

Broadleaves - Forest dynamics, biodiversity and management for multiple use SG0235, 40013.2021

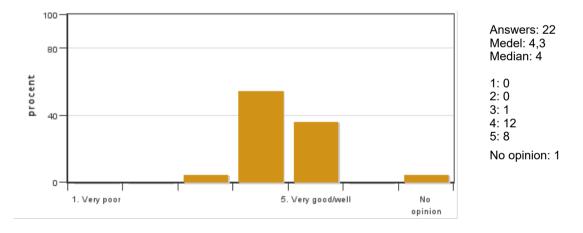
15 Hp Pace of study = 100% Education cycle = Advanced Course leader = Magnus Löf

Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2021-05-30 - **2021-06-20** Answers 22

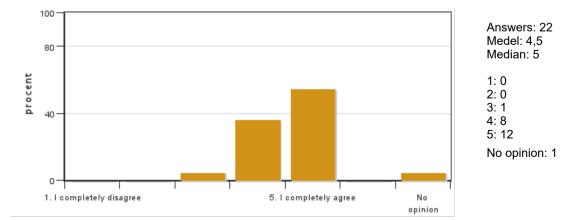
Number of students 30 Answer frequency 73 %

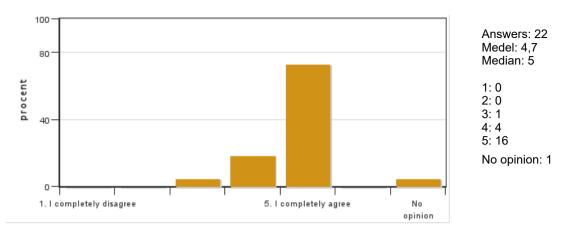
Mandatory standard questions



1. My overall impression of the course is:

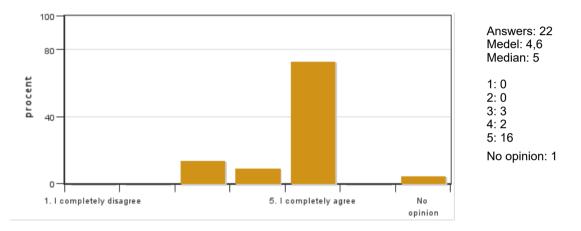
2. I found the course content to have clear links to the learning objectives of the course.



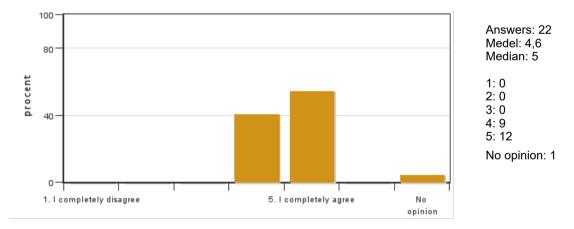


3. My prior knowledge was sufficient for me to benefit from the course.

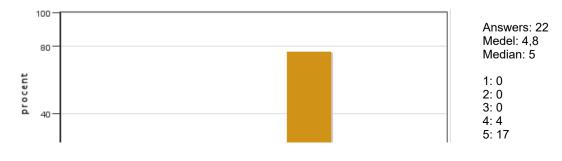
4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

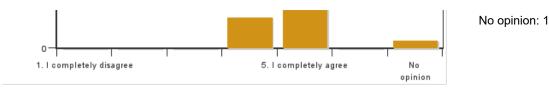


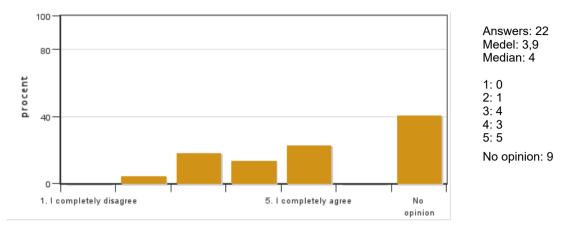
5. The various course components (lectures, course literature, exercises etc.) have supported my learning.



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

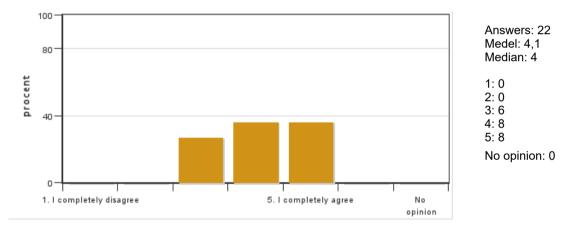




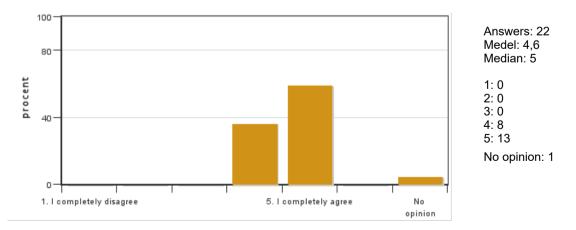


7. The physical learning environment (facilities, equipment etc.) has been satisfactory.

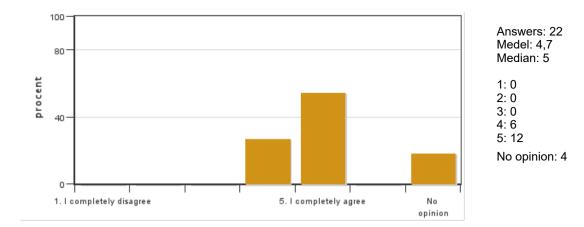
8. The examination(s) provided opportunity to demonstrate what I had learnt during the course (see the learning objectives).



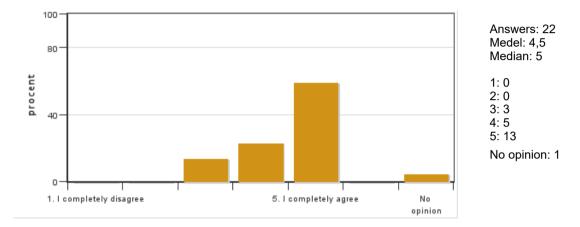
9. The course covered the sustainable development aspect (environmental, social and/or financial sustainability).



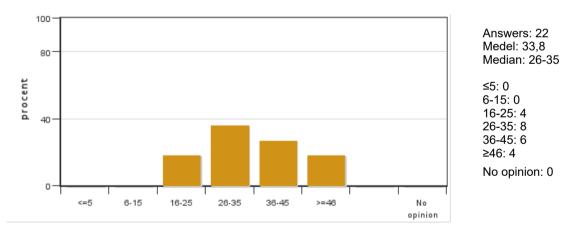
10. I believe the course has included a gender and equality aspect, regarding content as well as teaching practices (e.g. perspective on the subject, reading list, allocation of speaking time and the use of master suppression techniques).



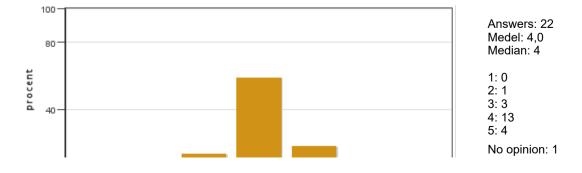
11. The course covered international perspectives.



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



13. If relevant, what is your overall experience of participating in all or part of your course online?





14. If relevant, please share what worked well when participating in teaching on distance

15. If relevant, please share what worked less well when participating in teaching on distance

Additional own questions

16. Please share how the course structure (module 1-6), information (announcements) and communication (weekly zoom meetings) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good and what can we improve?

16. Please share how module 1 (forest history, forest dynamics and biodiversity) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good, what can we improve?

16. Please share how module 2 (Ungulate ecology) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good, what can we improve?

16. Please share how module 3 (Forest health) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good, what can we improve?

16. Please share how module 4 (Forest management and restoration) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good, what can we improve?

16. Please share how module 5 (Bialowieza) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good, what can we improve?

16. Please share how module 6 (Fast growing broadleaves) worked when participating in teaching on distance. What was good, what can we improve?

Course leaders comments

Concerning the circumstances with the corona-situation (no ordinary lectures in class, less social activities among students, no field excursions and no travel to Poland/Bialowieza), the students seem to be very satisfied with the course (overall score of 4.3). This is really good and an increase since last year (4.0). We were a bit unsure how to set up the course but had experiences from last year to build upon. From that we tried to increase the amount of time where students met teachers (more live lectures, more group works and seminars etc.), and we also tried to increase the workload a bit. This seem to have been successful although some students complained that it was too many written assignements this year - so maybe we have to think of this for the next year (which hopefully is a normal year). One way could be to change written assignments to group works or create larger assignments instead of several small ones. The structure of the course in modules and relatively similar set-up within the different modules seem to have worked well. There were some comments about lack of similarity between teachers in the use of Canvas which of course can be improved for next year. Compared to last year, there were no comments on lack of feedback which was something we really tried to improve this year - so this was good that it worked well. Finally, it was a positive experience that the students adapted very well to the situation (even if many of course prefer another learning environment), and that this group of students are among the best we have had in Broadleaves - they were generally supportive, engaged, positive and in general they understood this strage situation in a pandemic.

Student representatives comments

Course Evaluation Broadleaves

Out of 30 students in total, 22 answered the course evaluation giving us an answer frequency of 73%.

The overall impression of the course was positive with most students rating it 4 or 5. The most apparent comment which reoccurs among the student, and appears to have impacted the overall impression of the course, was the workload. Many students felt that there were too many assignments which, in addition to the large amount of time-consuming reading, led to stress and that some of the students were not able to perform at a desirable level. Similarly, the students had a mixed impression of the exam and many thought there was not enough time to demonstrate fully what they had learned throughout the course. While there are many comments on how the workload was too high, the time spent working with the course varied among the students with some working 16-25 hours a week and others up to 46 hours a week.

The students overall felt that their prior knowledge was sufficient despite many not coming from a forestry background. It was overwhelmingly felt among the students that the social learning environment has been great with a lot of good discussions during the course, despite the restrictions of the current pandemic.

In general, most things worked out well. The lecture content was regarded in a positive light and most found the topics interesting. One thing which was pointed out as good was that there was diversity among the topics which covered many aspects of broadleaf forests. Several students commented on how the use of Mentimeter had a positive impact on their enjoyment of the lectures. The use of Canvas was thought to have worked well in general though there were some discrepancies between how the different teachers used and uploaded things to Canvas. Most students thought the group tasks worked well and that the discussions had during the group tasks were great.

However, many commented on how the pandemic restriction and all lectures being online has negatively impacted learning during the course. Firstly, the student commented on how they would have preferred to have normal lectures and how a lot of the things that usually would have made this course special (excursions, trip to Bialowieza etc.) were missing. Secondly, many found it hard to concentrate and to stay attentive throughout an entire day of online lectures. As one student put it "it was sometimes simply too much sitting in front of the screen", but several comments pointed out how the teachers tried to make the best out of the situation. Losing motivation and the ability to concentrate and take in all the information was hampered by very long days in front of the computer. The lack social aspects that usually come with attending lectures were something that many students felt were missing.

There was no clear opinion on the physical facilities since they were not used during the course. Several students wished there would have been some kind of outdoor activity/task or similar during the course.

The weekly zoom-meeting schedule worked well. Most students thought the structure on Canvas was good. Some mixed impressions of the study-diaries.

All modules were in general very well received topic wise by the students. Several of the modules were awarded with comments claiming it to be the best module in the course. It seems to me that previous knowledge and background played an important part in what module the students found most interesting. The module that stands out was module 5 due to how it is supposed to be a field trip rather than another module of just lectures, it was felt that it occasionally repeated some of the material from previous module. The group work was well received in all modules. In general, all modules and the entire course was well liked by the students, but there were some areas in need of improvement. The main issue put forward by the students was the lack of time during the exam and that there occasionally were too many assignments.

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