



Soil, water, and meteorological processes in the forest ecosystem MV0227, 30281.2324

7.5 Hp

Pace of study = 100%

Education cycle = Basic

Course leader = Matthias Peichl

Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2024-02-07 - 2024-02-28

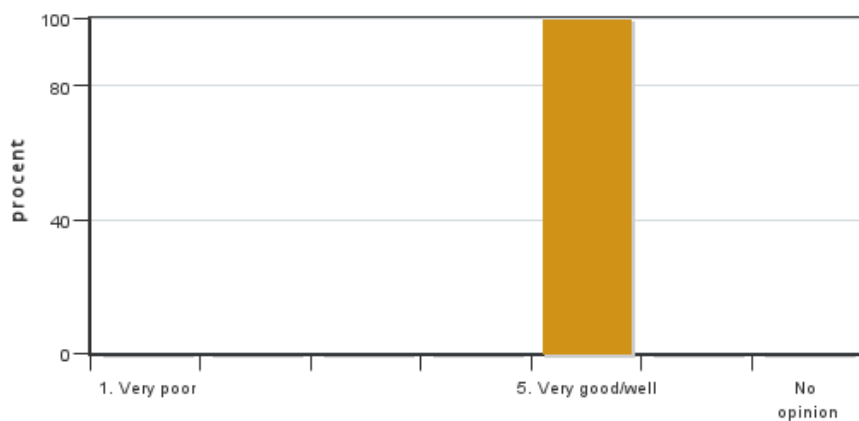
Answers 5

Number of students 6

Answer frequency 83 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

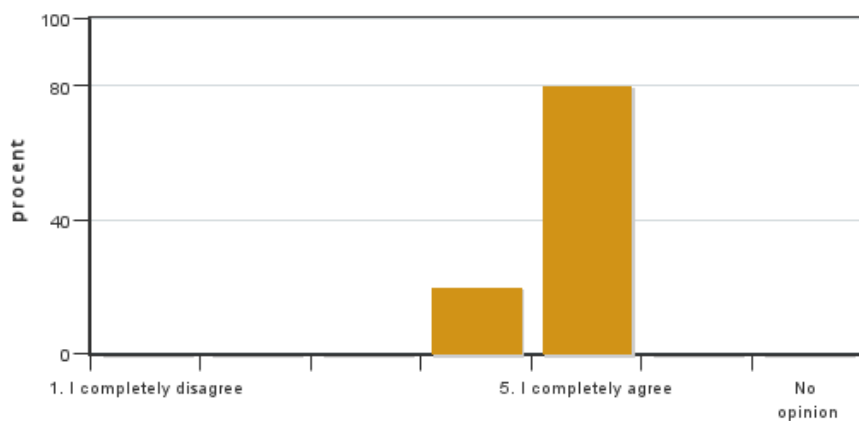


Answers: 5
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

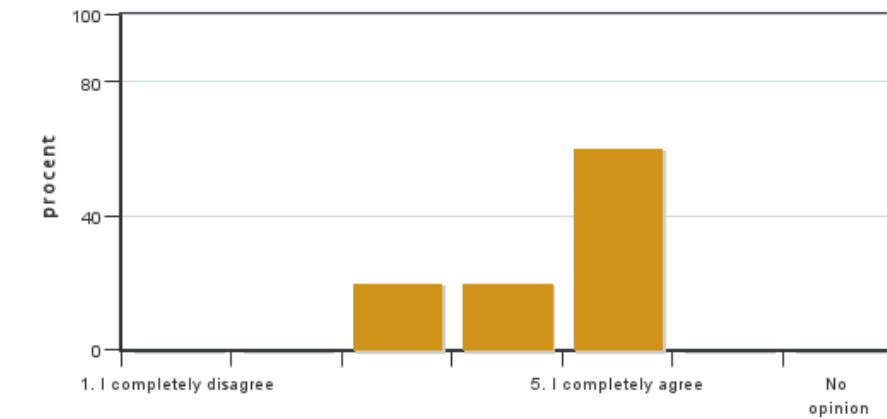


Answers: 5
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

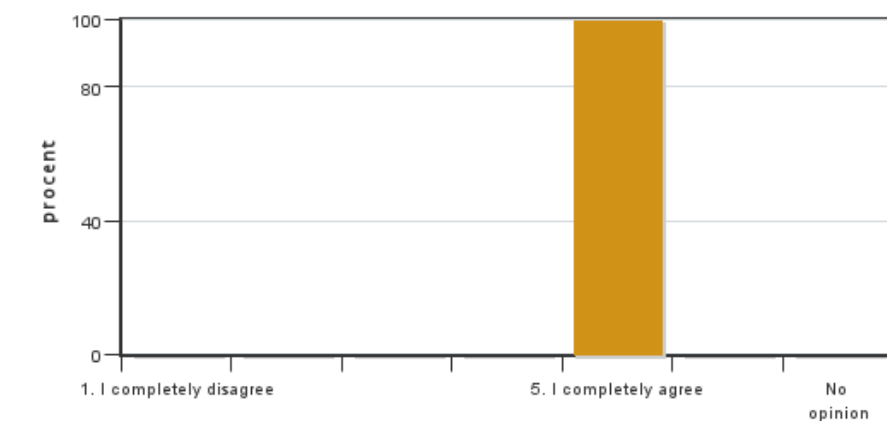


Answers: 5
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

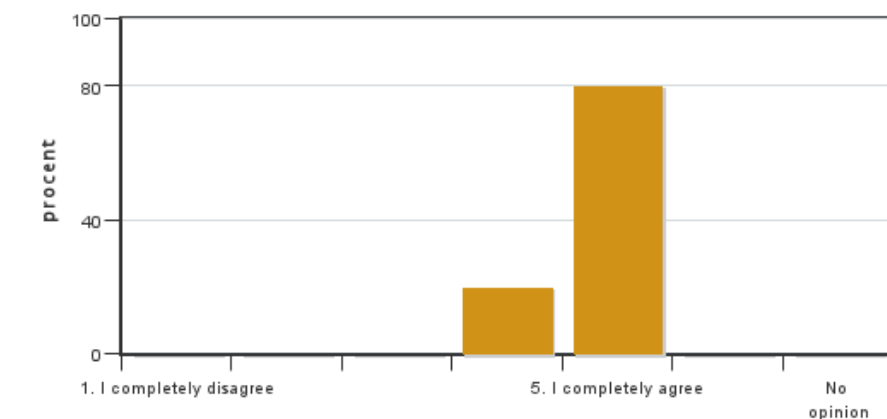


Answers: 5
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 5
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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



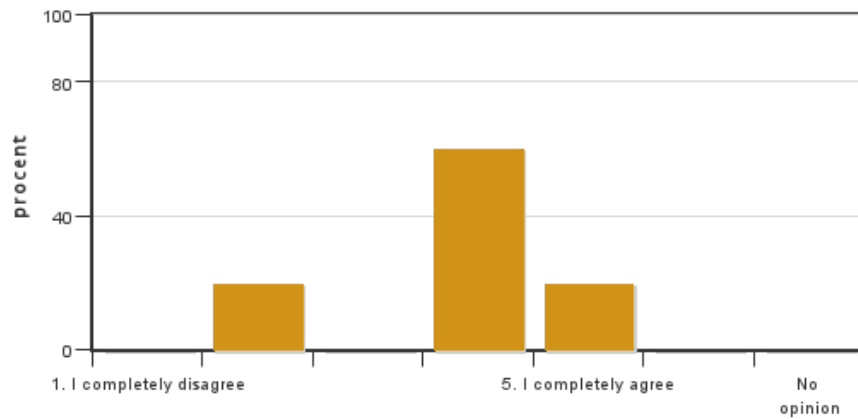
Answers: 5
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

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



No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 5

Medel: 3,8

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 1

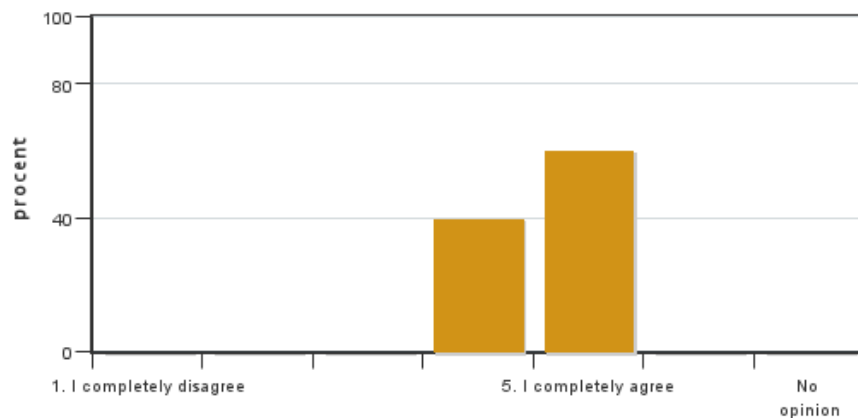
3: 0

4: 3

5: 1

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 5

Medel: 4,6

Median: 5

1: 0

2: 0

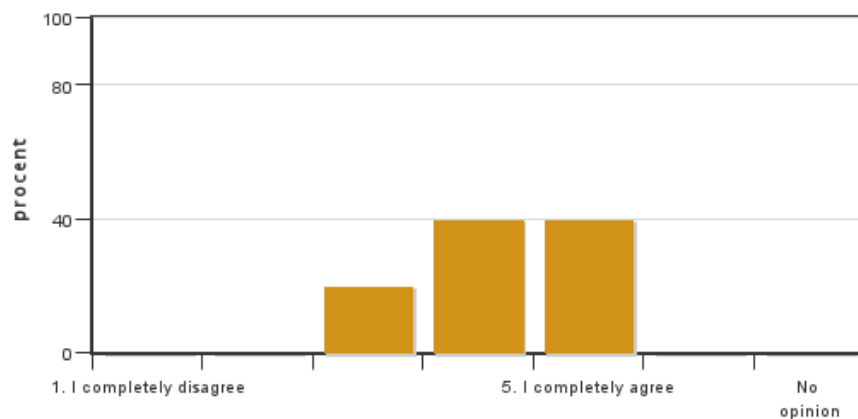
3: 0

4: 2

5: 3

No opinion: 0

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



Answers: 5

Medel: 4,2

Median: 4

1: 0

2: 0

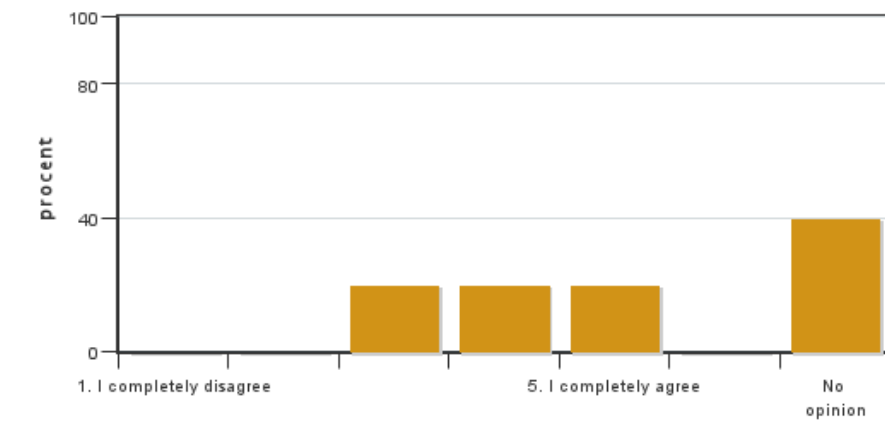
3: 1

4: 2

5: 2

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).

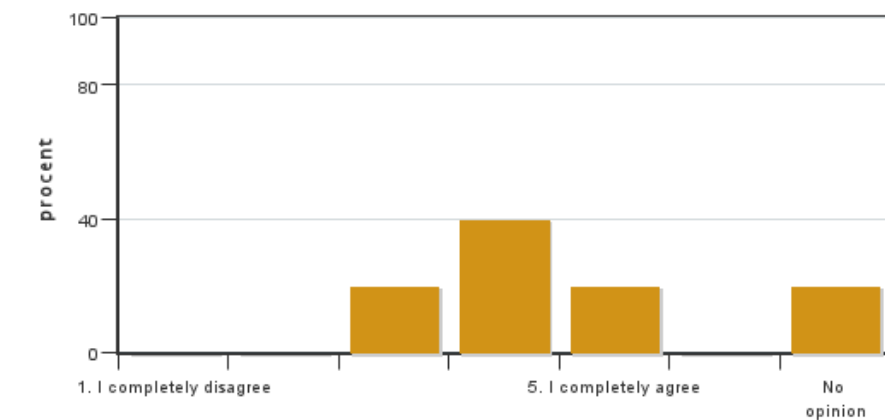


Answers: 5
Medel: 4,0
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 2

11. The course covered international perspectives.

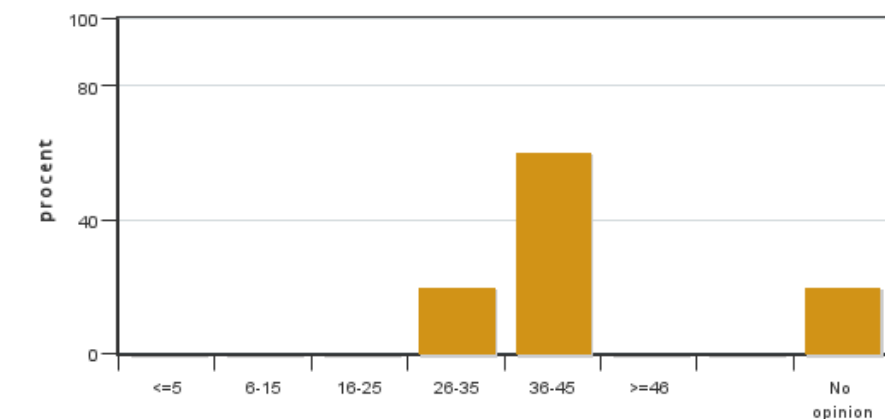


Answers: 5
Medel: 4,0
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 5
Medel: 37,5
Median: 36-45

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

No opinion: 1

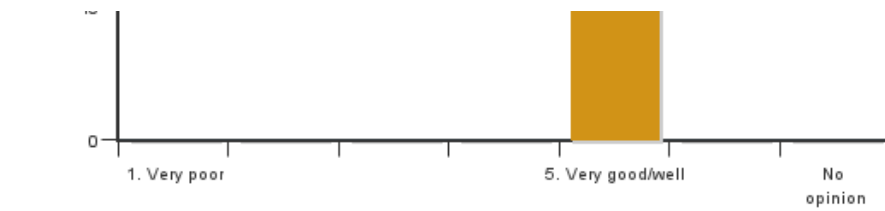
Additional own questions

13. Please rate your impression of the section Meteorology



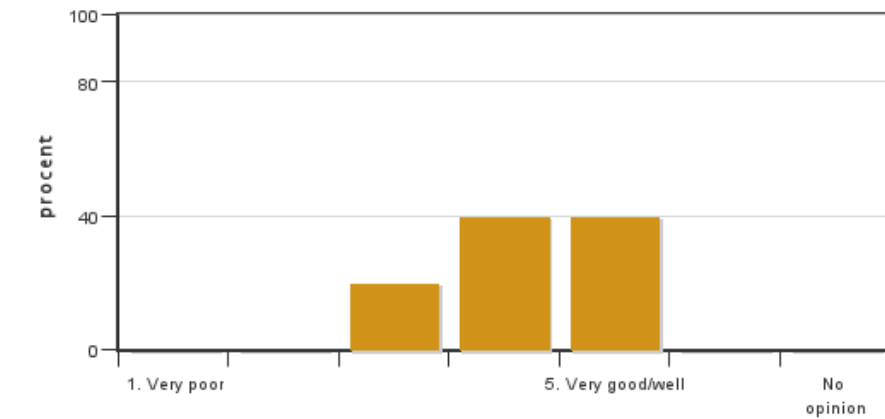
Answers: 5
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0



4: 0
5: 5
No opinion: 0

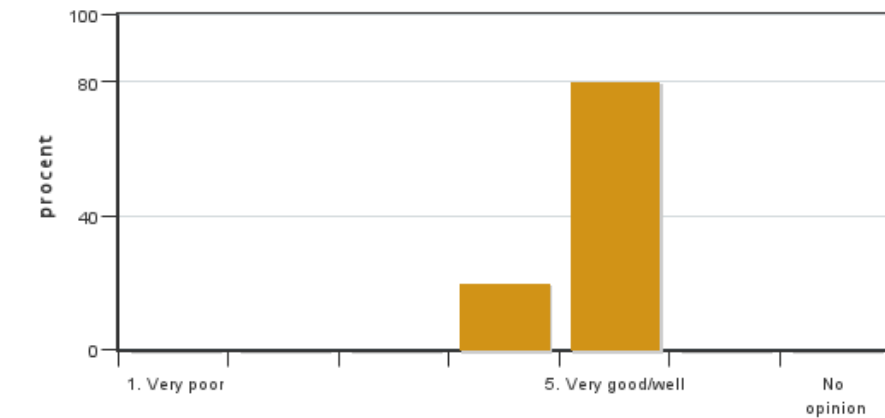
14. Please rate your impression of the section Hydrology



Answers: 5
Medel: 4,2
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 2
5: 2
No opinion: 0

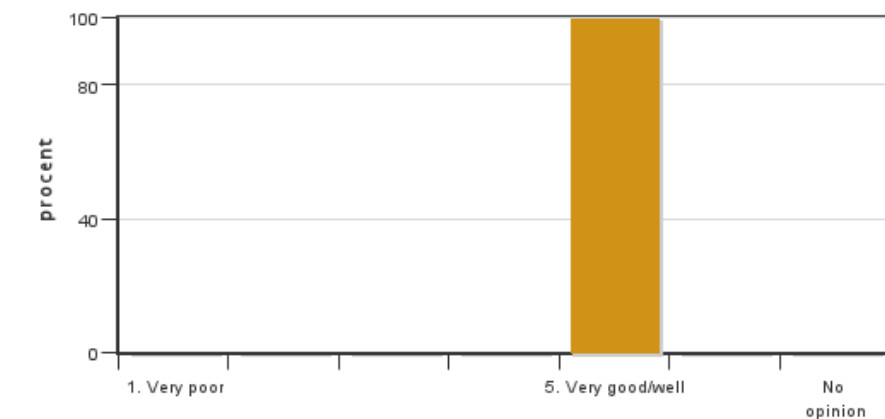
15. Please rate your impression of the section Soil Chemistry



Answers: 5
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 4
No opinion: 0

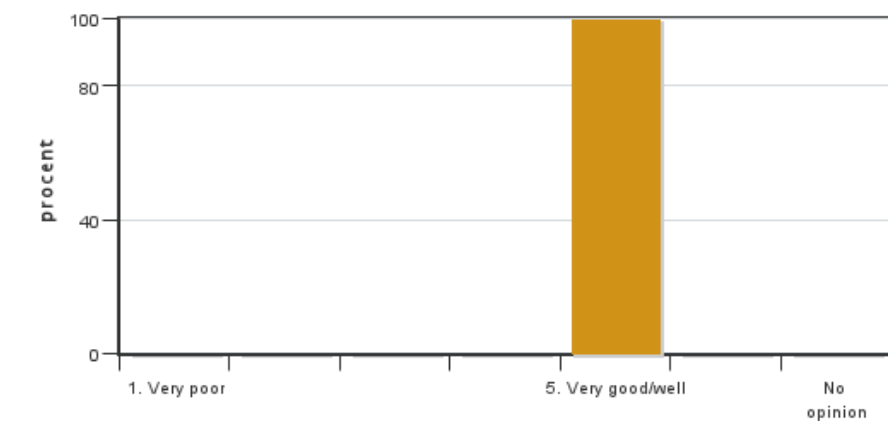
16. Please rate your impression of the section Soil Biology



Answers: 5
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 0
5: 5
No opinion: 0

17. What is your overall rating of the course assignment elements



Answers: 5
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

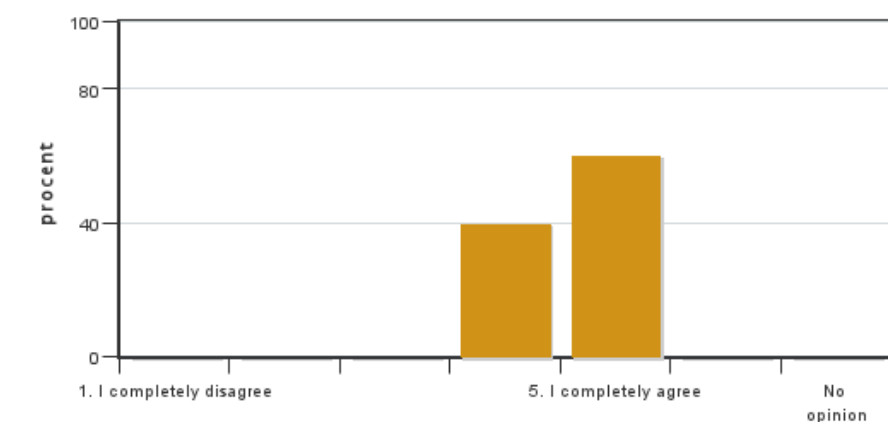
1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 0
5: 5

No opinion: 0

18. What did you like the most about the assignment elements?

18. Are there any parts that did not work so well within the assignment elements and how do you think it could be improved?

18. The course assignments and associated final presentation are a better form of examination compared to a written final exam.



Answers: 5
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

Course leaders comments

Comments on evaluation and planned measures

General

This course was held for the first time in vt2024. A relatively small number of only 6 students participated. The low number is mainly due to the pre-requisite of completing the chemistry credits in previous courses which is not in the main study path of most program students. Given that, it is highly pleasing that the students evaluated the course overall with a mean/median value of 5.0. The course is based on four topical themes, which are linked by integrated course assignments as the key learning activity. These assignments also serve as a replacement of the traditional final exam as the form of course evaluation. The students evaluated this effort positively. Some areas which could be further improved are described below together with our suggested measures for the future. These measures will be considered in the development of the vt2025 course.

Response rate

A total of 83% of students have completed the course evaluation. The high response rate is much appreciated as it provides valuable feedback for the quality of this new course. It will be a major goal to maintain this high response rate in the future.

Measure: The course leader will repeatedly stress the importance and value of the course evaluation from start to end of the course. To demonstrate that the evaluation is taken seriously, all adaptations and measures taken based on previous comments will be presented at the start of the next course.

Educational layout and design

The course aims to provide diversity in the students' learning activity by combining lectures with self-studies via reading and video material and a hands-on course assignment. We were pleased to find that both mean and median values were close to 5 (and never lower than 4) for the first 10 key evaluation criteria. The students highlighted that the course was well structured and found the course literature to be appropriate. Three out of the four topical sections were rated with 5, while a slightly lower grade for the hydrology part (mean = 4.2) was due to the wish for more lecture elements. One shortcoming noted by the students was related to the physical environment, specifically the cold room temperatures in the class room and in the computer lab. Unfortunately, the general room temperature regulation is beyond our control but we will seek opportunities for improving this aspect in the future. We emphasized links to forest management and climate change in the course assignments during which the students worked with empirical field data in combination with simulation models to apply and deepen their theoretical knowledge gained from the lectures and self-studies. We also paid attention to ensure that students have sufficient time to work on the assignments. The students rated the assignments with overall 5. Using these reports from the project assignment as course examination form was much appreciated by the students (median = 5).

Measure: We will do our best to improve the room temperature conditions by checking the functioning of the thermistors ahead of time of the course start. We will also revisit the possibility of including more lecture elements in the hydrology part.

Course content, communication and learning objectives

The Canvas course webpage was well received by the students and ensured good communication and information flow (5). The evaluation further suggests that the course content was well-linked to the learning objectives (median = 5).

Measure: We will continue to re-evaluate the structure and organization of the Canvas course webpage for the need of adjustments to maintain best possible information flow also in the future.

Student representatives comments

The course was highly appreciated and all students gave high points to all the questions. The content was interesting and relevant and the structure with assignments at the end of every module helped the students understand the subjects more deeply. Everyone also seems to appreciate not having an exam and instead having presentations and discussions. There isn't anything that needs to be improved for next year except the computer labs which were too cold. We had to sit in our winter coats and our fingers still grew too cold so that it was hard to keep on working.