



Applied Population Ecology BI1301, 20032.1920

15 Hp

Pace of study = 100%

Education cycle = Advanced -

Course leader = John P. Ball

Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2020-01-12 - 2020-02-02

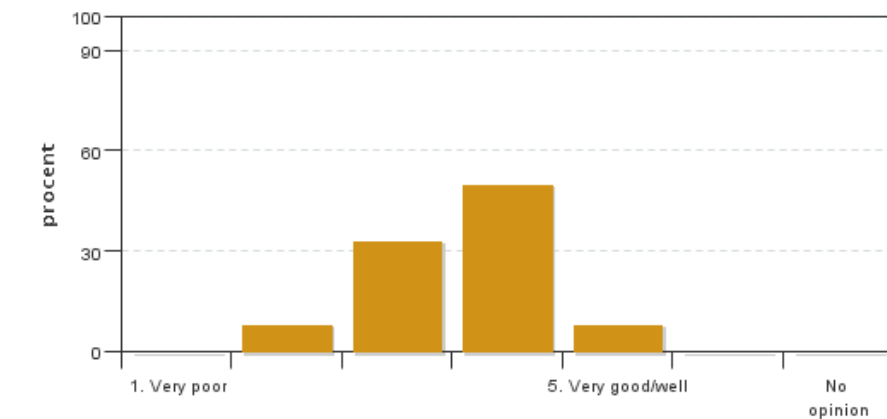
Answers 12

Number of students 23

Answer frequency 52 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

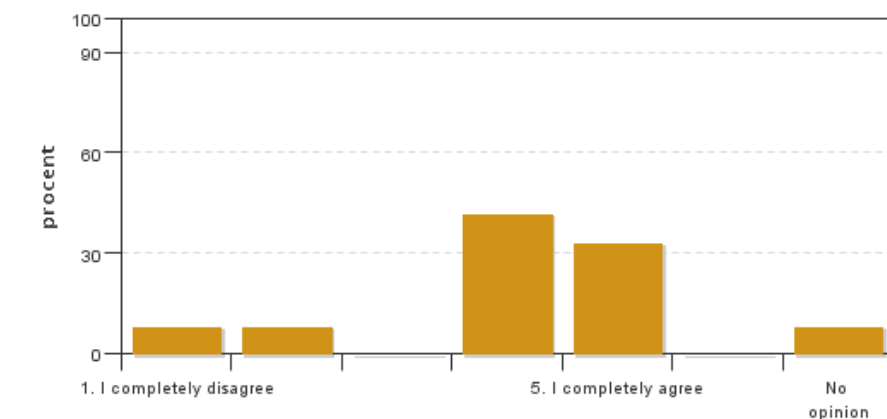


Answers: 12
Medel: 3,6
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 1
3: 4
4: 6
5: 1

No opinion: 0

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

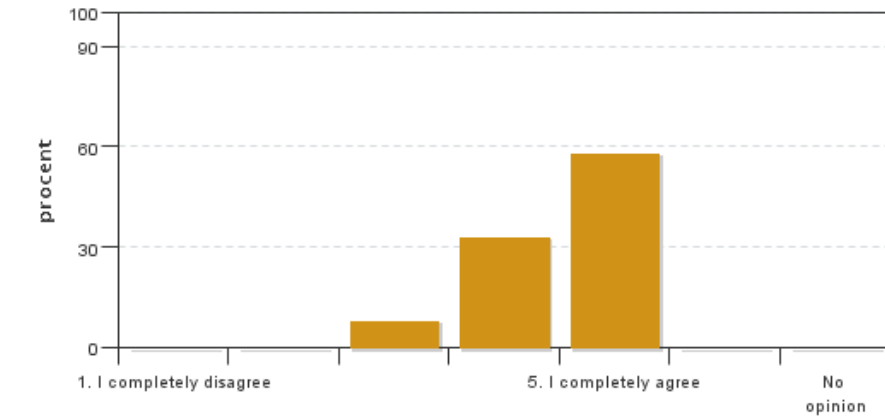


Answers: 12
Medel: 3,9
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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

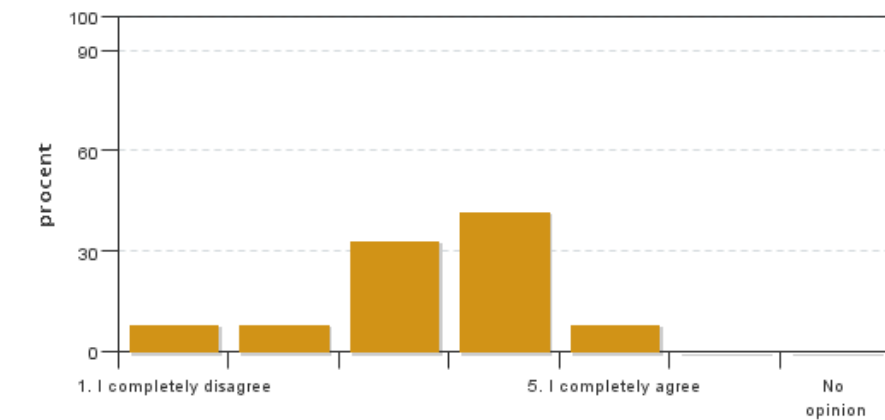


Answers: 12
 Medel: 4,5
 Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

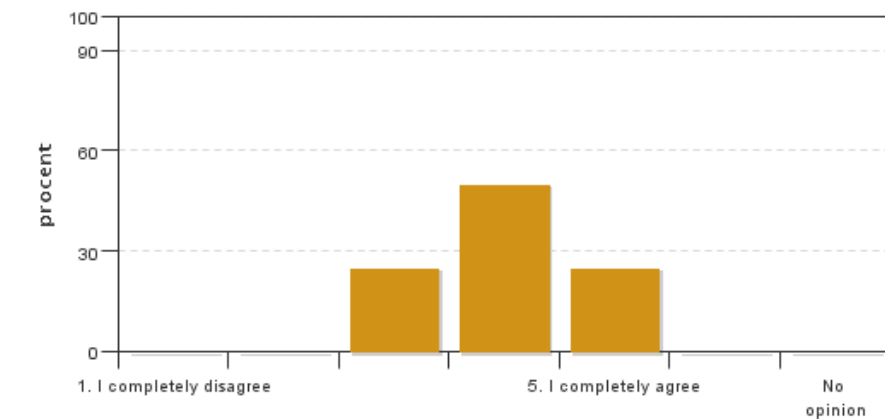


Answers: 12
 Medel: 3,3
 Median: 3

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

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 12
 Medel: 4,0
 Median: 4

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 3
 4: 6
 5: 3

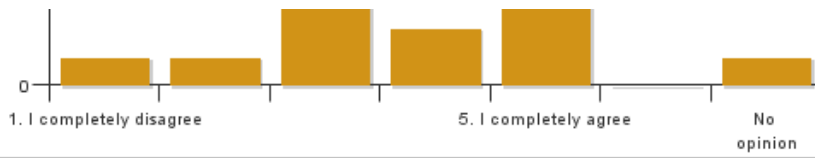
No opinion: 0

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



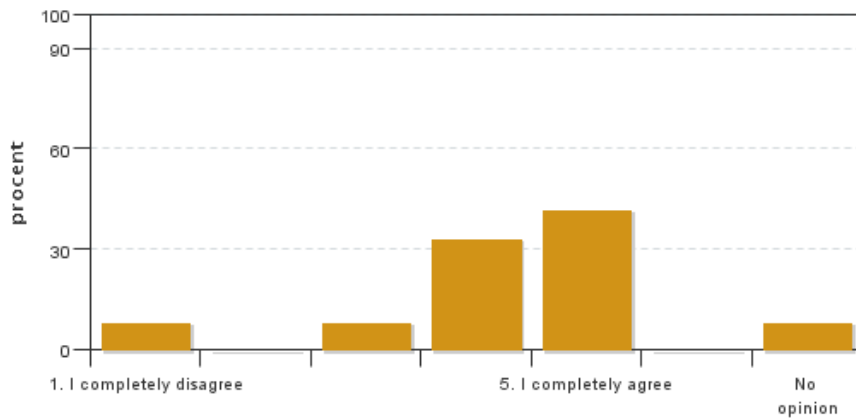
Answers: 12
 Medel: 3,6
 Median: 4

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



No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 12

Medel: 4,1

Median: 4

1: 1

2: 0

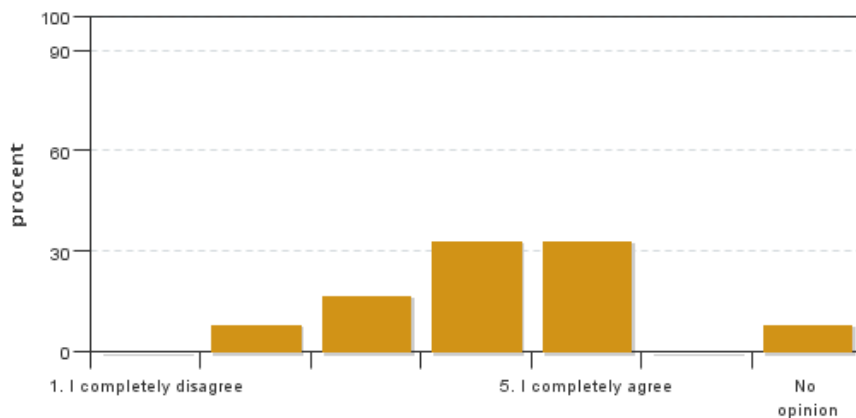
3: 1

4: 4

5: 5

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 12

Medel: 4,0

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 1

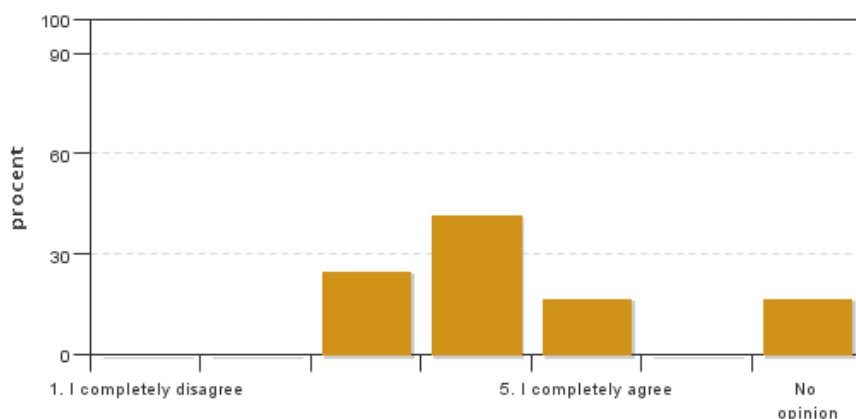
3: 2

4: 4

5: 4

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 12

Medel: 3,9

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 0

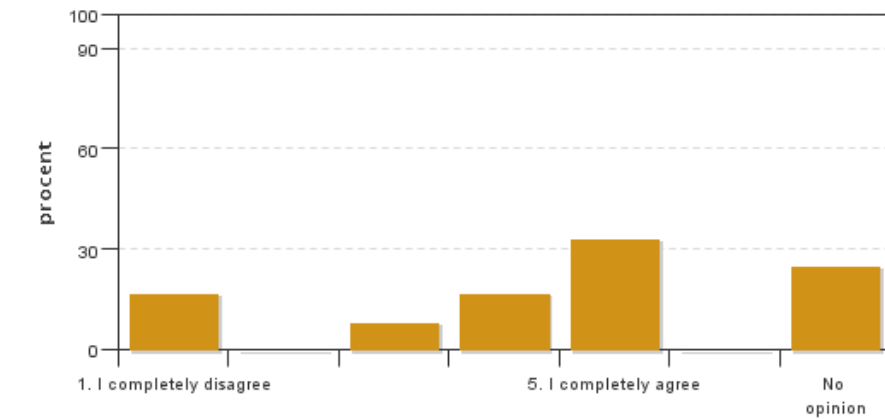
3: 3

4: 5

5: 2

No opinion: 2

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).

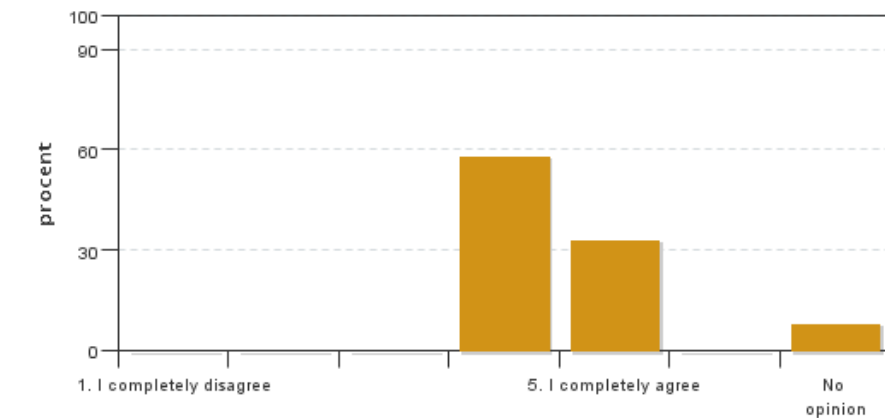


Answers: 12
 Medel: 3,7
 Median: 4

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

No opinion: 3

11. The course covered international perspectives.

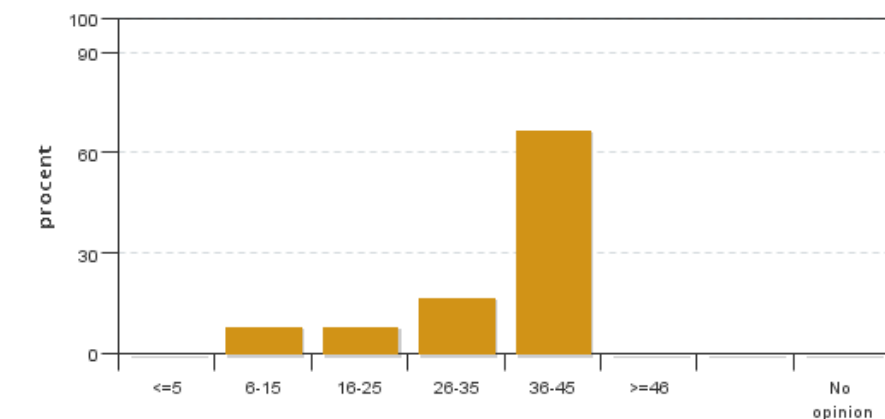


Answers: 12
 Medel: 4,4
 Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 12
 Medel: 34,2
 Median: 36-45

<=5: 0
 6-15: 1
 16-25: 1
 26-35: 2
 36-45: 8
 >=46: 0

No opinion: 0

Course leaders comments

Question 1 was "My overall impression of the course" was 3.6 (with a median score of 4.0). This is OK, but is normally higher for this course. Why? I had tested some suggestions made by a few students in the previous year which this year's students did not favour, so I will go back to the way it was before. From now on, I will be much more cautious about making changes based on relatively few student comments -- I will rely more on the numerical scores on the course evaluation scores and my one-on-one exit interviews with students at the end of the course. Next year, I plan to have more discussions at the start of the course to try to get students to be more active in discussions.

Question 2 was "the course content had clear links to the learning objectives of the course" and got a good score of 3.9.

Question 3 was “my prior knowledge was sufficient for me to benefit from the course” was 4.5, an indication that students indeed had the background that they needed.

Question 4 was “the information about the course was easily accessible” was an OK 3.3 but again is usually higher. This was the first time that the digital classroom “Canvas” was used (rather than the previous one “Fronter”) and there were some problems at the start. I now have much more experience and Canvas is working much better now. Furthermore, there is also much better Canvas support if new problems were to arise next year. Last year, with so many teachers using Canvas for the first time, it was sometimes difficult to get quick help, but now that there are many more teachers with experience, it is already much easier to get problems solved rapidly.

Question 5 was “the various course components supported my learning” got a score of 4.0 which is very positive. I plan no changes in this area for next year.

Question 6 was “the social learning environment has been inclusive, regarding differences of opinion” scored a normal 3.6. Next year, I plan to have even more discussions at the start of the course to try to ensure that students get in the habit of taking a more active part in classroom discussions.

Question 7 was “the physical learning environment was satisfactory” got a good score of 4.1. This average score indicates that the room assigned to this course was satisfactory. The updating & modifications of other teaching rooms in Umeå which was underway during this course period will be completed by the time this course is offered next year, so more rooms will be available for this and other courses.

Question 8 was “the examination(s) provided the opportunity to demonstrate what I had learned during the course” got a good score of 4.0 so I do not plan any big changes in this area.

Question 9 was “the course covered the sustainable development aspect (environmental, social and/or financial sustainability)” got a good score of 4.0. One student pointed out that the focus was on the environmental aspects with less on the financial or social aspects. A fair comment, but the focus of the course is indeed on the sustainable harvest of animal populations or the conservation of endangered populations, so this is not a surprise.

Question 10 was “the course covered international perspectives” received a very good score of 4.4. Next year, I think this score will be even better as the department's exchange program with universities in South Africa grows!

Question 11 was “the hours I have spent on the course per week” was 34.2, quite normal compared to many other course evaluations.

Question 12 was “the course has included a gender and equality aspect (perspective on the subject, reading list, allocation of speaking time, and use of master suppression techniques”. This year the course scored a normal 3.7 but normally is even better. As always, I did try to get a good representation of female teachers, but this year quite a number of them were unable to contribute during this course period. I hope that they will be in a more secure financial situation next year so that they won't have to focus on grant applications next fall (in another course I convene in Period 4, it was no problem to get many of these same female teachers to contribute, so it seems clear that the grant application period did have an effect this year). Of course, next year I will try even harder to find female teachers with expertise in the course topics! Regarding the reading list, I did select papers by female authors when I could, but in the past the field has been rather male dominated. Thus I am afraid that the many hours I spent looking for relevant and pedagogic papers by females was simply not evident to the students. Next year, I will specifically point this out so the students will be aware that this aspect was indeed carefully considered!

Overall, a good course evaluation but not as good as this course normally receives. I made the mistake of testing some changes suggested by a few students from the previous year (like going a bit slower and going over a few of the course moments that they found difficult). This year's cohorts did not like these changes, so from now on, I will go back to the way the course was the year before when it got a stellar course evaluation! In the future, any further changes will not be in response a few comments by individual students, but to the numerical averages on the course evaluation.

/John Ball, Course Convener

Student representatives comments

No comments from the student representatives

Kontakta support: it-stod@slu.se - 018-67 6600