Studio – Urban ecology for landscape architecture
LK0347, 40018.1920

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced
Course leader = Sofia Eskilsdotter

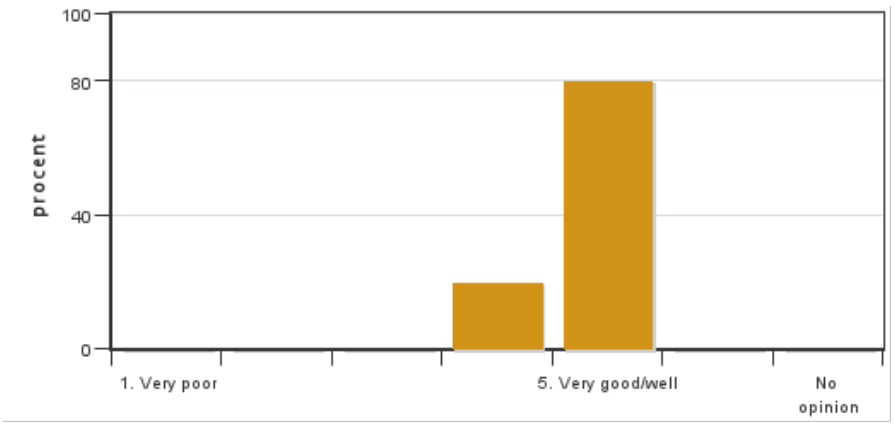
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2020-06-04 - 2020-06-21

Answers	20
Number of students	31
Answer frequency	64 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

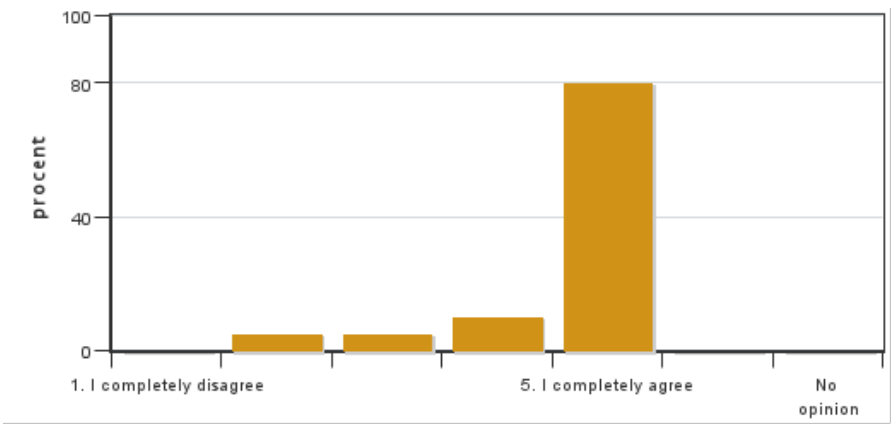


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

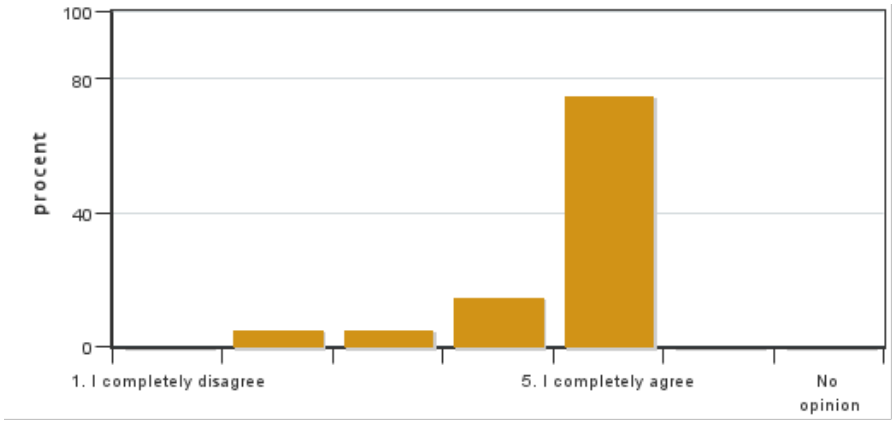


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0

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

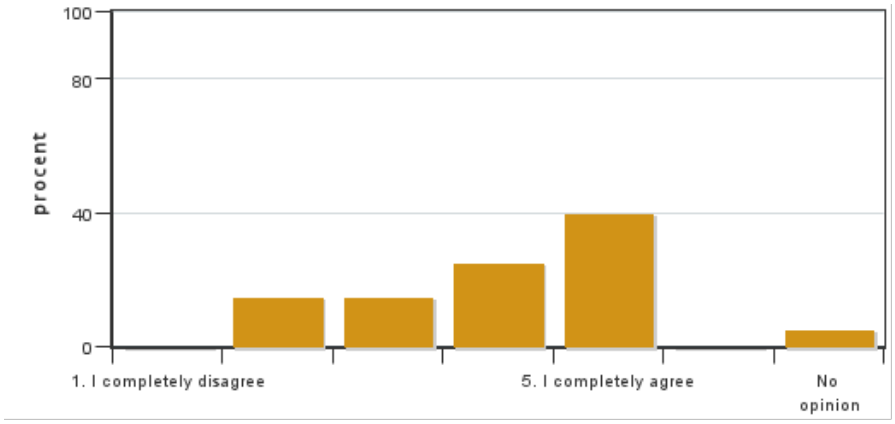


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 1
3: 1
4: 3
5: 15

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

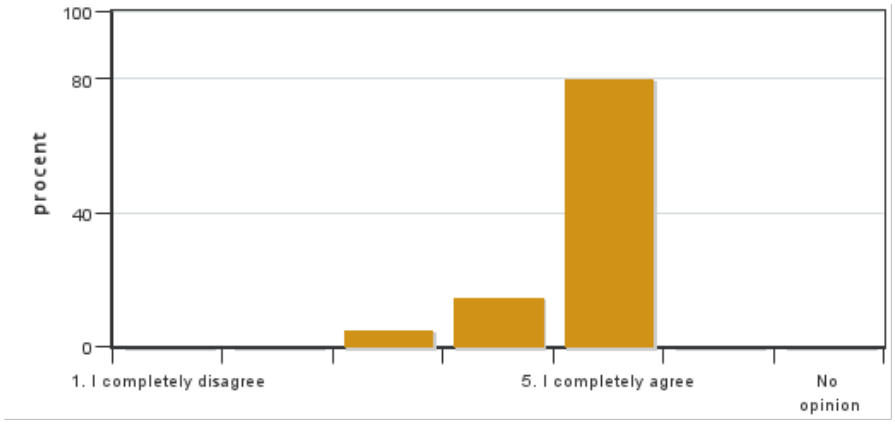


Answers: 20
Medel: 3,9
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 20
Medel: 4,8
Median: 5

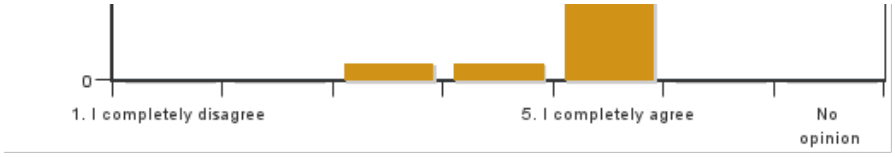
1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 3
5: 16

No opinion: 0

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

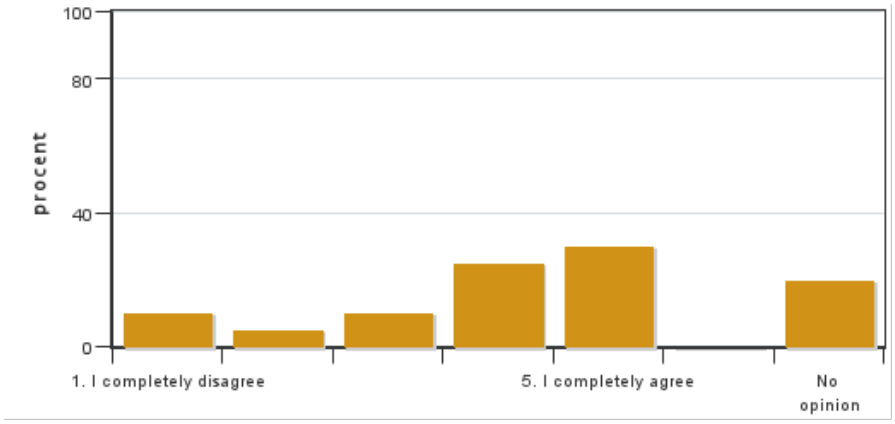
Answers: 20
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 1
5: 18



No opinion: 0

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

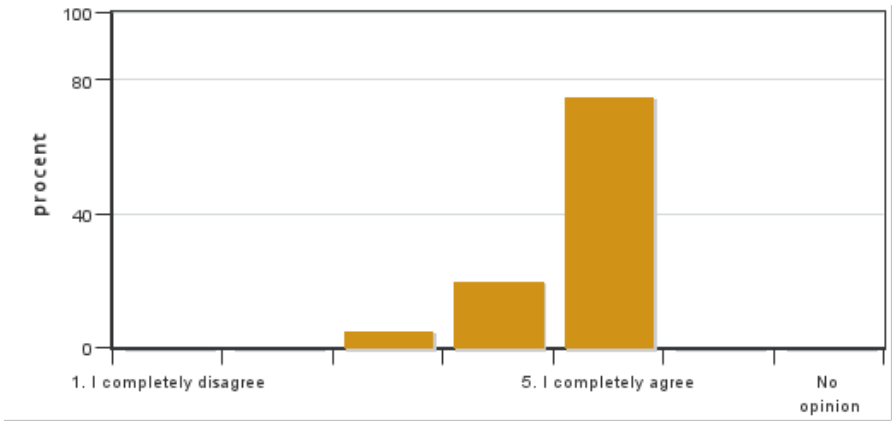


Answers: 20
Medel: 3,8
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 4

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

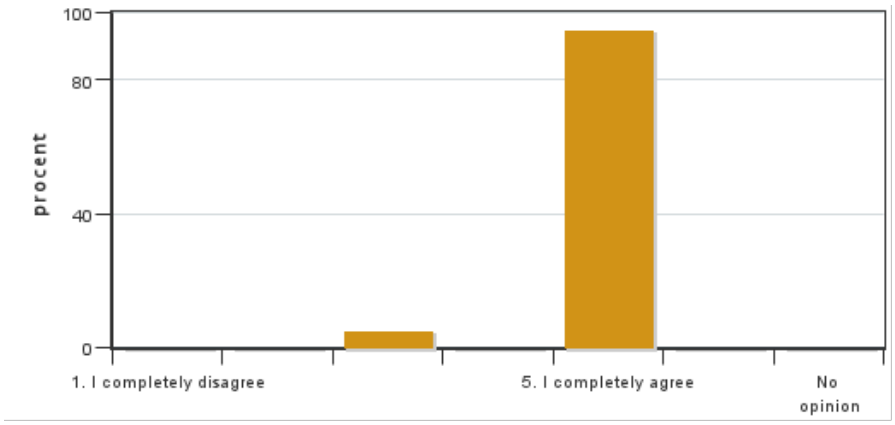


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 4
5: 15

No opinion: 0

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

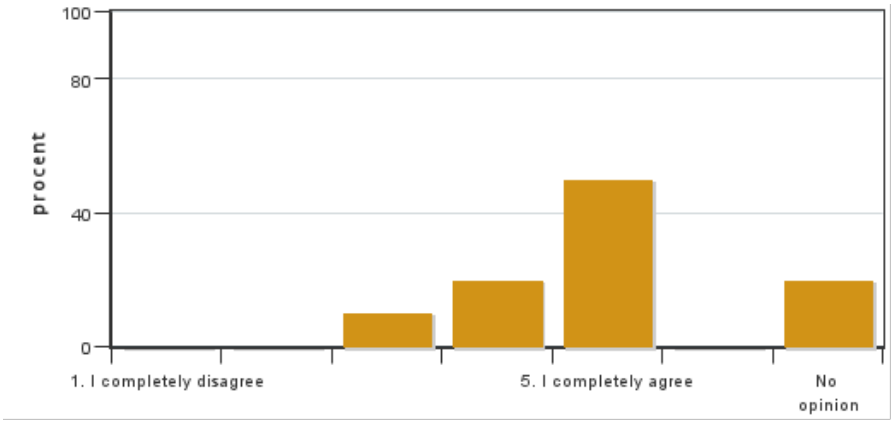


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,9
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 0
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).

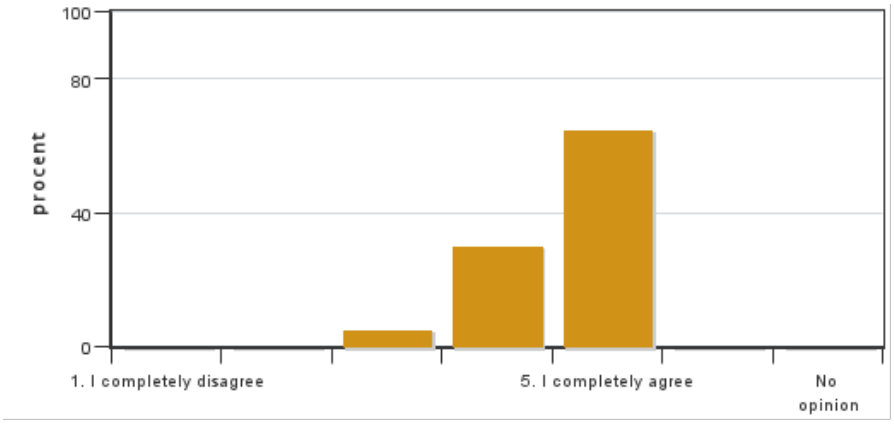


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,5
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 4

11. The course covered international perspectives.

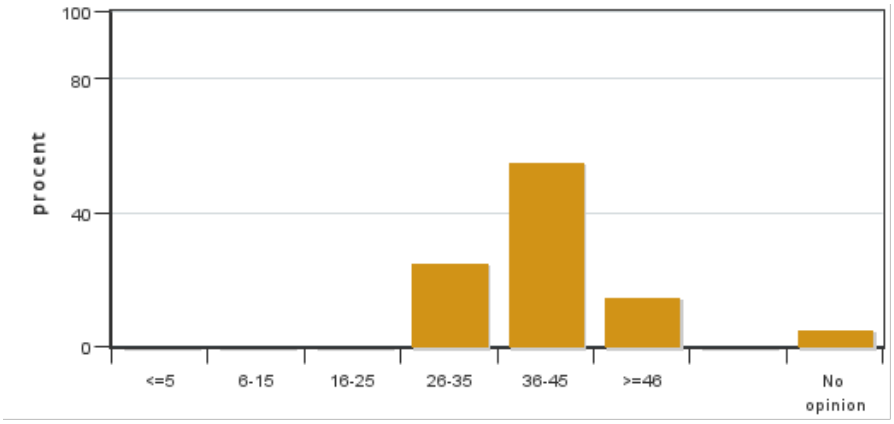


Answers: 20
Medel: 4,6
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 6
5: 13

No opinion: 0

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

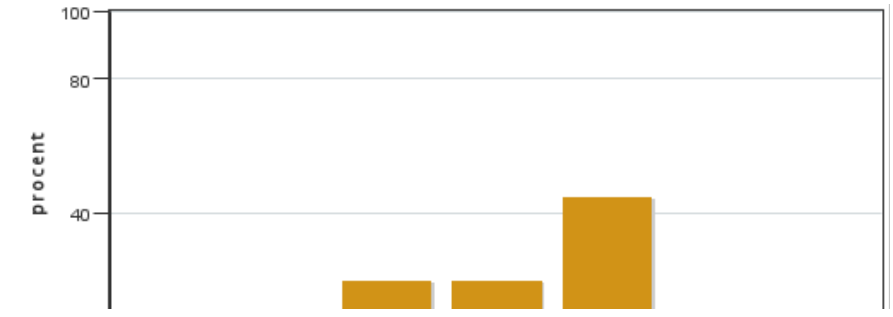


Answers: 20
Medel: 38,3
Median: 36-45

≤5: 0
6-15: 0
16-25: 0
26-35: 5
36-45: 11
≥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: 4,0
Median: 4

1: 1
2: 1
3: 4
4: 4
5: 9

No opinion: 1

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

Course leaders comments

We sensed that the course was appreciated, but we never imagined getting such a high score, especially as it was the first year and the covid circumstances were more than challenging... We are truly thankful to all our students who contributed in a big way during the course as well as in this evaluation. The ideas and feedback we have received will help us develop the course further. Thank you all!

We fully understand, and also agree on, the feedback concerning the accessibility of course information. There are several reasons to why we didn't reach all the way and we believe that the analysis of the student representative summons it in a very good way. An additional explanation is that we lost a considerate amount of time - due to rapidly needing to replan the course due to covid - which led to a delay of some of the preparatory work associated to developing a new course. Early on we also understood the problems of "zoom-fatigue" which influenced us to shorten down our time together online thus increasing the pressure on the individual student to digest the course information. Next year we will use Teams from the start as well as provide a full course guide at the start, with (almost) all information on assignments etc.

As this is a studio course on advanced level, we will need to continue to have high demands on the students ability to visually and orally present different ideas in an independent way. However we will carry on improving our tutoring and support in this matter, as well as consider some adjustments in our submission requirements. We will also continue to challenge ourselves and our students to develop the different technical skills needed in online communication and collaboration, as this will become even more important in the future.

Even though we do cover the different aspects of sustainable development, (19 of 20 students give the highest score on this) there will always be room for improvement on how we can facilitate an even better learning on this. Next step for us is to enhance how we cover the correlation between different ecological factors and financial sustainability - what is urban nature worth in monetary terms?

Concerning the balance of workload throughout the course, we believe it will be somewhat easier to get started "right away" next year, as all info will be available and we all will be better adjusted to distance learning. The uncertainty factor will hopefully be much lower. With that said, we believe that time-management is a constant challenge in professions like ours, where motivation and engagement never dies (almost never...) - and work is both fun and rewarding. As teachers we can do a lot to mitigate the peaks and help you better navigate between your and our requirements - this we will continue to find new ways to do better.

Student representatives comments

Course evaluation

1. My overall impression of the course is:

16 from 20 gave the highest score. The students are happy that this new course was introduced to the master's program at SLU. They also highlight that the supervisory relationship between leachers, lecturers and students was very good. They felt understood and that the teachers cared about the problems and thoughts from the students.

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

16 from 20 give the highest score. One student is dissatisfied, he says that the content was too broad, and the reading/listening instructions have not been clear enough.

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

15 from 20 students give the highest score. Most of the students say that the prior knowledge was sufficient for the course or that they had the chance to deepen their knowledge during the course. These comments I think are about

the content. One student note that the technical requirements (recording presentation, pecha kucha etc.) have been too high and that it took too much time to do those things.

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

For many students it was confusing to navigate in canvas. The information was split over different places sometimes, which made it hard to get the whole picture. Sometimes the information came (too) late. I think the teachers didn't want to overwhelm us in the beginning with all the information, that's why they didn't announced everything from the start. But I agree that this was confusing sometimes. The different A1:1, A1:2 etc. is probably a good idea, but next time it should be communicated more clearly from the beginning. Also, I think that many of these things have been even more complicated due to the special circumstances. The emailing and the teams worked well.

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

16 from 20 give the highest score. The students like that there was a wide range of different literature to explore and study. One also notes that it was good having different assignments with different focus and content. One student mentions that the strict style of presenting was not that good. Maybe it is better to leave this free, up to the students to decide how to present their work.

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

18 from 20 give the highest score. The students appreciate a lot that there was no feeling of the typical teacher-student hierarchy. They also mention that there has been a good group feeling, despite the corona situation.

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

The result of this question is not clear. Many students have not been happy with the situation, because they didn't have the equipment, they would have needed to work well. All of the comments are linked to the corona situation.

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

15 from 20 students give the highest score. Some of the students are not happy with the strict formats of the assignments. They feel that a big part of the work could not been presented this way and it took quite long to adapt to the different types of submissions. But there is also an understanding that we as landscape architects have to learn how to show in short time the best points of our work. One student also lacks more detailed instructions for the assignment (which scale for which map etc.).

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

19 from 20 students give the highest score. Especially social and environmental aspects have been covered, but financial sustainability not.

10. The course covered international perspectives.

13 from 20 students give the highest score. One student highlights the high value of having a mixed class (Swedish and international students). Another one says that having these international perspectives was the strongest part of this course.

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

11 from 20 student say that they have spend about 36-45 hours per week on this course. Some students say that in the beginning of the course they didn't worked that much, but in the last weeks they worked a lot, the workload was unbalanced throughout the course. Some worked even more than 40 hours per week, therefore for some students the workload was too high.

12. I believe the course has included a gender and equality aspects, 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).

10 of 20 students give the highest score, while 4 give 'no opinion'. No clear message in this question.

13. Please rate how you experienced participating in teaching on distance

9 of 20 students give the highest rate, 4 give (4) and other 4 give (3). Some of the students are happy that even with the corona situation they had the chance to improve their skills and learn a lot of new and interesting stuff. The flipped classroom and the Microsoft teams helped a lot. But of course, it would have been way easier to have the course in real life.

Some of the negative aspects are, that working in a group is really hard when you are not in school, even more when you don't know each other. One student criticized that he had to pay a lot of study fee, but couldn't use most of the university services during this course.

14. Please share what worked well when participating in teaching on distance

Contact/communication with the teachers, Microsoft teams, Adobe license, group meetings, presentations, tutoring, recorded lessons with Q&A session afterwards, written feedback on every assignment, no travelling time from home to university, pecha-kucha- format, zoom meetings, working on it's own, reading literature, online lectures and tour-visits, tables, technical solutions for tutoring and lectures;

15. Please share what worked less well when participating in teaching on distance

Tutoring, group work (lack of communication), unclear/late information, self-discipline when getting tired and it is easy to get distracted, hard to find the focus and stay focused while working, lack of personal contact (sit down together as a group and draw on the same paper), communication with classmates and teachers would have been easier in real life, better planning for the whole course and more time for the assignments, technical stuff (sharing files, presentations etc.), problems with internet connection, guidelines/instructions are not clear enough, keeping track of all information/email, finding information on canvas, social part is missing a lot;