Prospects and challenges for sustainable food systems LV0103, 10237.2021

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced

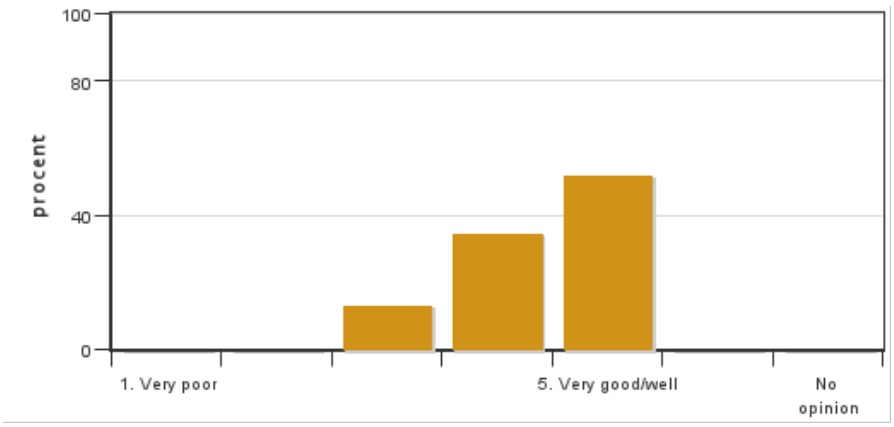
Evaluation report

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

Answers	23
Number of students	40
Answer frequency	57 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

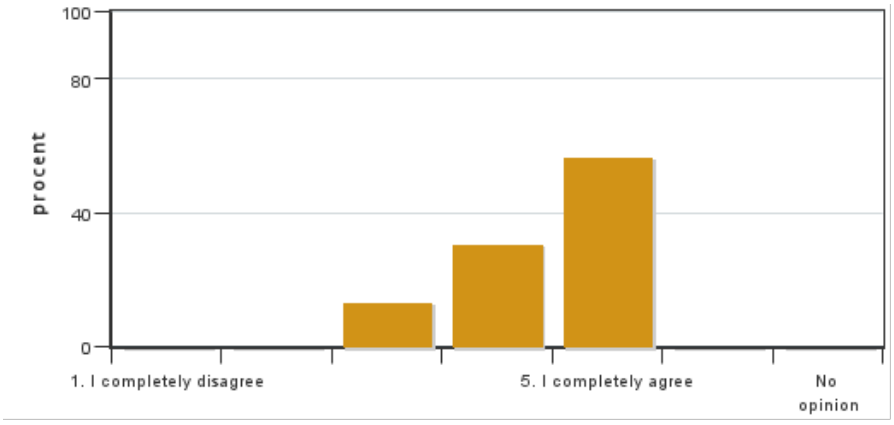


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 3
4: 8
5: 12

No opinion: 0

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

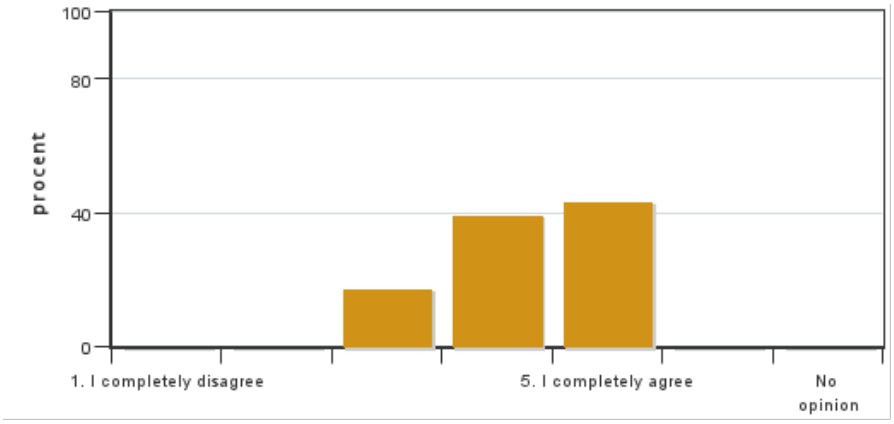


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 3
4: 7
5: 13

No opinion: 0

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

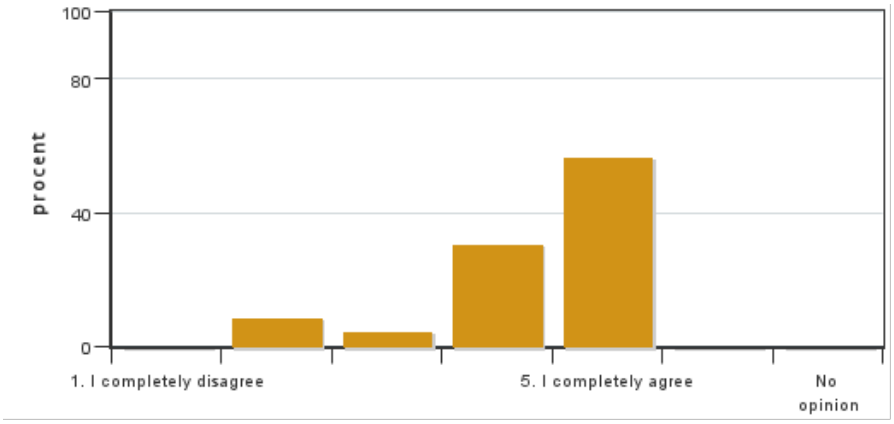


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,3
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 4
4: 9
5: 10

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

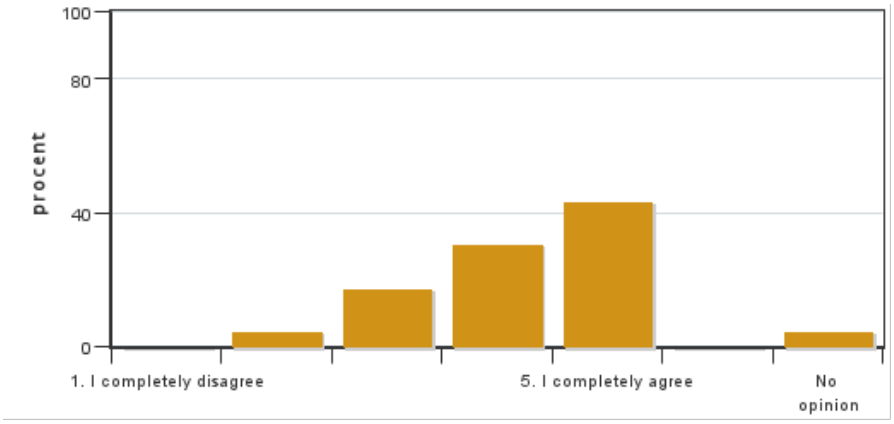


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 2
3: 1
4: 7
5: 13

No opinion: 0

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

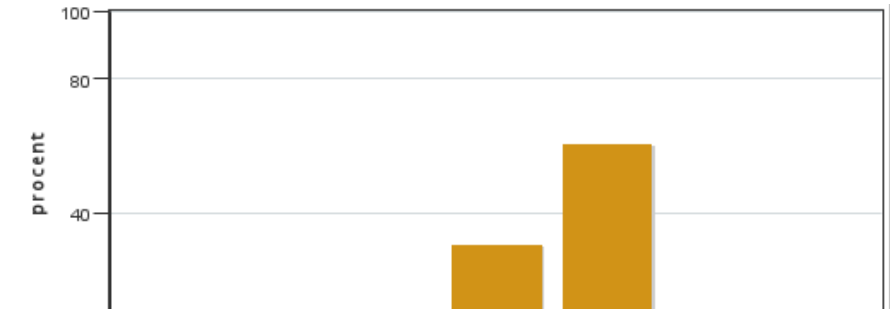


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,2
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 1
3: 4
4: 7
5: 10

No opinion: 1

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

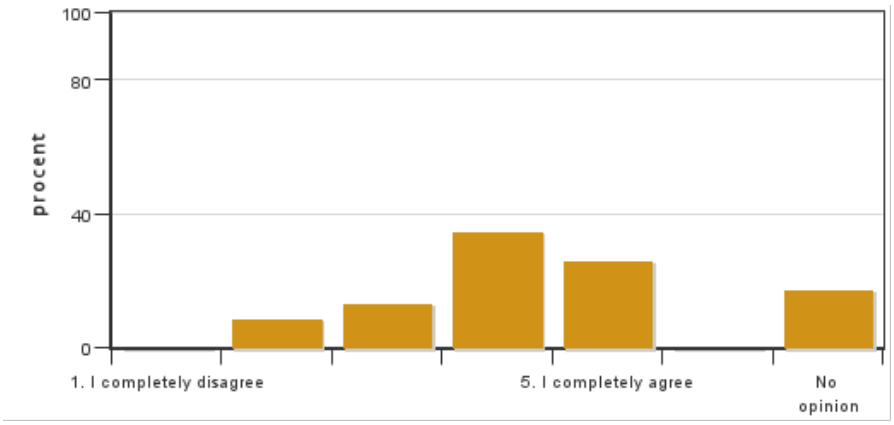


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,5
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 2
4: 7
5: 14

No opinion: 0

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

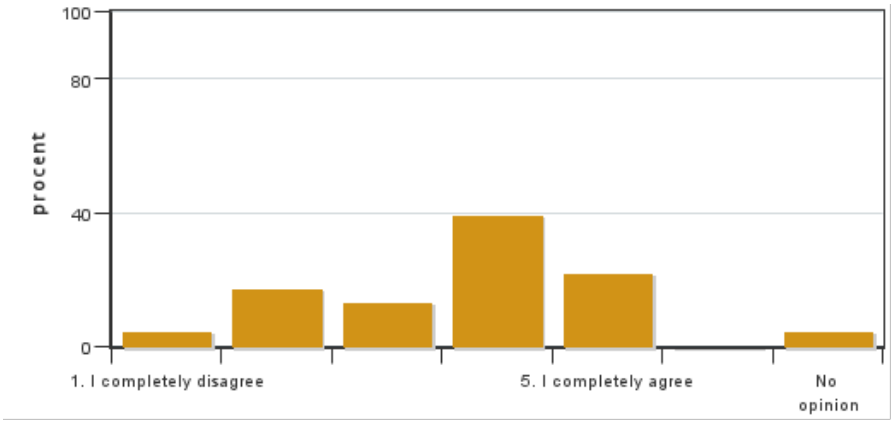


Answers: 23
Medel: 3,9
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 2
3: 3
4: 8
5: 6

No opinion: 4

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

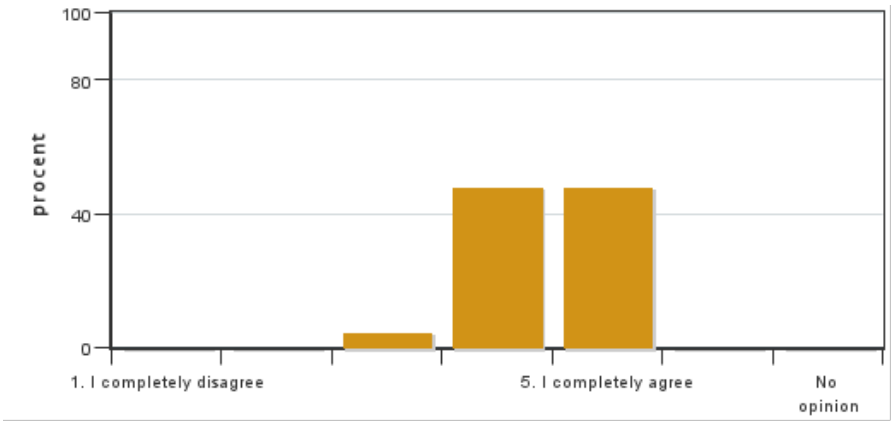


Answers: 23
Medel: 3,6
Median: 4

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

No opinion: 1

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

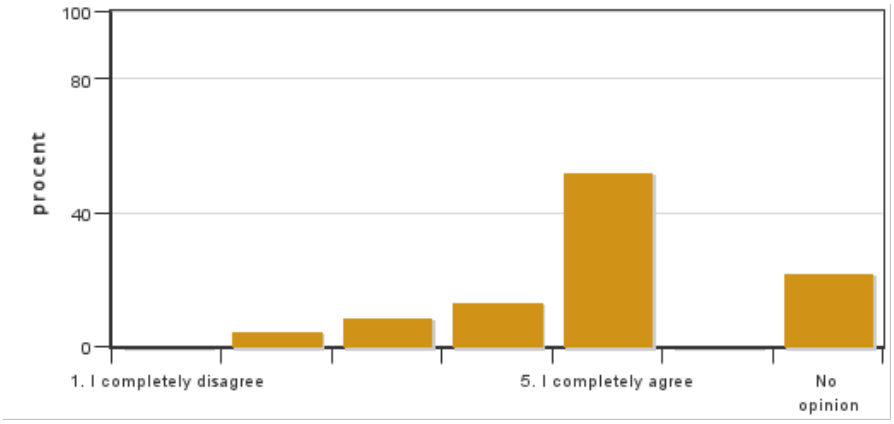


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,4
Median: 4

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

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).

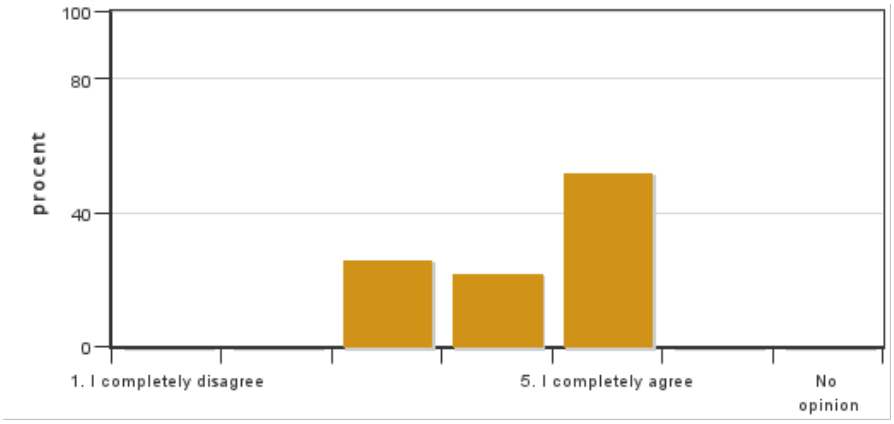


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,4
Median: 5

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

No opinion: 5

11. The course covered international perspectives.

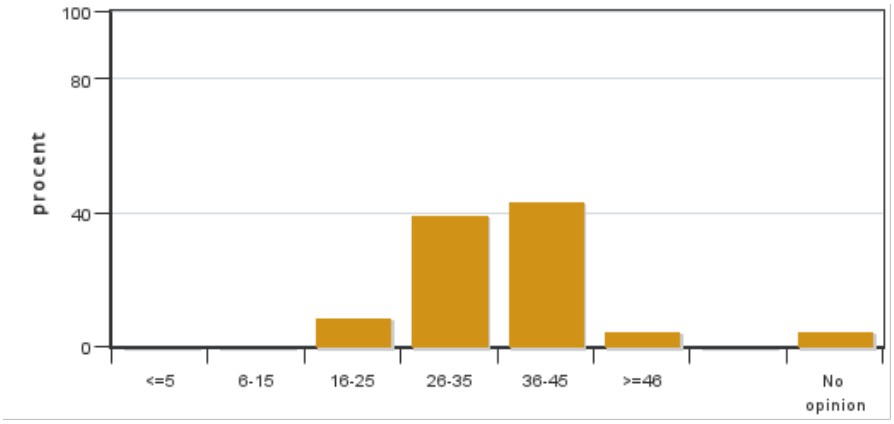


Answers: 23
Medel: 4,3
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 6
4: 5
5: 12

No opinion: 0

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

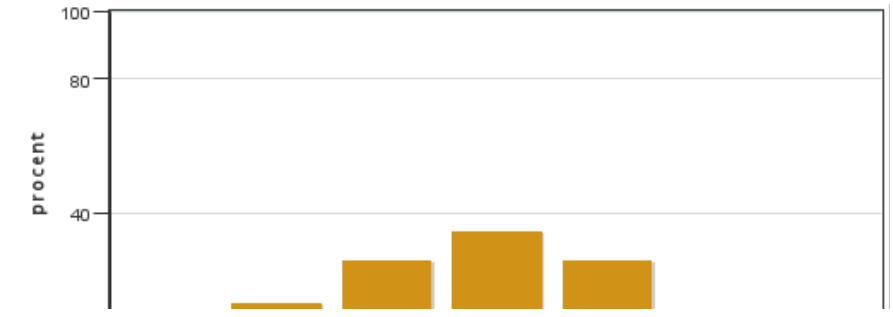


Answers: 23
Medel: 34,4
Median: 26-35

≤5: 0
6-15: 0
16-25: 2
26-35: 9
36-45: 10
≥46: 1

No opinion: 1

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



Answers: 23
Medel: 3,7
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 3
3: 6
4: 8
5: 6

No opinion: 0

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

It has been an exceptional year with many adjustments required due to the pandemic – both before and during the course. Despite this, the overall impression of the course scored high (4.4), which was slightly higher than last year. In the beginning and until mid-October, all lectures were online while seminars, presentations, field and study visits were on campus (but adapted to the pandemic, e.g. through smaller groups and physical distancing). Due to the stricter rules for the Uppsala region in October, all activities were given online at the end of the course, including the exam. The students showed a great understanding of the situation but also clearly expressed the importance of personal interaction and physical meetings. The experiences of online activities scored 3.7 on average and varied between 2 (poor) and 5 (very good). One student expressed that she/he missed the direct interactions and another that it worked very well with zoom for lectures but less for group works. The teachers and course leaders completely agree on this! Students who live far from Uppsala also emphasise the benefit with online activities since it reduces the commuting time.

The question whether the examinations gave opportunity to demonstrate knowledge received lower grade than most other questions (3.6). The course leaders will focus on how the examinations can be improved for next year. In addition, we will improve the structure of the content on canvas to make it easier to navigate and find all topics. In addition, we will – as always – go through the various lectures, assignments and the literature, and make adjustments and changes to further develop the course.

The varying level of the students' generic competences is a problem that was noticed and makes exchange and mutual learning difficult. The course leader has informed the program study directors, the admission unit and the faculty about this and strategies will be devised. However, it is important to emphasise that the multidisciplinary background among the students is not the problem per se as most students that responded to the evaluation seem to agree that they had sufficient prior knowledge (4.3).

The many committed students have been a strength also this year and the understanding among students about this year's challenges, is really something course leaders and teachers appreciate. We are also grateful for all the feedback in our effort to further develop the course, hopefully without the need to make so many adjustments as were required this year. Next year, we will probably rely on a combination of mainly campus-based activities but also some online activities when deemed appropriate.

Pernilla Tidåker, course leader

Student representatives comments

No comments from the student representatives