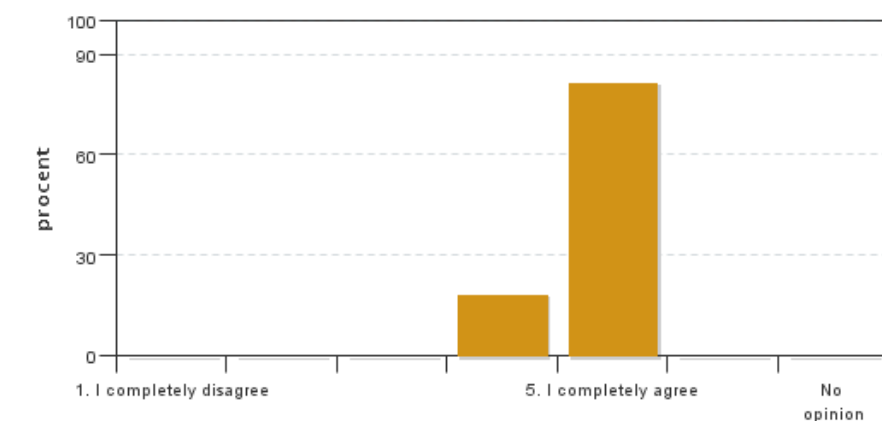


Answers: 11
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 3
5: 8

No opinion: 0

2. I found the course content to have clear links to the learning objectives of the course.

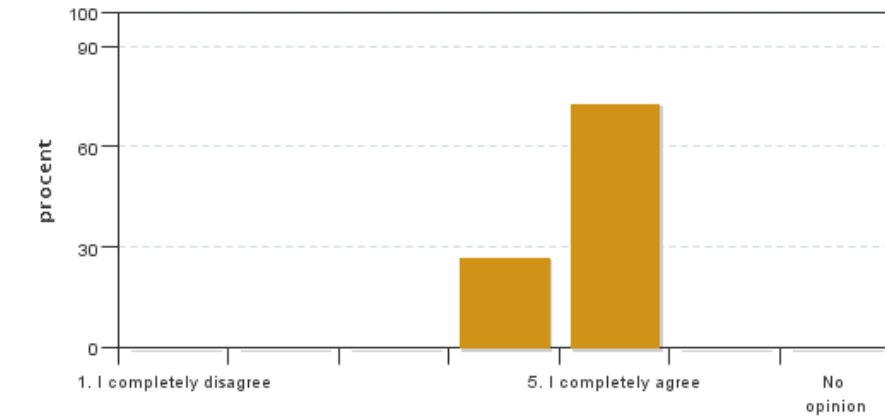


Answers: 11
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 2
5: 9

No opinion: 0

3. My prior knowledge was sufficient for me to benefit from the course.

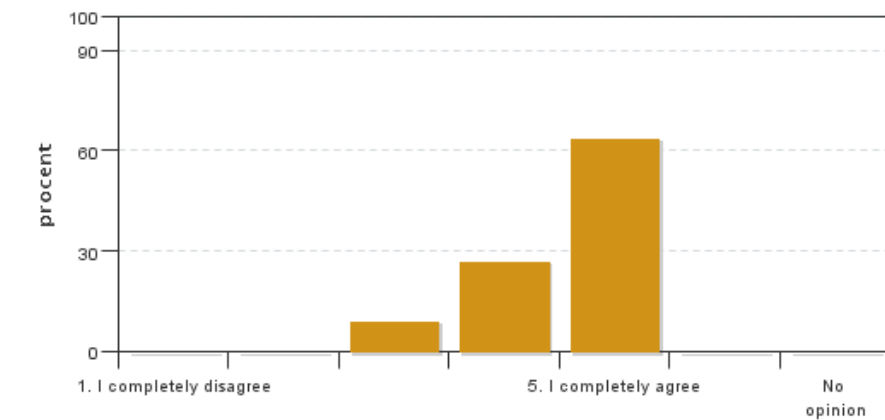


Answers: 11
 Medel: 4,7
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 3
 5: 8

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

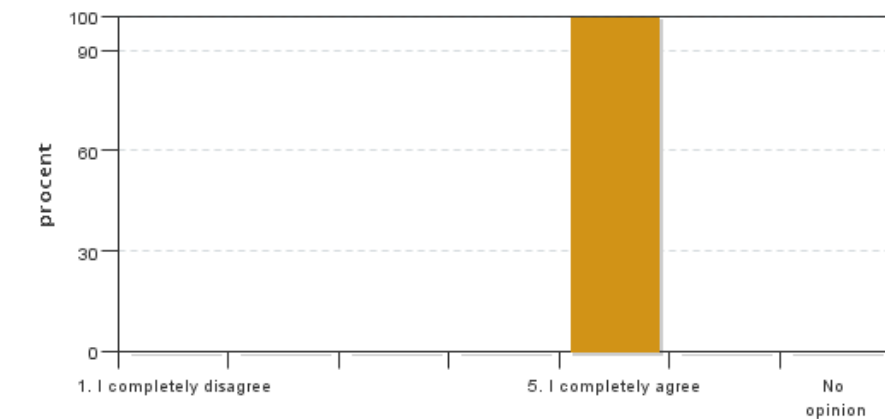


Answers: 11
 Medel: 4,5
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 1
 4: 3
 5: 7

No opinion: 0

5. The various course components (lectures, course literature, exercises etc.) have supported my learning.

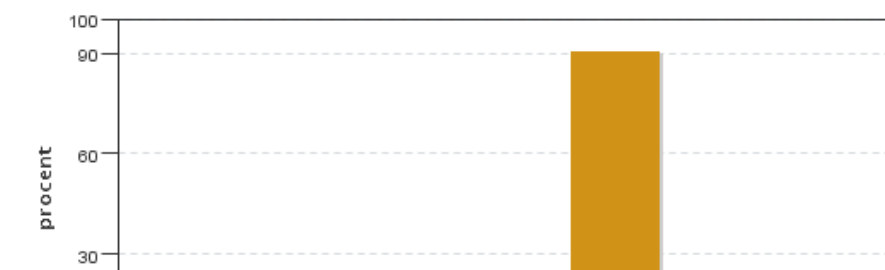


Answers: 11
 Medel: 5,0
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 0
 5: 11

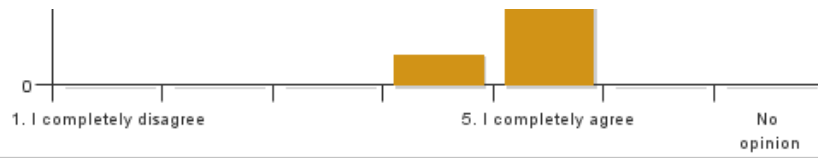
No opinion: 0

6. The social learning environment has been inclusive, respecting differences of opinion.



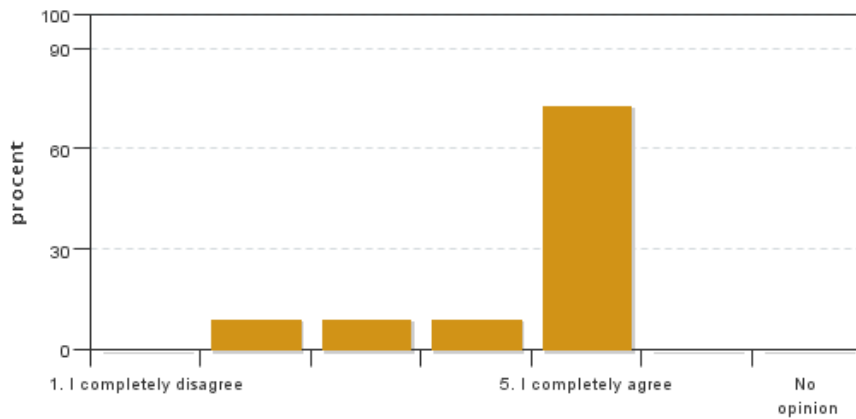
Answers: 11
 Medel: 4,9
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 1
 5: 10



No opinion: 0

7. The physical learning environment (facilities, equipment etc.) has been satisfactory.



Answers: 11

Medel: 4,5

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 1

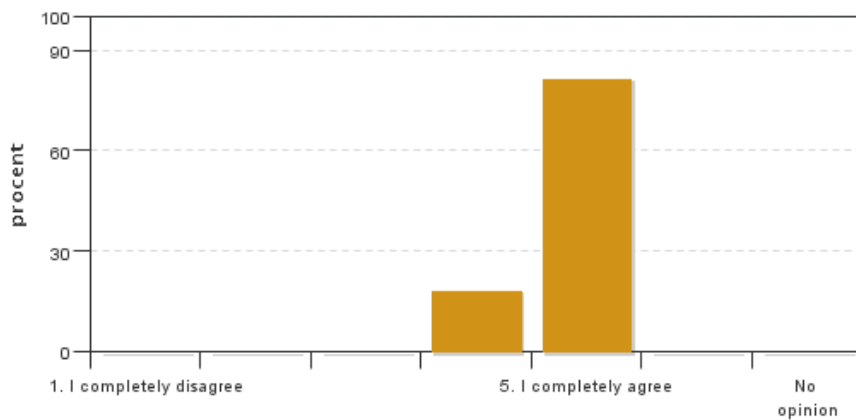
3: 1

4: 1

5: 8

No opinion: 0

8. The examination(s) provided opportunity to demonstrate what I had learnt during the course (see the learning objectives).



Answers: 11

Medel: 4,8

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

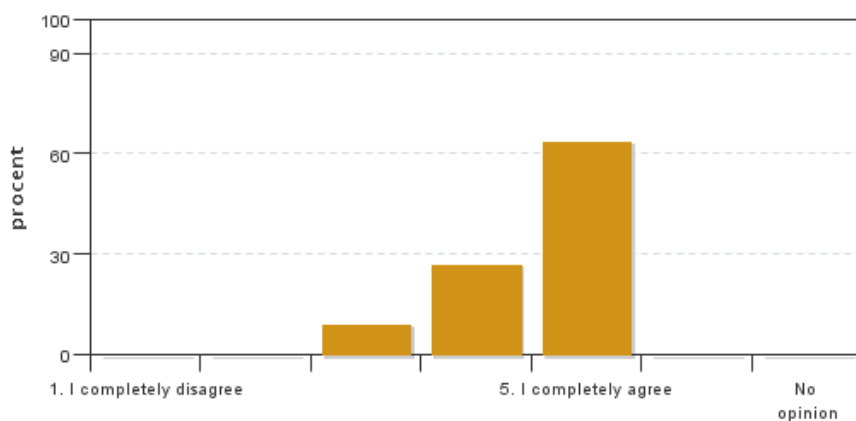
3: 0

4: 2

5: 9

No opinion: 0

9. The course covered the sustainable development aspect (environmental, social and/or financial sustainability).



Answers: 11

Medel: 4,5

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

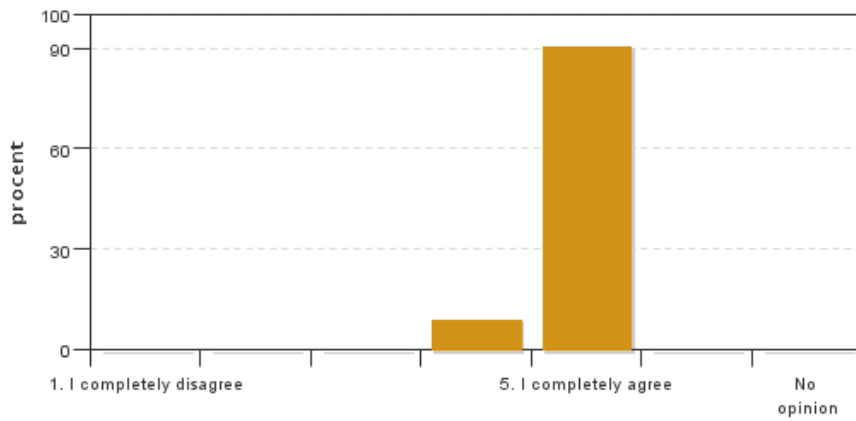
3: 1

4: 3

5: 7

No opinion: 0

10. I believe the course has included a gender and equality aspect, regarding content as well as teaching practices (e.g. perspective on the subject, reading list, allocation of speaking time and the use of master suppression techniques).

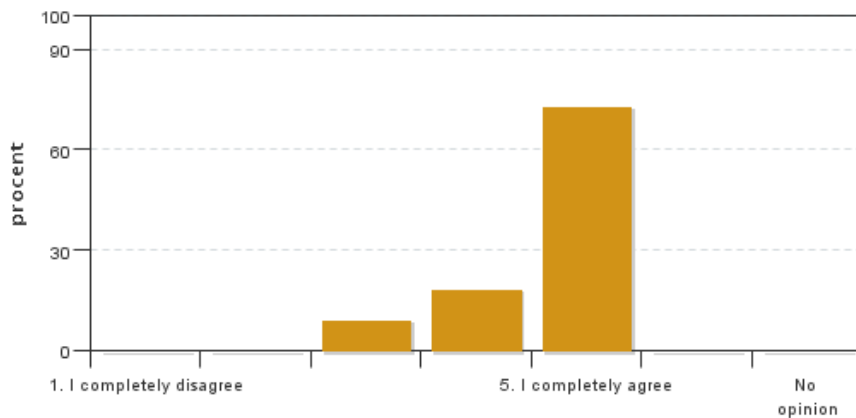


Answers: 11
 Medel: 4,9
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 1
 5: 10

No opinion: 0

11. The course covered international perspectives.

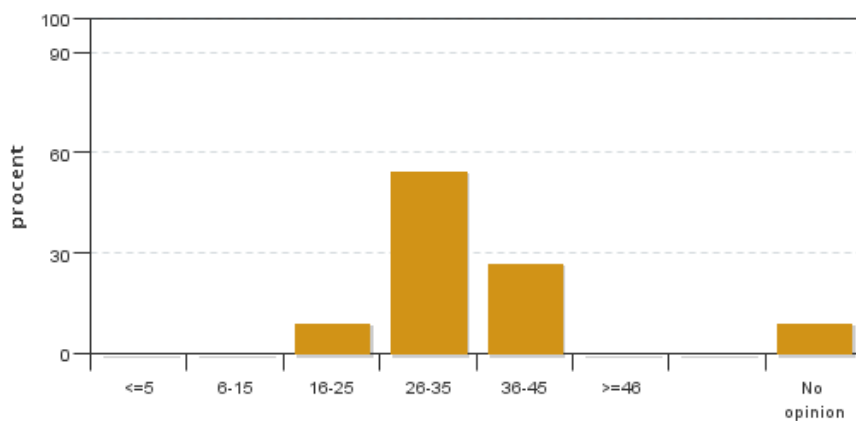


Answers: 11
 Medel: 4,6
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 1
 4: 2
 5: 8

No opinion: 0

12. On average, I have spent ... hours/week on the course (including timetabled hours).



Answers: 11
 Medel: 32,0
 Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
 6-15: 0
 16-25: 1
 26-35: 6
 36-45: 3
 ≥46: 0

No opinion: 1

Course leaders comments

1) "My overall impression of the course is": I was extremely happy to see that the median score was 5 out of 5 and that the average score on this question was 4.7 out of 5.

2) "I found the course content to have clear links to the learning objectives of the course": I was delighted to see that the median score was 5, and the average score was 4.8 out of 5.

3) "My prior knowledge was sufficient for me to benefit from the course": I was very pleased to see that I had been able to design the course so that all students felt that they had enough of a background to benefit from the course. The median score was 5, and the average score on this question was a very high 4.7 out of 5.

4) "The information about the course was easily accessible": I was delighted to see that on this question the median score was 5, with the average score 4.5 out of 5. There were some suggestions on how to structure the information in Fronter to make it easier to find things, but from what I've seen so far, SLU's new system called Canvas will make this much easier.

5) "The various course components (lectures, course literature, exercises etc.) have supported my learning": I have worked very diligently to make everything in the course fit together and to support learning by the students. I was of course delighted to see that the median score was an unbeatable 5, and that the average was also 5 out of 5. I don't think I will change a thing regarding this aspect because I can't improve on that!

6) "The social learning environment has been inclusive, respecting differences of opinion": Given that some other courses in the faculty have been noted to fall short in this important aspect, I was obviously very pleased once again to see that this course achieved a median score of 5, and an (almost) unbeatable 4.9 out of 5 on this.

7) "The physical learning environment (facilities, equipment etc.) has been satisfactory": Again, very good scores on this question: the median score was 5, and the average score was 4.5.

8) "The examination(s) provided opportunity to demonstrate what I had learnt during the course (see the learning objectives)": In other courses, it is not unusual for students to feel that they KNEW more, but that the examination didn't allow them to SHOW it. Thus, I was VERY pleased to see that the median score on this question was a 5 and that the average was an excellent average of 4.8 out of 5. I work hard on this aspect to ensure transparency because I really do want the students to feel that the grade they got was fair.

9) "The course covered the sustainable development aspect (environmental, social and/or financial Sustainability)": Nearly every facet of population ecology in this course was about sustainability. How do we harvest populations sustainably? How do we conserve all populations (even small ones) for a sustainable future? I was very pleased to see that the students had very clearly recognized this focus in the course, awarding it a median score of 5 with an average score of 4.5.

10) "The course covered international perspectives": The course includes examples (and students!) from all over the world, so I was very happy to see that the students scored this aspect a very positive median score of 5, with an excellent average of 4.6.

11) "On average, I have spent ... hours/week on the course (including timetabled hours)": The average number of hours was 32 per week, which is a little on the low side, considering the students' comments about their workload throughout the course. I will consider adding a few more moments or tasks in the course, I know it is very difficult for students to be accurate on this question over the entire course so I will be careful.

12) "I believe the course has included a gender and equality aspect, regarding content as well as teaching practices (e.g. perspective on the subject, reading list, allocation of speaking time and the use of master suppression techniques)." I have been very careful about this aspect in the course, so I was delighted to see that the students noticed this and scored this aspect VERY highly: the median score was 5, with the average score being 4.9 out of 5.

Overall, I was very pleased to see more than 68% of the students answering the online course evaluation. More importantly, I am extremely pleased with the truly excellent scores given the course by the students. Scores this won't be easy to improve on, but I will try! In addition to this online course evaluation, I chat with the students at the end of the course, and in this oral feedback I did get some suggestions for improvement and I will do my best to keep improving!

John P. Ball, PhD
Course Convener and Examiner

Student representatives comments

Class representative notes

Overall, it was a very well-received course from all the students in the class. We all found the topics and lectures interesting and stimulating, with just enough repetition for every individual to be able to keep up, despite various

backgrounds. If someone struggled, John was always available to help. All other lecturers were also incredibly friendly and approachable for any enquiries or clarifications.

Some students thought it might have been easier to stay attentive throughout the duration of the lectures if the ventilation was better in the room. If the ventilation is as good as it can be already, perhaps a larger room for the number of students could be something to consider.

In line with some comments in the course evaluation (e.g. *"Would have liked a little more time on the exam, I left some questions completely blank because I did not have the time"*), many students I spoke to after the exam felt like it was too long for the amount of time. In contrast, a few students left with 1 hour to spare and still got very good scores. My conclusion from this is that the exam was not unreasonably long, and different individuals approach the writing of the exam in different ways. If the length of the exam is similar next year, I would suggest clarifying to the students the importance of limiting the time spent on each question and urge them to be concise in their answers. This is not because I think it is necessary (in an advanced course we are expected to understand these things ourselves) but simply to avoid these types of comments in the future.

Regarding the time spent on the course, I'd like to address John's comment:

"The average number of hours was 32 per week, which is a little on the low side, considering the students' comments about their workload throughout the course. I will consider adding a few more moments or tasks in the course, I know it is very difficult for students to be accurate on this question over the entire course so I will be careful"

The average weekly hours is brought down by 1 student, but I would like to point out a comment from Question 1, which states *"So although I have studied many of these topics in my undergraduate degree (which led to me needing to spend less hours a week on this course than what might have been expected) I felt like I got a lot out of this course"*. Thus, this one student might simply have a more extensive background on the topic and increasing the workload might have an adverse impact on other students' performance. The students I have spoken to have felt like it was a good amount of work; some weeks were calmer, and some were more intense, as it should be. We all very much appreciated that the deadlines were clearly stated in the schedule from the beginning, aiding us in managing our time.

In conclusion, this course has been fun, interesting, and stimulating. We all enjoyed it massively, and the notes mentioned above were only details and did not reduce anyone's impression of the course. As can be inferred from the high scores on the course evaluation, very little should be changed for next year.

Nora Höög

Class representative