Wildlife Biology
BI0872, 10169.1415

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced
Course leader = Camilla Wikenros

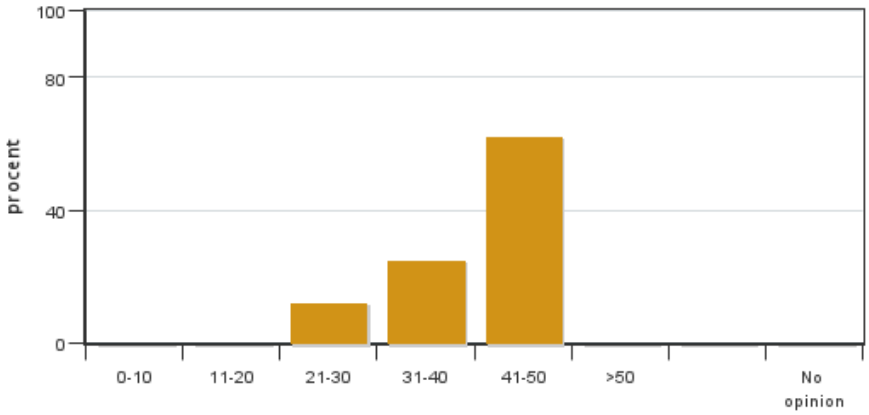
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2014-11-04 - 2014-11-30

Answers	8
Number of students	15
Answer frequency	53 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. How many hours per week have you on average spent on the course, including scheduled time?

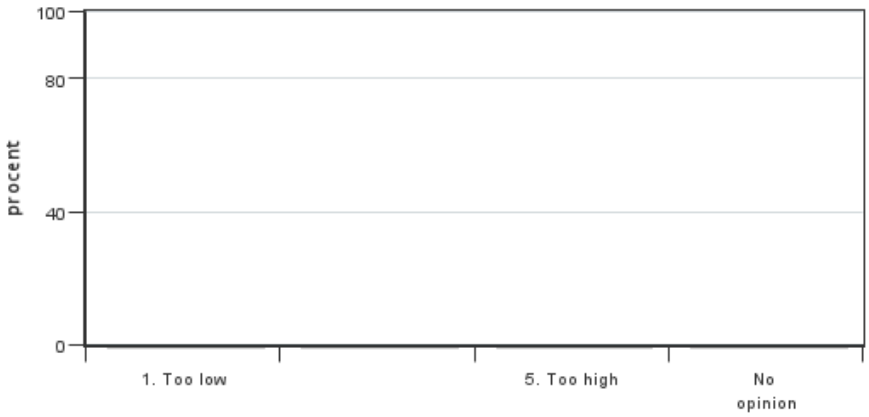


Answers: 8
Medel: 40,0
Median: 41-50

0-10: 0
11-20: 0
21-30: 1
31-40: 2
41-50: 5
>50: 0

No opinion: 0

2. How do you estimate your background knowledge before the course?

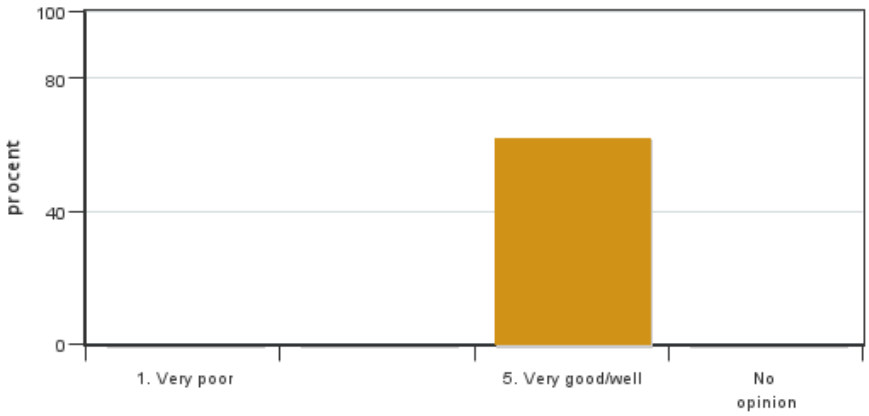


Answers: 8
Medel: 3,4
Median: 3

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

No opinion: 0

3. How has the administration of the course worked?

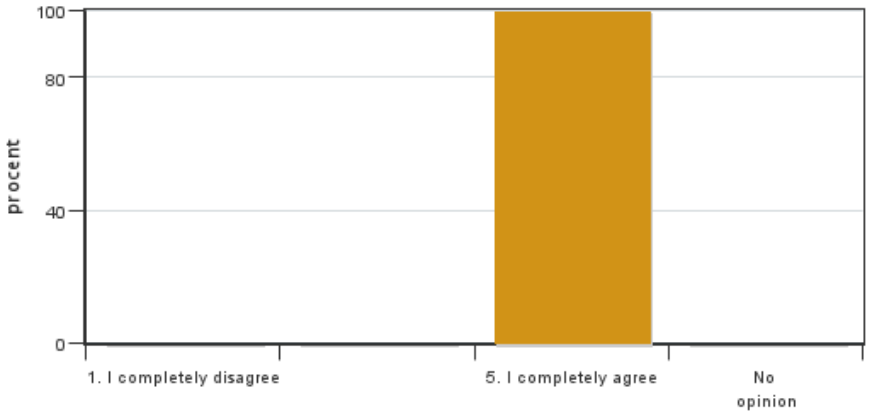


Answers: 8
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

4. The overall impression of the course is very good.

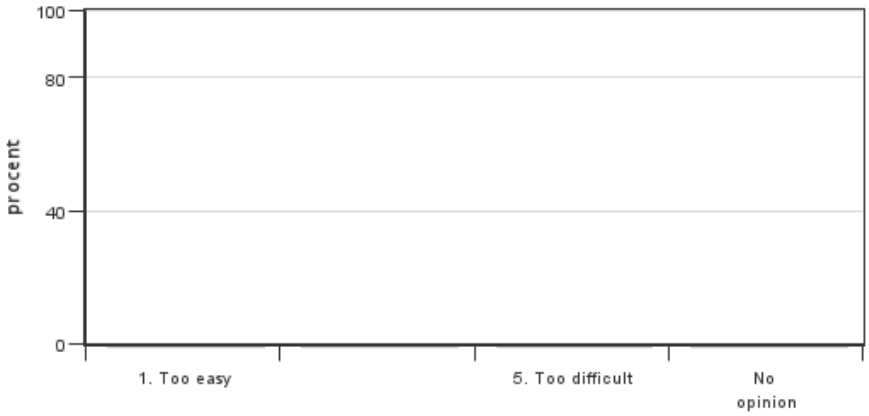


Answers: 8
Medel: 5,0
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

5. The level of difficulty for this course has been

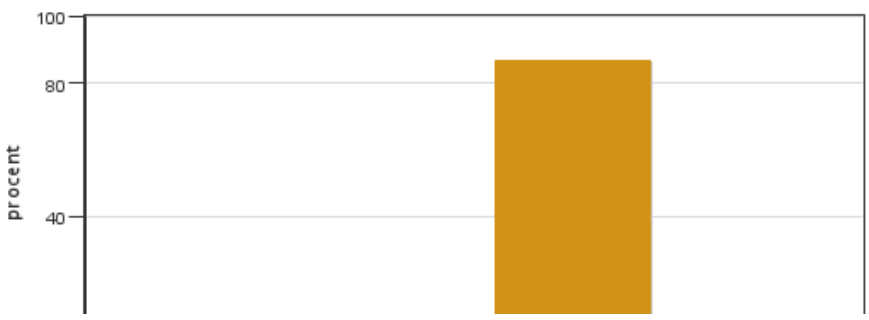


Answers: 8
Medel: 2,9
Median: 3

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

No opinion: 0

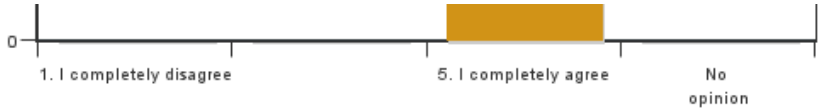
6. I consider that this course has taken up all of the learning outcomes described in the course syllabus. If you select (1), (2), (3), or (4) please describe which learning outcome(s) has/have not been sufficiently covered.



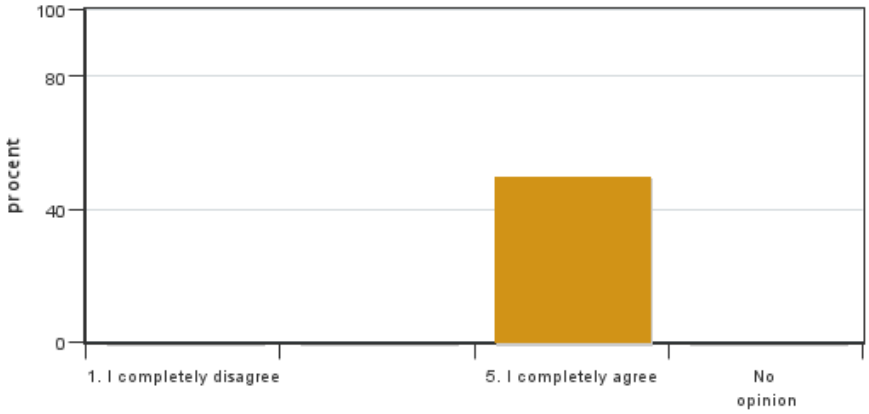
Answers: 8
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0



7. The grading criteria were clear and easy to understand

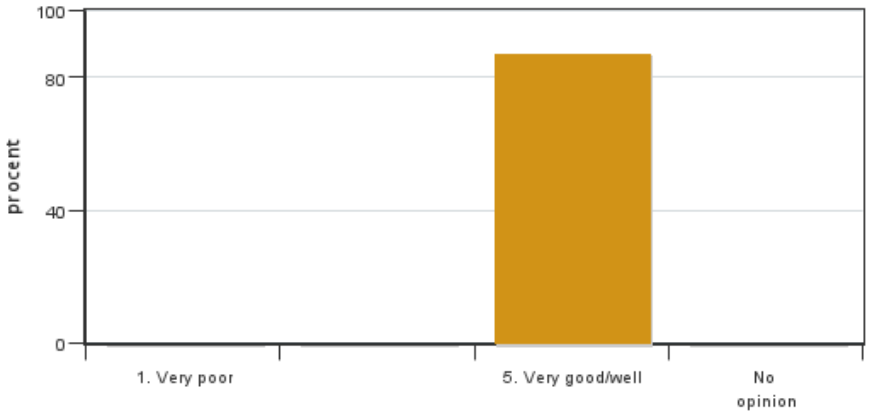


Answers: 8
Medel: 4,1
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 0

8. I believe that the discussion climate during the course has been good

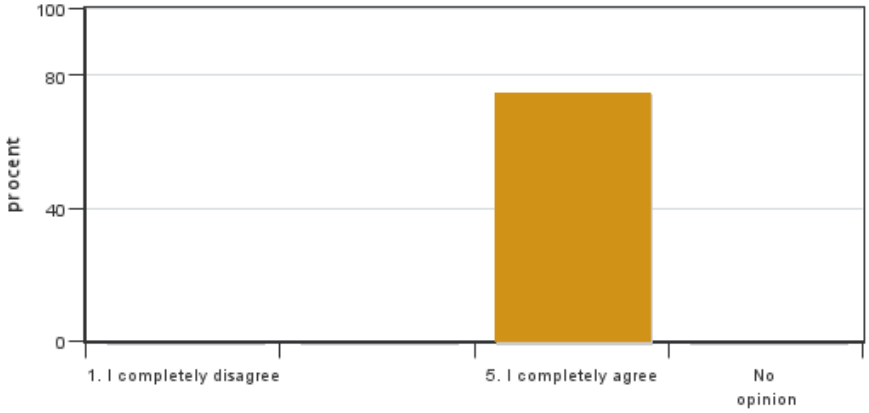


Answers: 8
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

9. I believe that the necessary infrastructure, such as teaching facilities and equipment, has functioned effectively.



Answers: 8
Medel: 4,5
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

Course leaders comments

Course evaluation – Wildlife biology (SLU10169), 15 ECTS – autumn 2014

It is very nice to conclude that the students have been very satisfied with the Wildlife biology course according to this evaluation.

On average students have spent 40 hours per week on the course but some students spent more time. Therefore, for the next course there will likely not be lectures/exercises added without excluding other moments as the workload seem to be appropriate. Most students had enough background knowledge for the course and the level of difficulty of the course averaged 2.9 so no further actions will be taken regarding the level of the course. The students also agreed almost completely (average 4.9) that the course has taken up all of the learning outcomes of the Wildlife biology course.

Students very much appreciated the lectures that were said to be very interesting. The course will also next year be tightly connected to ongoing research and important field techniques used at Grimsö, as well as having lectures and exercises led by for example the Swedish environmental protection agency, the county board administrations and the Swedish association for hunting and wildlife management. The students found the discussion climate during the course to be very good. The same was reported from the teachers who generally thought the discussions with the students were very good.

The students thought the administration of the course was very good. Also the necessary infrastructure (teaching facilities and equipment) seemed to have been satisfying to the students. However, the use of the mansion ("Mässen") for evening activities by other courses (happened two evenings during the Wildlife biology course) was not appreciated by all students. For next year this hopefully can be solved some other way, but due to lack of appropriate common rooms for evening activities this may not always be easily solved.

The grading criteria did not seem to be totally clear to the students and for next year this will be acknowledged. That is, at the start of the course when information about the learning outcomes and grading criteria are given, that session may be expanded to include more examples of what may separate for example grade 3 from grade 4 in the various categories that are evaluated (individual projects, oral presentations, and final exam etc.).

Additional comments according to the summary based on discussions students had with each other during the time of their stay at Grimsö made by the student representative (see "Studentrepresentantens kommentarer")

Again, it is very nice to hear that the students overall were very satisfied with the entire course including lectures, exercises, excursions as well as the fruitful discussions during lectures and book discussions.

For the next year the following things will be taken into account. The time allocated for individual projects will as far as possible be scheduled to full half or whole days (not single hours now and then). Also, two keys for the main building will be provided during next course (which however easily could have been arranged during this course if requested). The teachers will be reminded to translate their entire power point presentations into English. The course leader is aware of the drawbacks of the kitchenette and this will hopefully be solved in the future.

Camilla Wikenros

Student representatives comments

Course Evaluation – Wildlife Biology (SLU10169), 15 ECTS – autumn 2014

The following summary of the statistics on the online evaluation of the course is based on the answers from 8 (out of 15) students.

The students spent in average 40 hours per week studying for the course and the background knowledge before the course was estimated to be relatively good. The administration of the course worked relatively well for most of the students. Everyone agreed fully to the statement "The overall impression of the course is very good".

The level of difficulty of the course was estimated to be appropriate and most students think all of the learning outcomes described in the course syllabus have been taken up. The grading criteria however didn´t seem to be very clear. Fur-thermore the discussion climate was evaluated to be very good.

Regarding the necessary infrastructure, such as teaching facilities and equipment students were not completely satisfied.

The following summary is based on discussions students had with each other dur-ing the time of their stay at Grimsö.

Regarding the necessary infrastructure, such as teaching facilities and equipment:

It was sometimes a bit of a challenge to get further away from the station (for example to buy food) since not everyone had a car. The students however coop-erated well with each other and it worked out very good after a while.

An improvement suggestion would be to provide at least two keys for the main building for the students so that if there is someone inside the building with the key, another person can still access the building. The fact that there was only one key available caused a lot of frustration. Also the relatively small kitchen and food storage place that was available for all 15 students seemed to be not very sufficient. This situation is of course not optimal but is however manageable dur-ing the two month stay at the station.

Furthermore students were not very happy with the fact that there were lectures for other courses given upstairs in Mässen since there are the showers and toi-lettes and the only common rum students could gather in the evening.

It was however also very appreciated that most of the researchers giving lec-tures were also after their lectures easily reachable for questions in their offices.

Regarding the schedule/ content of the course:

Most of the students thought the DNA lab was very useful. The practical work in the lab as well as the analysis afterwards.

Furthermore did all students agree that they learned a lot through the excur-sions and fieldwork (hunt, hazle grouse survey, pellet count etc.) that we had throughout the course and that it made the course very unique and much more fun. Also the ageing exercise and other more active parts of the course helped a lot to understand the subject more and to get some more “real life experience”. This was also the case for the group and individual projects. Regarding (especial-ly the individual) project were however some complains that the scheduled time for these were often rather short time periods distributed over a longer time. It would help to have some more time in a row – like a whole day or at least half a day - to be able to get into the subject. Some students also suggested it would be better to hand in the report before the exam so that there is enough time to only focus on the studies for the exam.

Also the red deer excursion and the visit at the Jägareförbundet in Öster Malma was nicely arranged and interesting.

Also the many discussions we had during/ after lectures were very helpful for most of the students. Since it was always a person giving the lecture who was ac-tually working with the topic that was presented and since most of them were very experienced, in-depth questions could be asked. The book discussions were also very helpful to understand the content of the book and the whole subject better.

Another comment was that a lot of power point slides from presentations given by Swedish persons (especially in figures) were not in English but only in Swe-dish. This year it was however not a real problem since also all of the non Swedes in the course could understand Swedish to a certain degree – For anoth-er course however it might bother people if they don´t understand it when they go through the slides again by themselves.

Summary

It was in general appreciated that the course had a very good mix of learning by “doing it yourself” (excursion, ageing..) compiling the knowledge yourselve (bookdiscussions, projects…) and listening to experienced people (lectures). The course is however also very intense and the lectures in addition with self-studies took a lot of time. Nevertheless it was rather few negative aspects that can be mentioned. Some of the students called the course “the best course within their studies so far”.