



Forest and landscape ecology BI1386, 30156.2223

15 Hp

Pace of study = 100%

Education cycle = Basic

Course leader = Matts Lindblad

Evaluation report

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

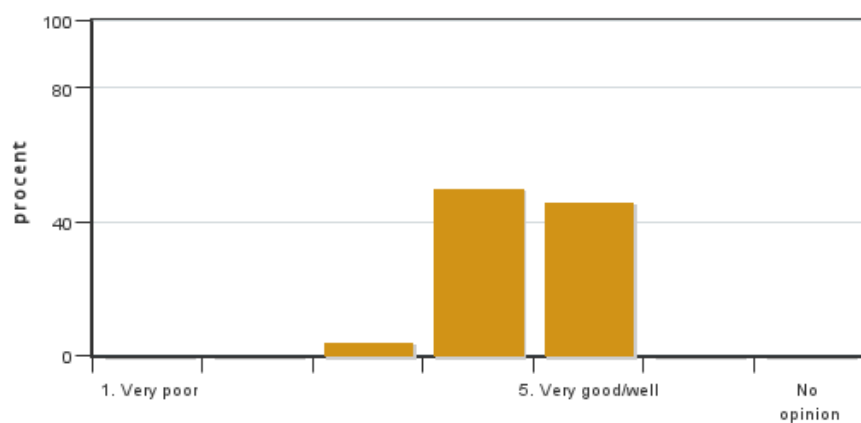
Answers 24

Number of students 28

Answer frequency 85 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,4

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 0

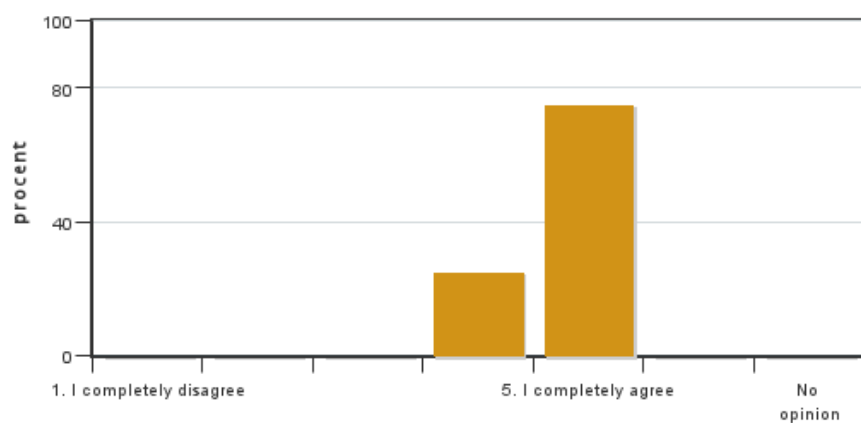
3: 1

4: 12

5: 11

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,8

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

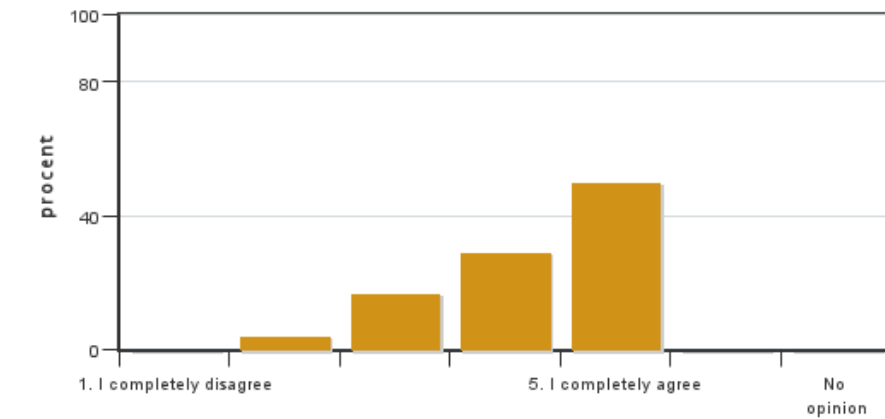
3: 0

4: 6

5: 18

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,3

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 1

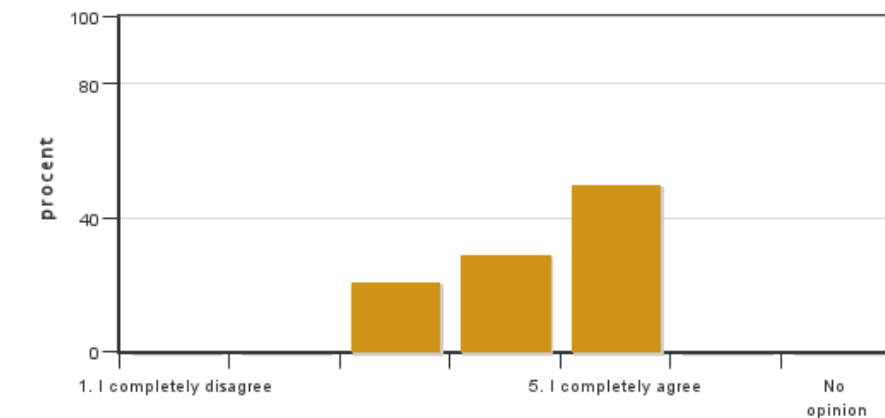
3: 4

4: 7

5: 12

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,3

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 0

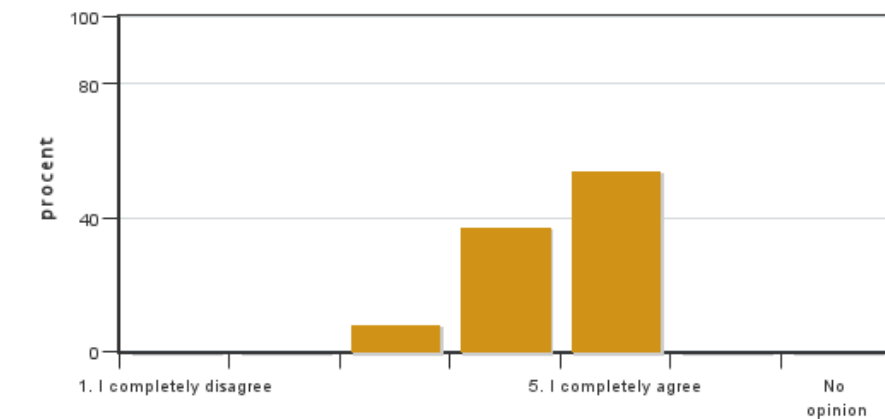
3: 5

4: 7

5: 12

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,5

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

3: 2

4: 9

5: 13

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,8

Median: 5

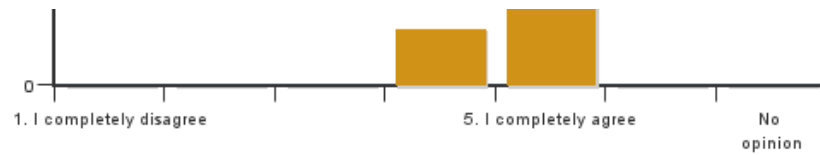
1: 0

2: 0

3: 0

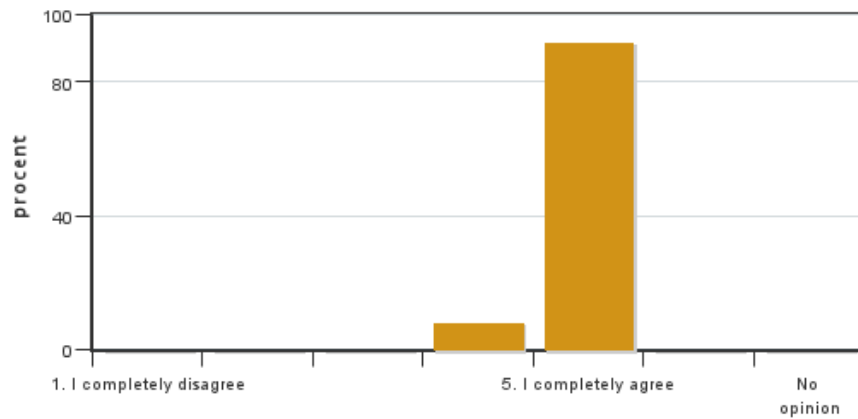
4: 4

5: 20



No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,9

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

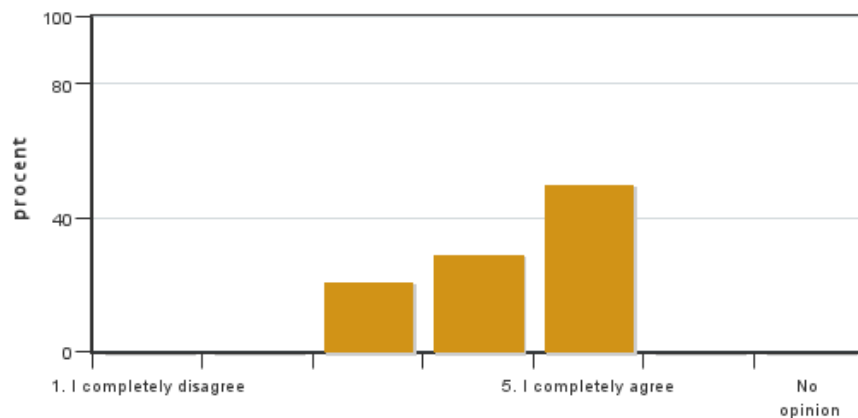
3: 0

4: 2

5: 22

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,3

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 0

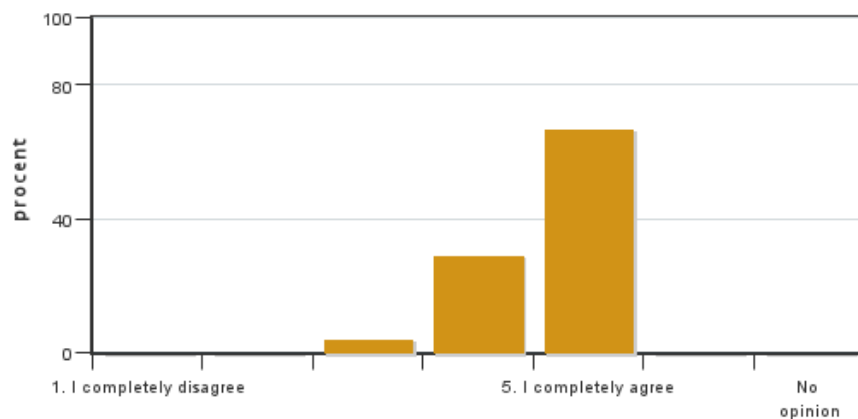
3: 5

4: 7

5: 12

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 24

Medel: 4,6

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

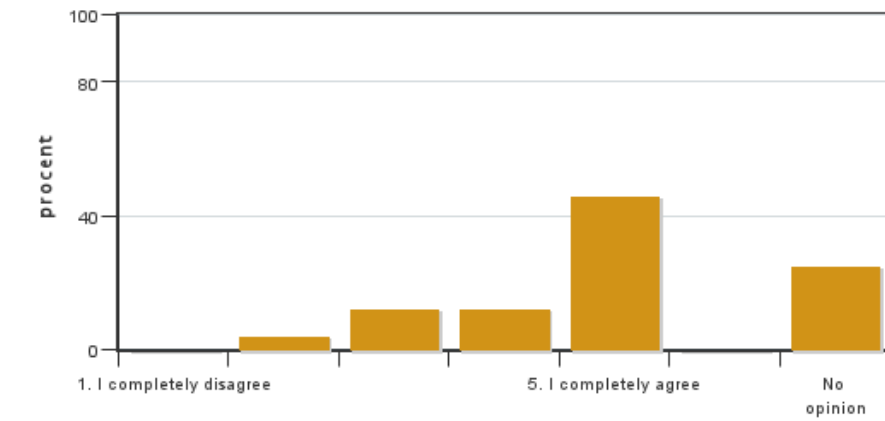
3: 1

4: 7

5: 16

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).

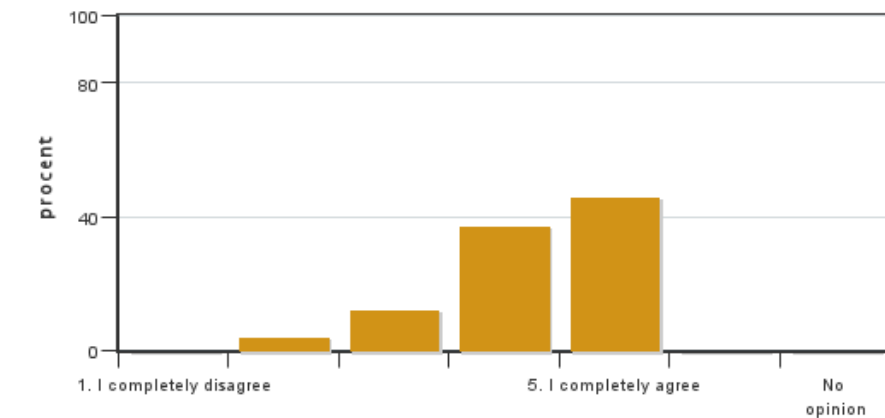


Answers: 24
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 6

11. The course covered international perspectives.

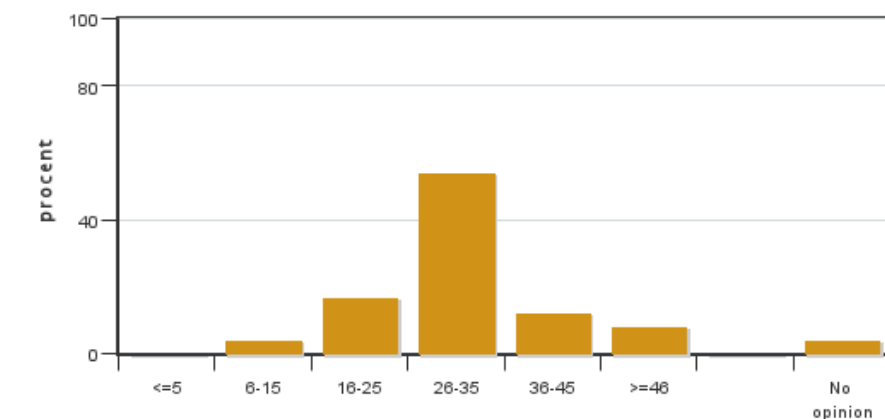


Answers: 24
Medel: 4,3
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 1
3: 3
4: 9
5: 11

No opinion: 0

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

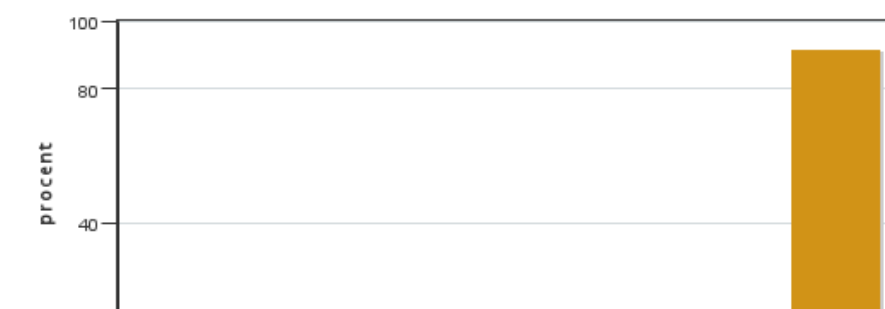


Answers: 24
Medel: 30,1
Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
6-15: 1
16-25: 4
26-35: 13
36-45: 3
≥46: 2

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 24
Medel: 4,5
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 22



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. Did you refer to the WAC guidebook during the course for your writing assignment and if so, did you find it useful?

Course leaders comments

Forest and Landscape Ecology

BI 1386

2023-01-16 – 2023-03-21

Course leader comments

Answers: 24 (75%) Mean: 4,4 Median: 4

1:0 2:0 3:1 4:12 5:11

No opinion: 0

The course was held for the second time. This year with a new course leader but with largely the same structure as the previous year. Overall, the students were satisfied with the course (4.4 in average). Many seem to have appreciated the textbook-lectures combination during modules 1 and 3, that is, that the lectures consistently followed specific chapters in the book. It was also appreciated that the power point presentations were posted before the lectures. However, the Canvas pages were not sufficiently well-organized. Next year, we will introduce systematic numbering of the files.

Other elements that were appreciated were the soil lab with the accompanying reports and last, but not least, was the WAC appreciated. However, the soil lab and the report are possibly too extensive only to correspond to 1 credit, it should probably be increased and the reports could also be graded.

The citizen science exercise was also valued.

Three written exams may be too much. Especially the exam on module 4 does not work properly as there is only little textbook literature on that module. One idea might be to have a submission task in the form of a literature study based on nature conservation biology issues, perhaps in combination with the citizen science exercise.

Several students complained that the R exercise was too difficult, perhaps it should be kept at an even more basic level. This because for many students it is their first encounter with both R and also with statistics in general.

The exercise with winter buds as well as Jörg Brunet's walk in the park which deals with forest dynamics was appreciated, as was the excursion to Hässleholm.

Less appreciated was the lectures week 10, that is Retention forestry, Ecosystem services, Island biogeography and Disturbance ecology. It could be that these lectures were too advanced for bachelor level.

The course is pretty intense with a lot of reading, lectures and assignments, still on average the students only studied 30 hours per week. Obviously, higher demands can be put on the student in the future. Maybe make the first exam more difficult in order to show that it takes a lot of work to pass the course.

Student representatives comments

Summary of questions

1. Overall impression of the course was positive. Comments include that it was a very interesting and enjoyable course.
2. All students answered that the course content had clear links to the learning objectives
 - It was helpful to have the lectures correspond with textbook chapters
 - One idea was that the lectures that did not correspond to textbook chapters could have articles as assigned reading.
3. General consensus is that prior knowledge was enough for scientific concepts but not for R studio
 - It was good to have a hands-on exercise that walked us through R, but it still was too advanced. Next time it would be best to assume absolutely no prior knowledge.
4. Information accessibility- Many people mentioned that the Canvas site could have been better organized.
 - *very helpful that presentations were posted beforehand so we could access them during the lecture
 - Use the "modules" function instead of "files"
 - Put the chapter # or the date of the lecture in the filename so it's easier to find
5. Positive opinions of course components, specifically the textbook and the lectures
 - One idea was using that data from the soil science project in the R studio introduction for a practical application
 - Is it possible to give a 1-5 grade to reflect the merit of the paper? Since so much work goes into researching and writing it could reflect that work better than pass/fail.
6. Most people agree that the learning environment is inclusive (4's and 5's)
7. Good classroom situation since most classes were in the same place.
8. Exams- People who gave the question a lower score thought the exams didn't let them fully demonstrate their knowledge of the course material.
 - Someone suggested more research projects as an alternative
9. Sustainable development was covered
10. Gender/equality
 - Allocation of speaking time was an issue in some lectures (see survey feedback on question 6). In future courses, instructors could be more proactive in keeping students from over-contributing (if it becomes an issue).
 - It was pointed out that there were more lecturers were male than female
11. International perspectives- mixed opinions; overall most were in agreement that the perspectives were varied, but there always could be more.
12. Time spent on course- the first part of the course was much heavier than the last part because there was less reading to do. It was a high workload, but not unmanageable.

Additional notes

- Soil module: Soil is a great subject to focus on in a short ecology course since it is so complex and involves so many other systems.
- The oral presentations were nice because the small groups made it quick and low-stress
- Excursions- very positive experience, especially to Hässleholm (we got lucky with the weather)
- Elements of Ecology was a great textbook and was very effective with explaining the concepts.
- WAC- Almost every student seems to find WAC very useful in improving their writing. In my personal opinion it's a massive luxury!
- Learning about and submitting observations to iNaturalist was enjoyable.