Urban Forestry – management of urban forests and trees
LK0378, 20063.2021

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced
Course leader = Björn Wiström

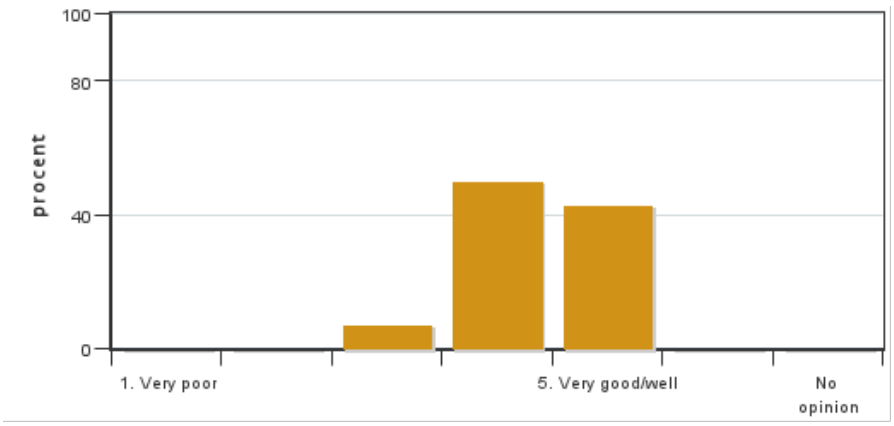
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2021-01-10 - 2021-01-31

Answers	14
Number of students	34
Answer frequency	41 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

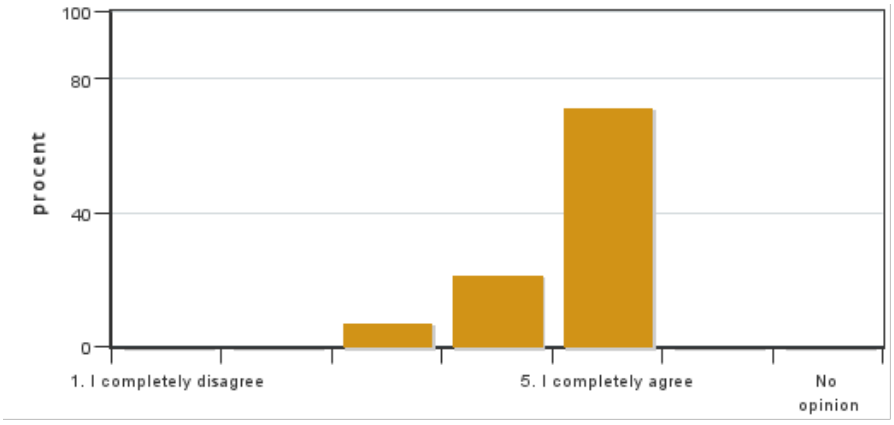


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,4
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 7
5: 6

No opinion: 0

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

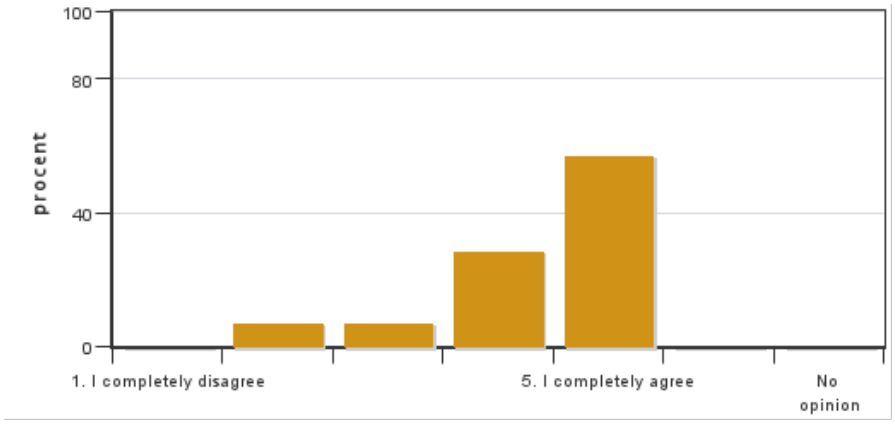


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

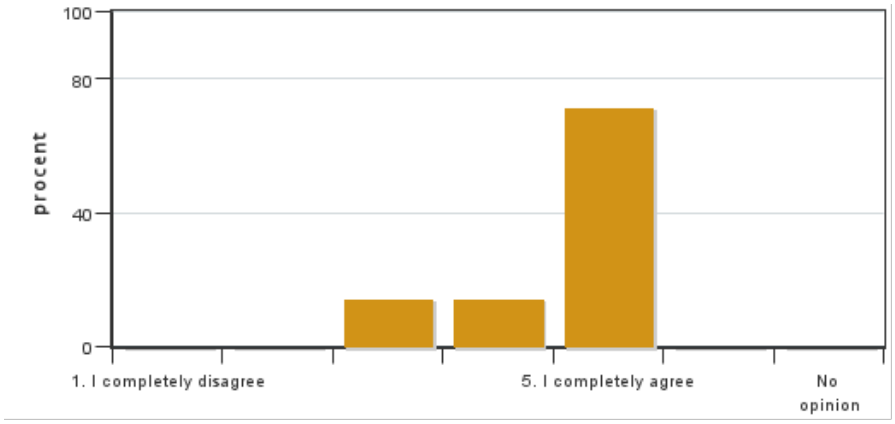


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

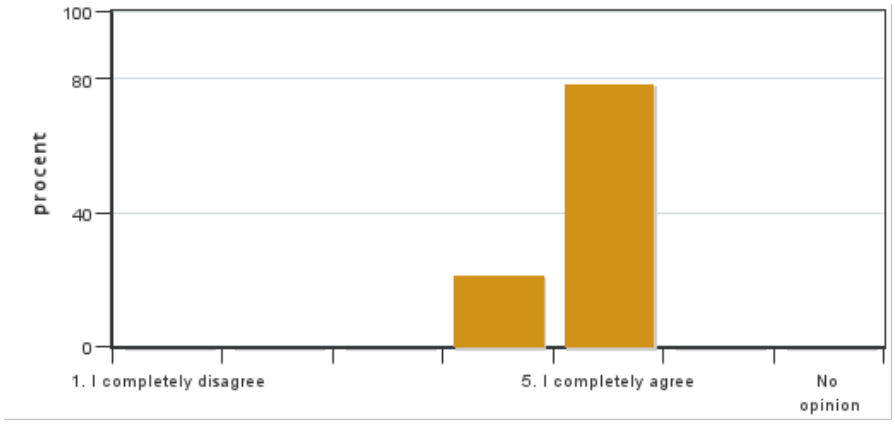


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

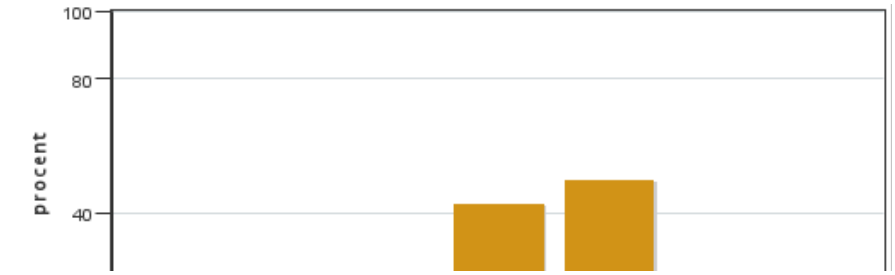


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

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

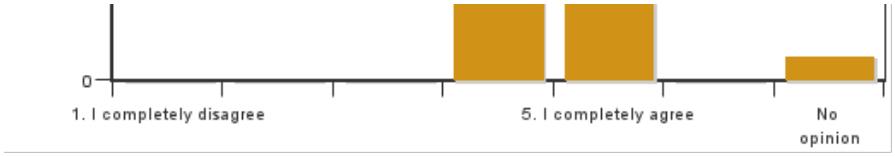
No opinion: 0

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



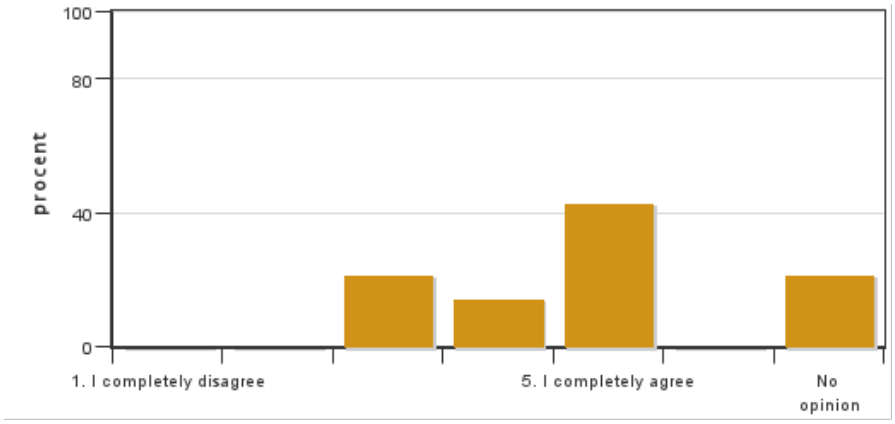
Answers: 14
Medel: 4,5
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 6
5: 7



No opinion: 1

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

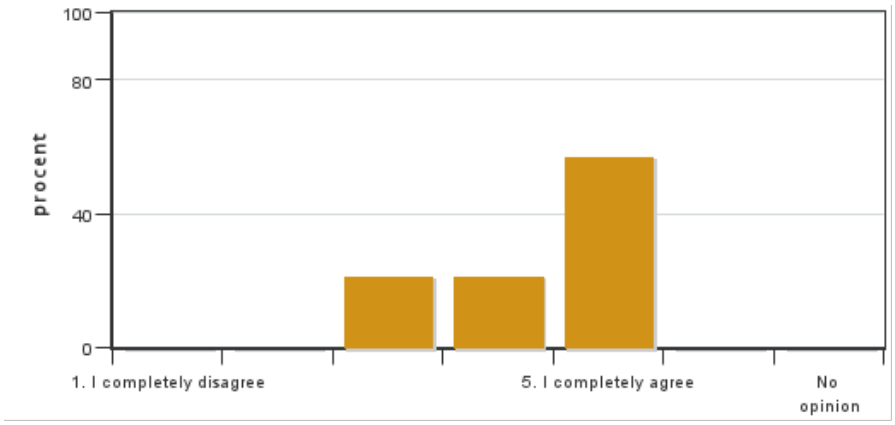


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 3

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

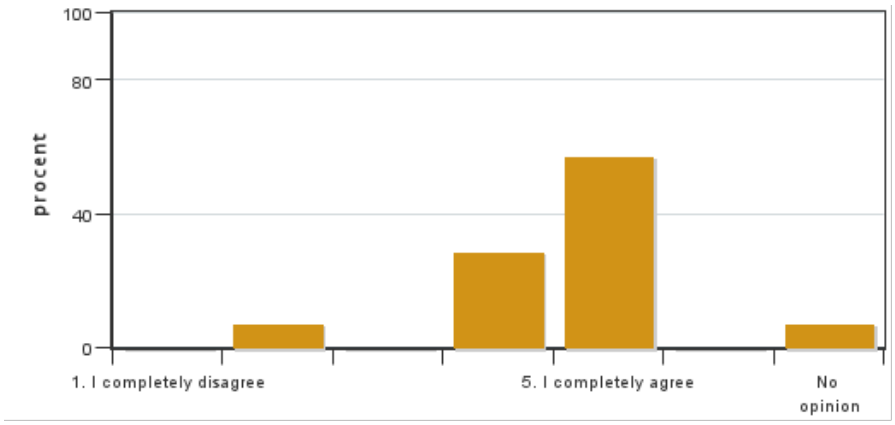


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

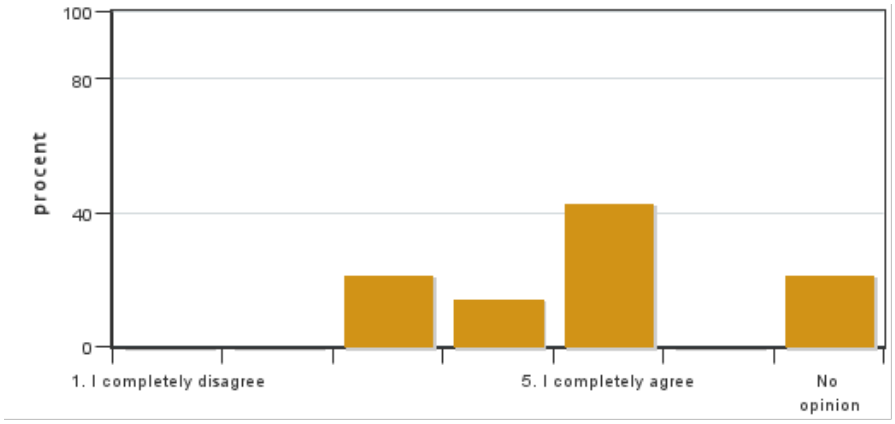


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,5
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 1

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).

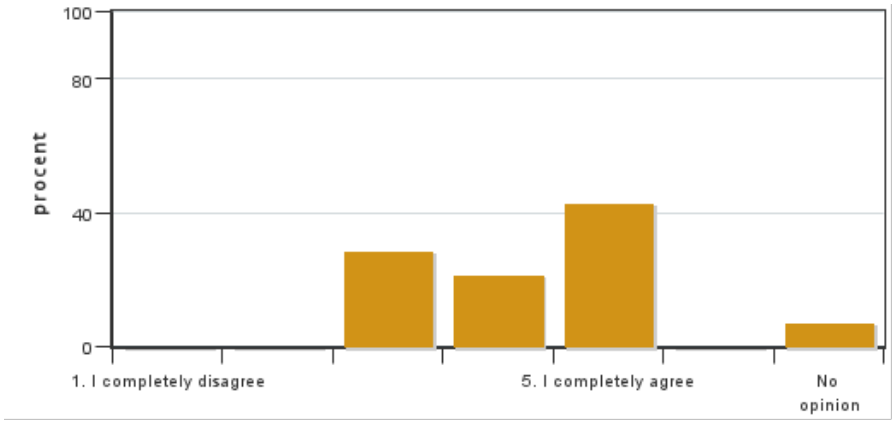


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 3

11. The course covered international perspectives.

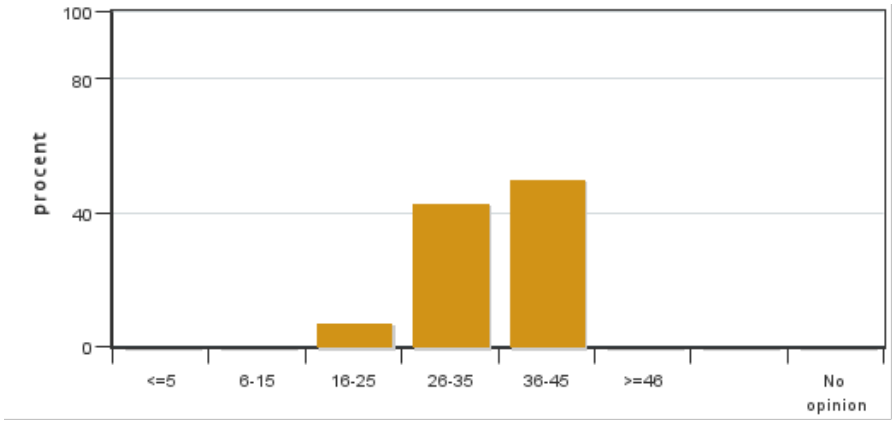


Answers: 14
Medel: 4,2
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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

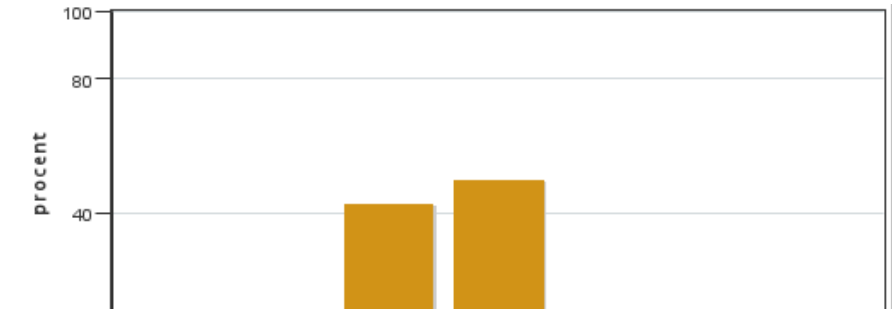


Answers: 14
Medel: 34,3
Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
6-15: 0
16-25: 1
26-35: 6
36-45: 7
≥46: 0

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 14
Medel: 3,6
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 6
4: 7
5: 1

No opinion: 0

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. How can the course be improved? Please provide concrete examples.

16. Which things in the course is important to keep more or less at it is today?

Course leaders comments

Due to Covid-regulations the course had to be taken through as distance based teaching. However, the outdoor parts except buss-based excursion was still able to carry though, although with smaller groups than usual. Overall, the course have turned out well given the suboptimal situation. The ability to keep most of the outdoor parts was appreciated by the students. Based on the students comments it is clear that although it is possible to carry though larger parts of the course as distance based teaching it is not optimal. As such more on site teaching with possibility for more students interactions is advisable if possible. For other changes of the course it seems that focus should be on smaller adjustments since overall the structure and content is appreciated by the students. The following adjustments are proposed for the next time the course is given.

If possible increased amount of on-site teaching activities

Revisions of the description of the logbook task

Revisions of the description of the final Casework task

If possible, extend the exercises and seminars about management plans

Student representatives comments

This course was given during the Covid 19 pandemic with related regulations that the course had to adapt to. The lectures and project supervision were given remotely using Zoom and there were fewer excursions than in earlier years. This in turn made it harder to create a good social environment since the social interaction was hampered by the remote format. Also, the physical learning environment for the students became suboptimal since many students found it hard to study almost only at home, and many found it hard to find the motivation to upkeep full time studies. Therefore the occasions with outdoor activities were highly appreciated, since it meant a possibility to come out and meet classmates, leading to spontaneous interactions with opportunities to exchange knowledge. In general most students expressed themselves as very understanding of the suboptimal Covid 19 conditions but would have preferred to have lectures in the classroom (which was not possible due to Covid regulations). Live zoom lectures, where the students had the possibility to ask questions worked well and were preferred over pre-recorded lectures. The amount of supervision was also appreciated by the students but a suggestion was to have varying times as several students felt that the times given sometimes felt short.

Overall this course was very much enjoyed by most students. 14 students out of 35 answered the course evaluation. Out of the 14 students, 6 gave a five (the highest) in score for overall impression of the course. The head teacher of the course was very highly appreciated by the students as he tried his best to make the course as good as possible despite the Covid 19 situation. The course information was easy to find/access on Canvas. The structure and components of the course were well organized with relevant lectures and excursions (Production, Recreation, Biodiversity and Management). The feedback from the hand-ins were very much liked as it helped students learn

from what they had produced.

As a whole 8 out of 14 students gave a five in their prior knowledge that would benefit them in the course. As this is a course that contains students from two different academic backgrounds (Forestry and Landscape Architecture) the levels of prior knowledge, and how it could be applied to assignments, varied. It was then appreciated that the introduction was divided so that both programs wouldn't experience too much repetition. Students from the different programs would have liked to work more in groups or be able to exchange knowledge in some way as they found that they could learn much from each other. On the other hand a small number of the students did not appreciate working in groups.

The majority of students found the course information was easily accessible. In the comments section students mention that it was nice that there was a lot of literature to read through and that certain parts were easy to navigate through, but some suggested it would have been better to have the literature organized into categories.

The majority of students found that the course components were good in supporting their learning. Ed Gilman's online lectures were appreciated. Students would have liked to have more excursions and exercises and some even suggested that a teacher could have visited a site and held a lecture there when walking around and explaining things. Some students thought that more lectures on biodiversity, soil management, management plans, sustainability and including a more international perspective would have been a good way to develop the course.

7 out of 14 students spent 36-45 hours a week studying for this course and 6 out of 14 students spent 26-35 hours. The only concern felt by some was having enough time to read all the literature. Even though the course leader said that the idea with the reading was to get an overview and not to go in depth.

The preferences on the logbook assignments varied. Some students did not fully enjoy writing a logbook as they thought their learning could benefit more from another format but others liked it. The Caseworks were liked as well and some enjoyed that Casework B was in groups while others did not, and some would have liked to work even more in groups.

As a finishing comment students expressed that this is one of the best courses that they have taken and that the head teacher could not have done a better job as he did it amazingly!