Forest and landscape biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services BI1418, 30157.2223

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Basic
Course leader = Adam Felton

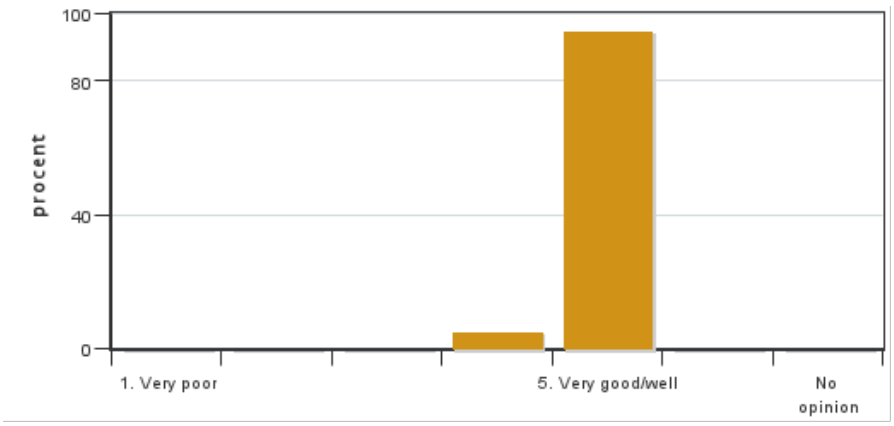
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2023-03-14 - 2023-04-04

Answers	20
Number of students	25
Answer frequency	80 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

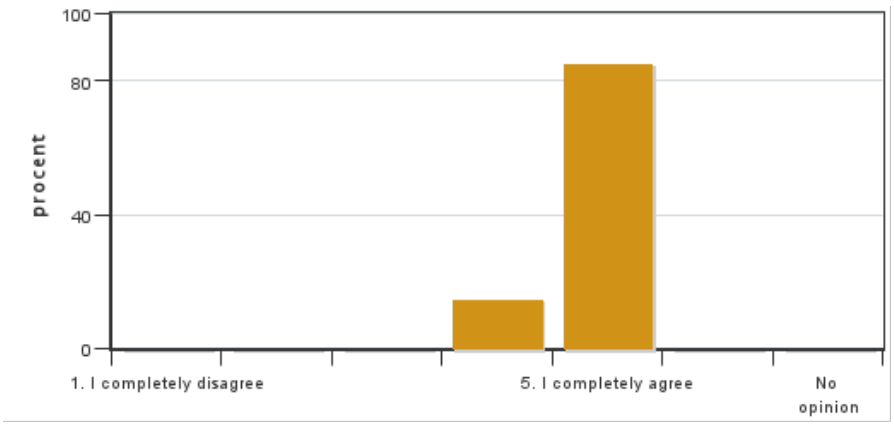


Answers: 20
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 19

No opinion: 0

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

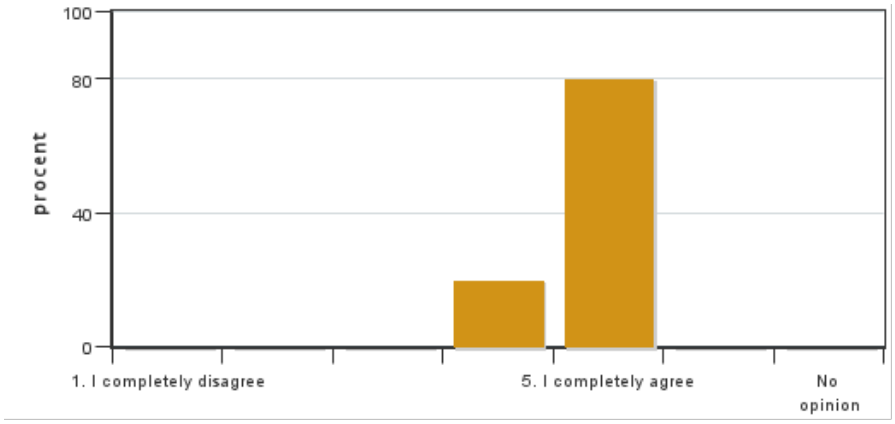


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 3
5: 17

No opinion: 0

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

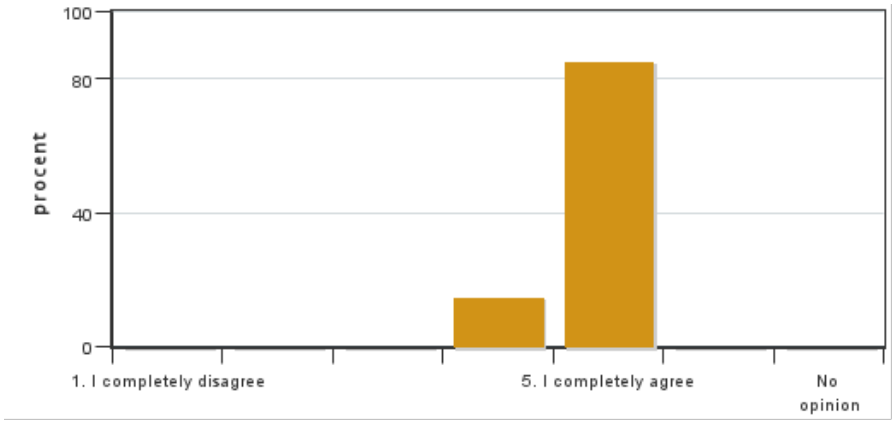


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 4
5: 16

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

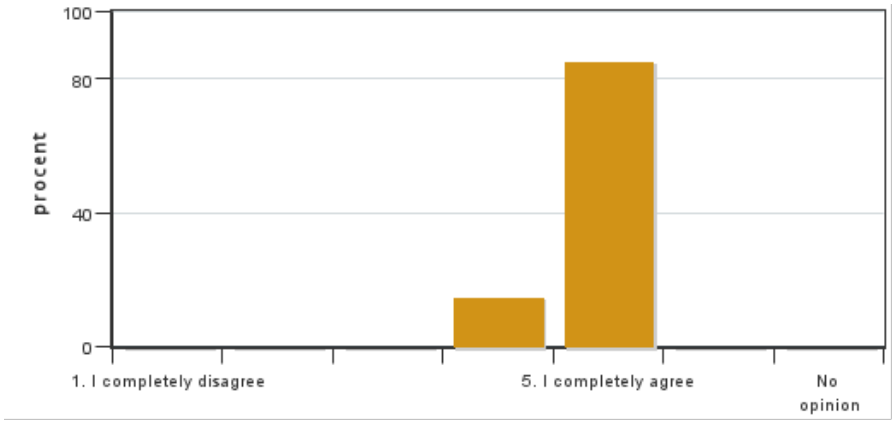


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 3
5: 17

No opinion: 0

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

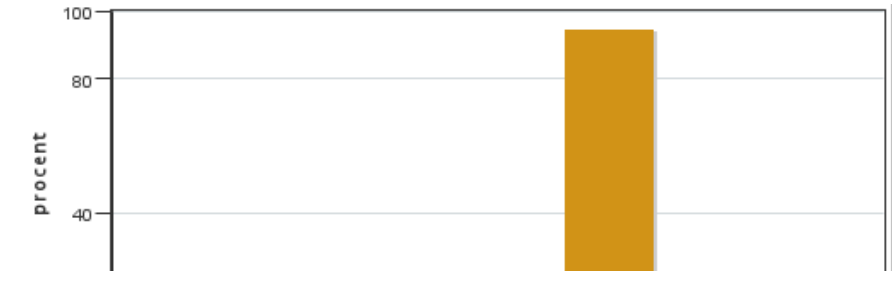


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 3
5: 17

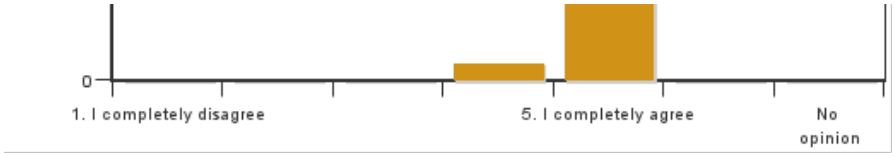
No opinion: 0

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



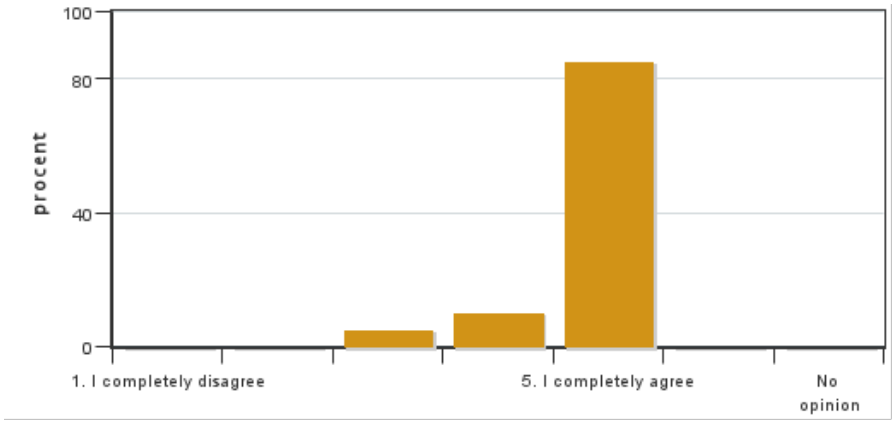
Answers: 20
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 19



No opinion: 0

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

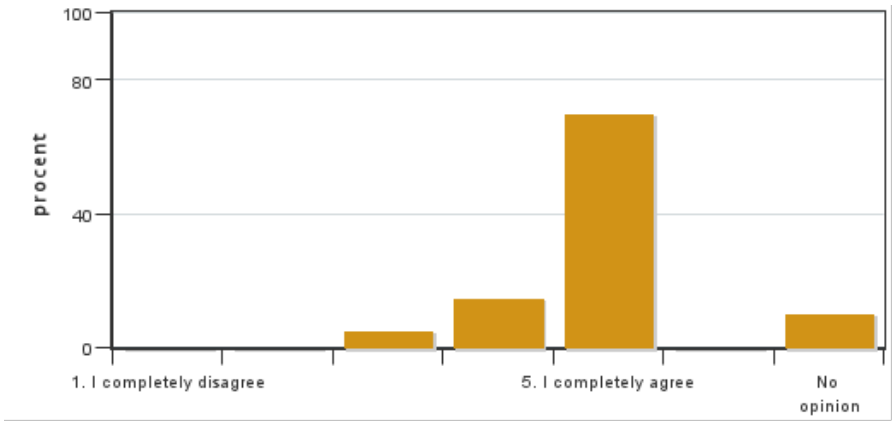


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 2
5: 17

No opinion: 0

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

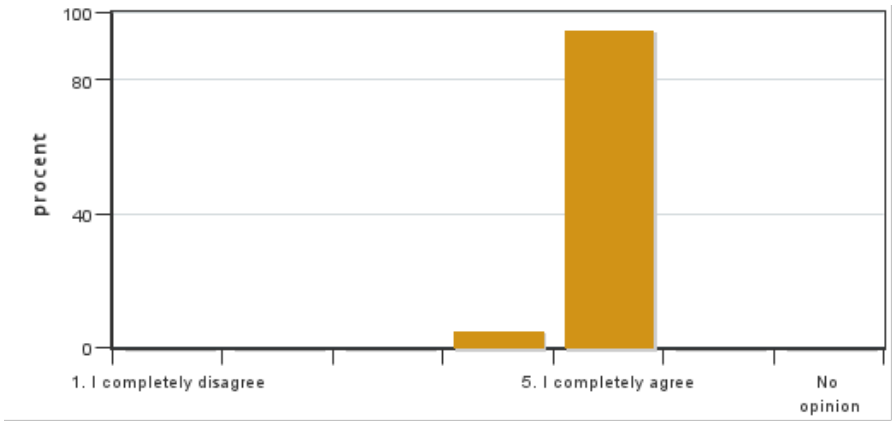


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 3
5: 14

No opinion: 2

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

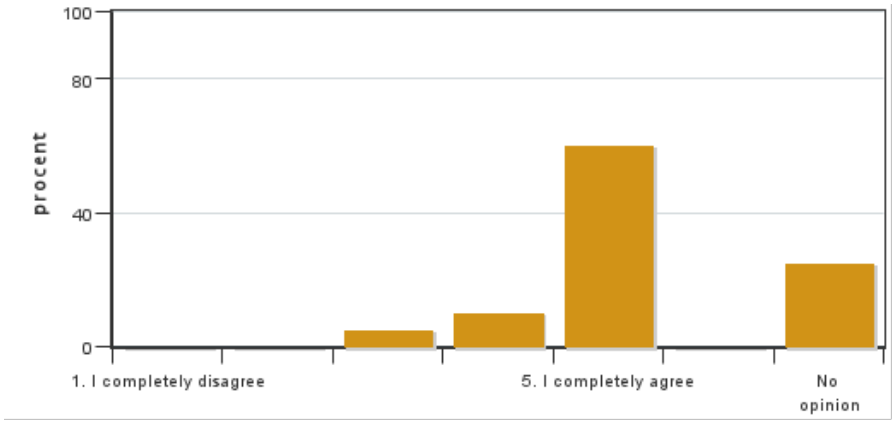


Answers: 20
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 19

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).

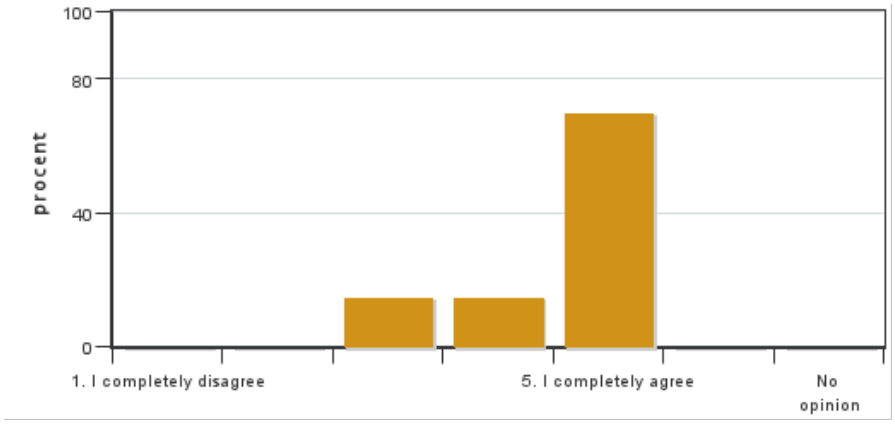


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 2
5: 12

No opinion: 5

11. The course covered international perspectives.

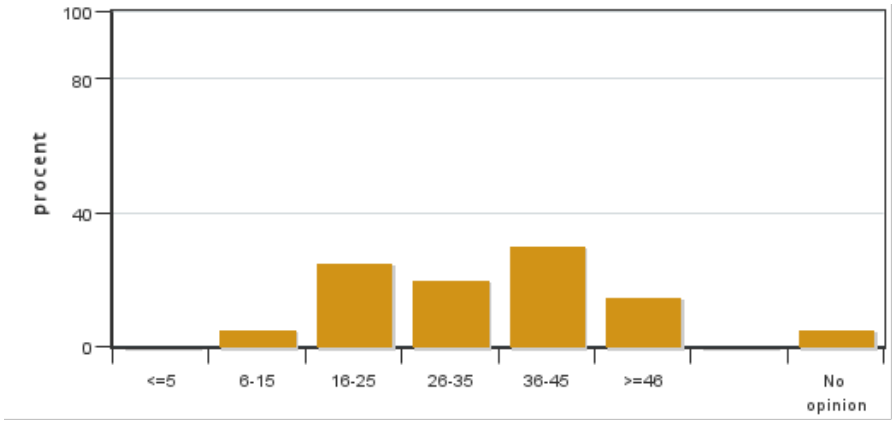


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 3
4: 3
5: 14

No opinion: 0

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

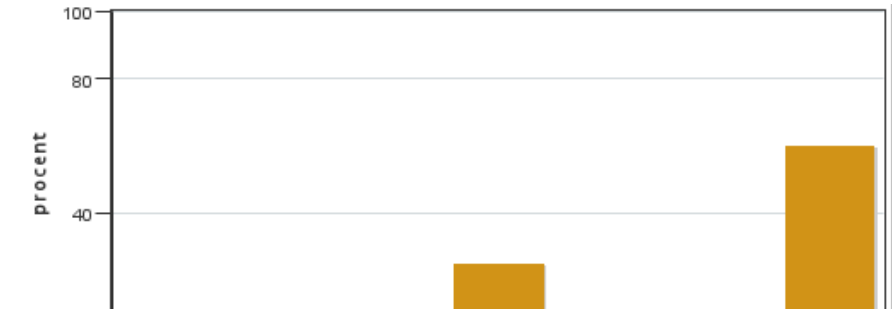


Answers: 20
Medel: 32,0
Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
6-15: 1
16-25: 5
26-35: 4
36-45: 6
≥46: 3

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 20
Medel: 3,9
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 12

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. What did you most appreciate about the course, and why?

16. What could be improved with the course, and why?

16. How was the work load during the course?

16. Do you have any constructive suggestions regarding the structure of the course (lectures, excursion, exercises, written assignments, module structure)?

16. Would you have preferred if one of the two written assignments was instead an oral presentation?

16. What do you think is the most important piece of knowledge you bring with you from this course?

Course leaders comments

We are extremely happy with the course evaluation. That said, after running the course for the first time we do have some small aspects that we would like to improve, based on our own and some course feedback.

For example, we will re-evaluate one of the two course textbooks to ensure that the optimal chapters are assigned. For the second assignment (essay) we are considering adding a group presentation to foster cross group learning. We are also considering making active use of the Canvas chat function in the exercises.

Student representatives comments

Overall, reviews of the course were overwhelmingly positive. It was well organized and had good exercises, lectures, and excursions. Everyone really loved the course leaders. The course fits in very well with the rest of the courses in the Forest and Landscape program. A significant portion of the class felt that it was their favorite course in the program so far. The mood in the classroom was always positive.

The content was planned well, with a variety of interesting lectures from specialists in fields we have not yet learned about, but at a good level for our understanding. When background was needed for a lecture, it was provided in an interesting way. Lectures covering the scientific method and critical thinking were well received. Additional support in formulating a methodology for the assignment would have helped some students get better results, and maybe providing opportunities to dig deeper into the analysis. The exercises were helpful and engaging, and the frequent and interesting lectures made people feel very involved with the course. Everyone spent a lot of time on it but no one felt overwhelmed as long as they could come to

campus. The reading material was at variable difficulty levels, and some people struggled with the more challenging texts. Support in class would have been useful, as well as being more explicit about what you should read in advance of each lesson. The individual assignments and exams were a fair way for people to show what they had learned, especially since enough individual work time was provided to complete them. Keeping the written assignments the same seemed to be the general preference, but people also liked the idea of an oral presentation. Maybe a brief oral presentation can be added?

The integrated Zoom lectures worked as well as can be expected and provided great opportunities to meet (for the most part) interesting professors. The guest lecturers all tied in nicely to the learning objectives of the course. The audio issues were minimal. It was nice that those who could not make it to class could still join. The other online components of the course also ran very smoothly. There were some complaints about the one or two hour days, as some people have long commutes to the campus, so if these days were condensed it would be less travel for them.

If excursions were done further towards the end of the course the weather might have been better, but people also felt they benefited from having it earlier on. However, more taxonomic groups would be identifiable after the winter. Getting to hear more from nature reserve/conservation managers would have also been interesting.

Conservation on a large scale, theory of knowledge concepts, the complexity and importance of biodiversity, and how you work with these values seem to be the most important things people took from this course.