Agroecology Basics
LB0108, 10163.2021

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced
Course leader = Teun Dekker

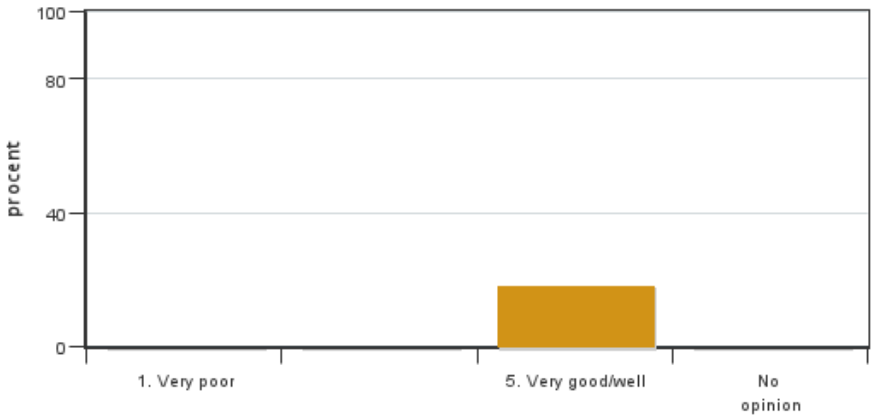
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2020-10-25 - 2020-11-15

Answers	22
Number of students	32
Answer frequency	68 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

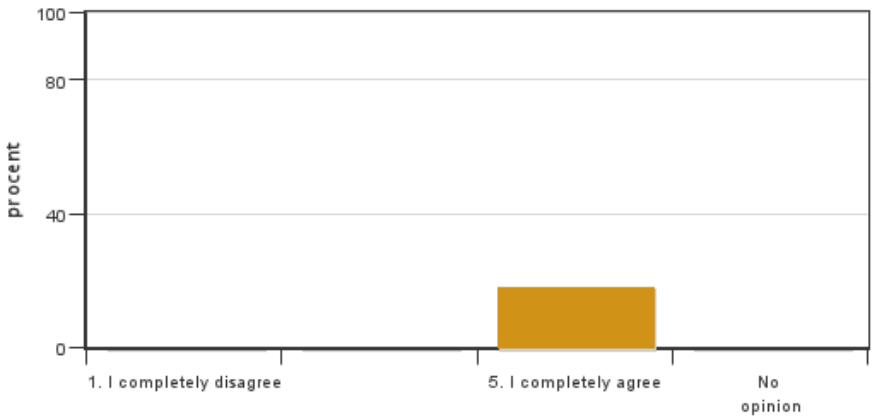


Answers: 22
Medel: 4,0
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 0

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

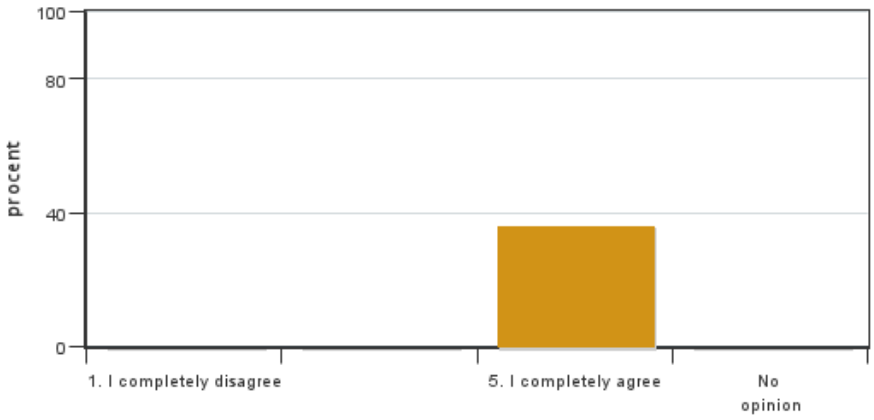


Answers: 22
Medel: 3,8
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 1
3: 6
4: 11
5: 4

No opinion: 0

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

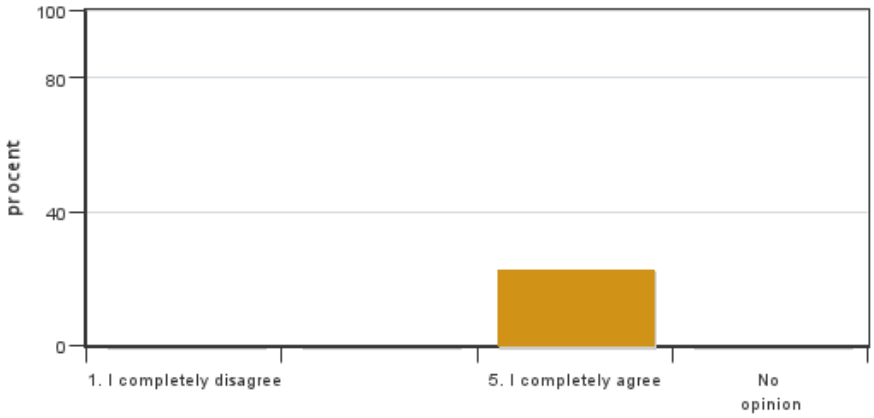


Answers: 22
Medel: 4,2
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 3
4: 11
5: 8

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

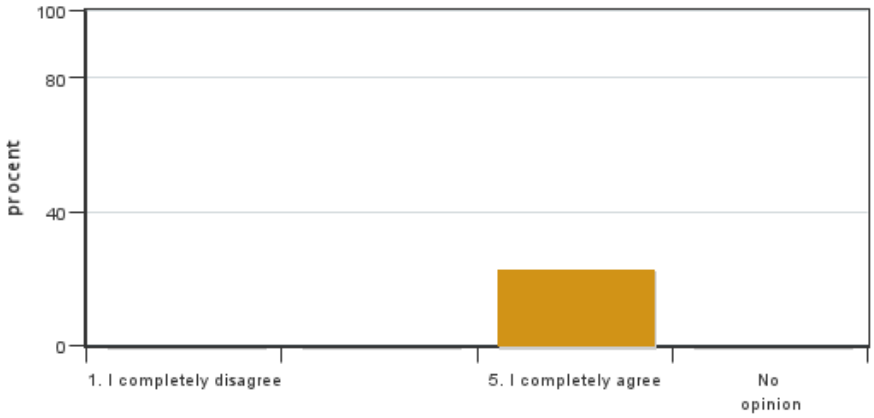


Answers: 22
Medel: 3,9
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 1
3: 6
4: 10
5: 5

No opinion: 0

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

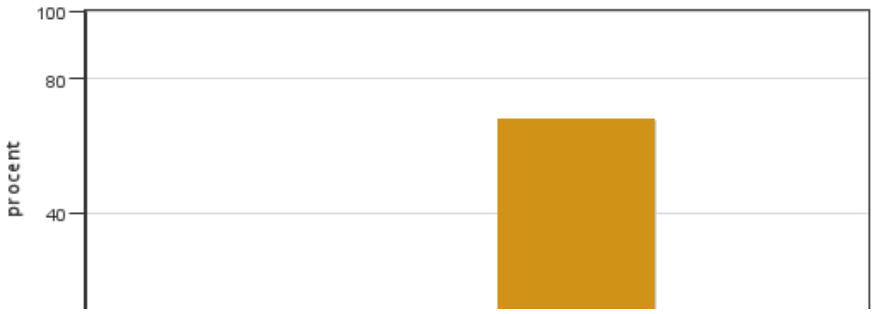


Answers: 22
Medel: 4,0
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 6
4: 11
5: 5

No opinion: 0

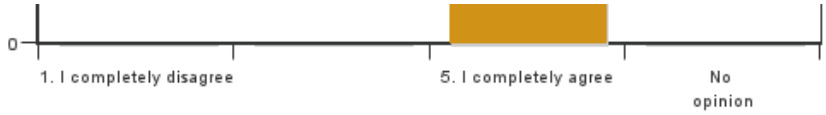
6. The social learning environment has been inclusive, respecting differences of opinion.



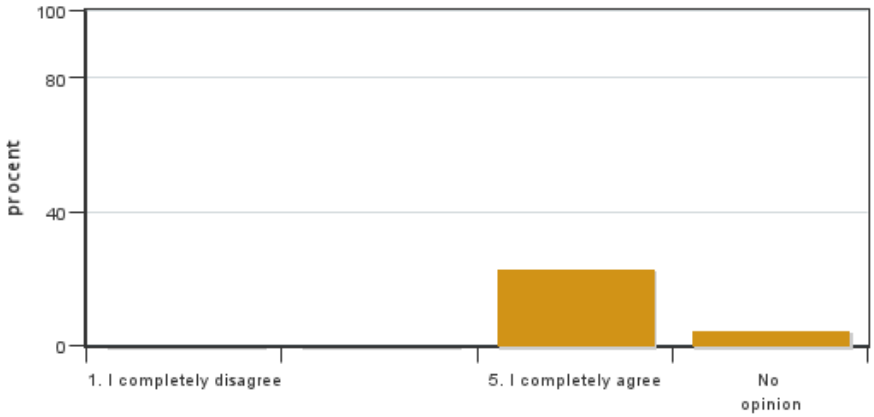
Answers: 22
Medel: 4,5
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 0



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

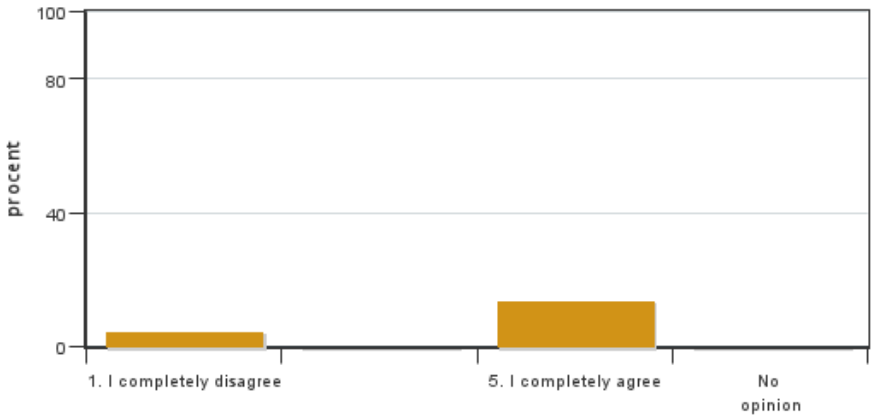


Answers: 22
Medel: 4,1
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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

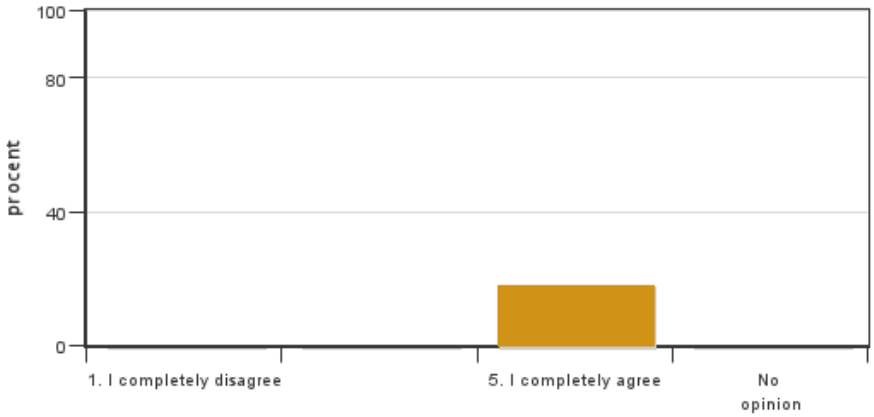


Answers: 22
Medel: 3,4
Median: 3

1: 1
2: 3
3: 8
4: 7
5: 3

No opinion: 0

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

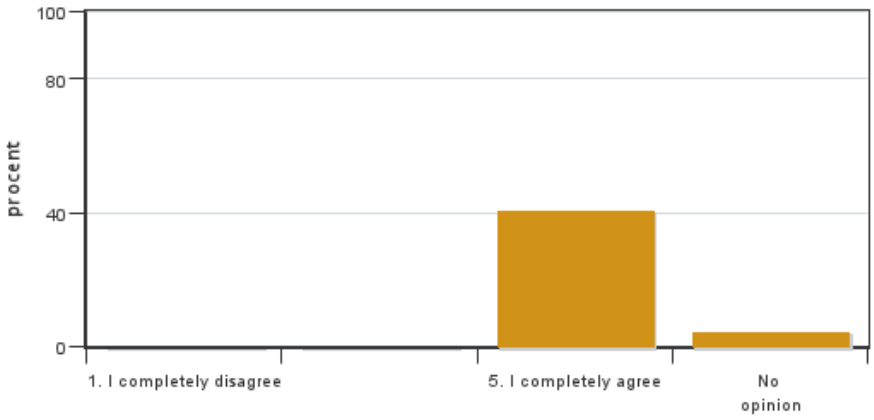


Answers: 22
Medel: 3,9
Median: 4

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

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).

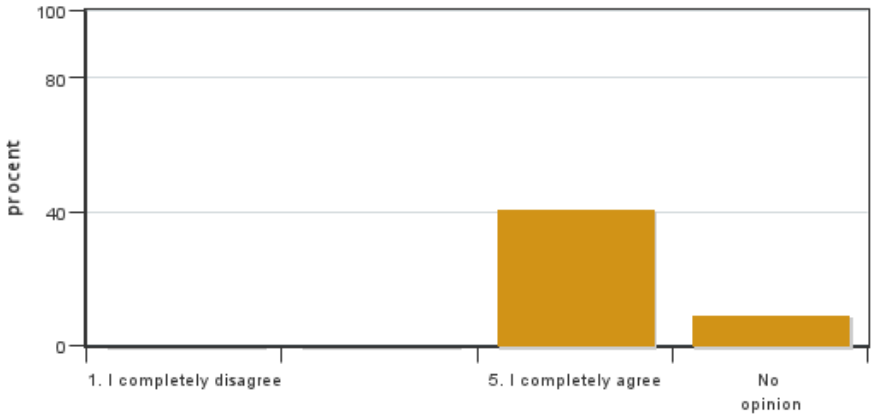


Answers: 22
Medel: 4,2
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 5
4: 7
5: 9

No opinion: 1

11. The course covered international perspectives.

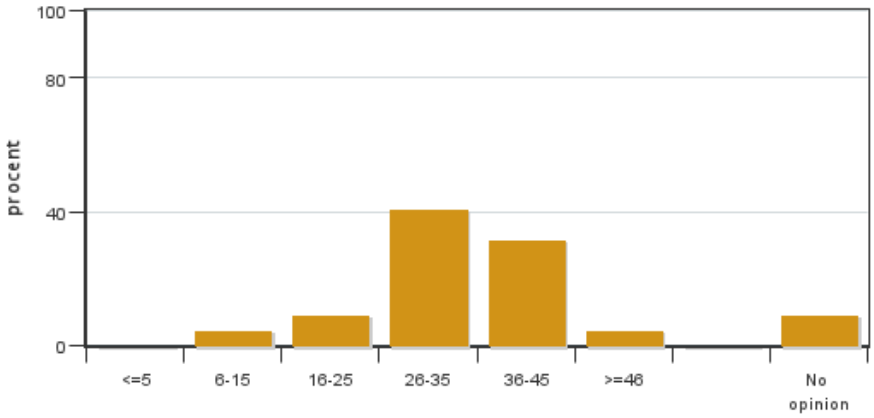


Answers: 22
Medel: 4,2
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 2
3: 2
4: 7
5: 9

No opinion: 2

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

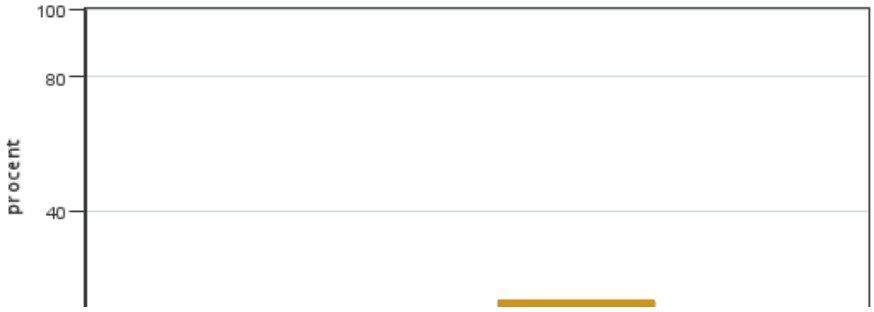


Answers: 22
Medel: 32,3
Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
6-15: 1
16-25: 2
26-35: 9
36-45: 7
≥46: 1

No opinion: 2

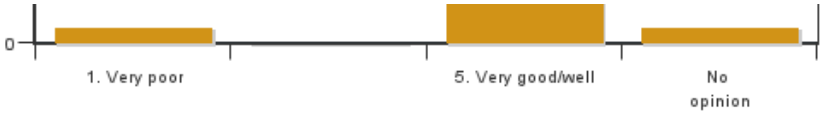
13. If relevant, what is your overall experience of participating in all or part of your course online?



Answers: 22
Medel: 3,5
Median: 4

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

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

Course Evaluation Agroecology Basics, LB0108

Replies of the course responsible (Teun Dekker) to the scores and comments.

1.My overall impression of the course is:

As an introductory course we aim to provide a palette of topics that are interconnected in agroecology. It provides an interdisciplinary learning framework, which therefore may feel at times somewhat loosely connected. Future editions of the course will focus on making that connection more clear through exercises and assignments.

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

See also my response to 1. It is of course In addition, the interconnectivity will be introduced more clearly at the onset and further strengthened during the course. In the coming year some course elements will be reduced whereas other elements will be more emphasized.

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

The link between course readings and topics will be made more clear. Students that have too little prior knowledge in an area can selective read on suggested topics to feel more confident. The link between course reading and course content has also been discussed directly with the students as a point to improve on.

4.The information about the course was easily accessible

Apologies for the many and sometimes late changes in the schedule. There were very good reasons for this (particularly the pandemic) and it will be substantially improved in the future.

5.The various course components have supported my learning

See also 1 and 2: we will make improvements in interdisciplinary connectivity between course elements, readings, exercises and assignments.

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

As an introductory course this deserves much emphasis and we are happy that this is appreciated, even though things were difficult considering the pandemic.

7.The physical learning environment has been satisfactory.

Hopefully it will be better next year, when the global health situation returns to normal.

8.The examination provides opportunities to demonstrate what I have learned during the course.

The assignments were to build up toward the final assignments. This was clearly not so well understood clearly. We agree that some of the assignments are not necessary or can be done more efficiently. In the next year's edition the assignments will change quite a bit, also in the light of point 1-3.

9.The course covered the sustainability aspect

Indeed we did not get the chance to dig into economic sustainability. This was planned to be in, but it did not happen because of lack of lecturers. I really hope this will be solved next year. Fully agreed.

10.The course covered international aspects.

Agroecology is evidently very internationally oriented. This emanates from many of the course elements. To include more will be hard in the already busy schedule. Perhaps we can provide extra video material as a support for that.

11.On average I spent .. many hourse per week on the course.

We think that the responses reflect both that the course is demanding, but also that students are enthusiastic and wish to learn more. It is hard with such a broad background in the student body to get a number of hours that fits everyone. We will make sure that with revisions of the course the load will not increase.

12.I believe the course has included gender and equality aspects regarding the content as well as the teaching practices

No comment.

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

Hopefully the many little hiccups will disappear with experience of teachers, IT and students. The teaching on distance will probably remain for some of the course content, even after the pandemic. We ll address the comments provided. They are helpful.

Student representatives comments

The evaluation was carried out very well, with 22/32 students replying to this survey as well as an additional google poll we sent out. I met with the course leaders on the 17th of November to disucss the feedback and come up with ideas on how to improve the course next year. There were some really good ideas and I think that these changes will come into effect for the next round of students.

In particular, we discussed 3 areas of improvement:

-reduce the amount of presentation time and replace with more seminars. And at least when there are presentations, the students need to be split up into smaller groups so that we don't spend so much time listening to the entire class. With fewer presentations to listen to, we will engage more with the content and be able to have more in-depth discussion.

-improve the overall course structure. Since there are many subjects to cover in this course, a more alligned reading list to prepare us for each new subject would really help, as well as some contextualising introduction before each topic.

-allign the assignments more closely with the course content. It is very useful to have some of the assignments geared towards preparing us for the final assignment, however, the current structure meant that we were unable to use a lot of what we were learning in the lectures for our assignments. It would be better to have more of a 50/50 structure, where half of the assignments are alligned with the lecture content, and the other half preparing us for the farm analysis final assignment.

Thank you to all of the students who participated actively in the review; the feedback will really help build a better course.

Lily Begg