Raw Material Properties and Refining Processes
SV0047, 10317.2425

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced
Course leader = David Arthur Agar

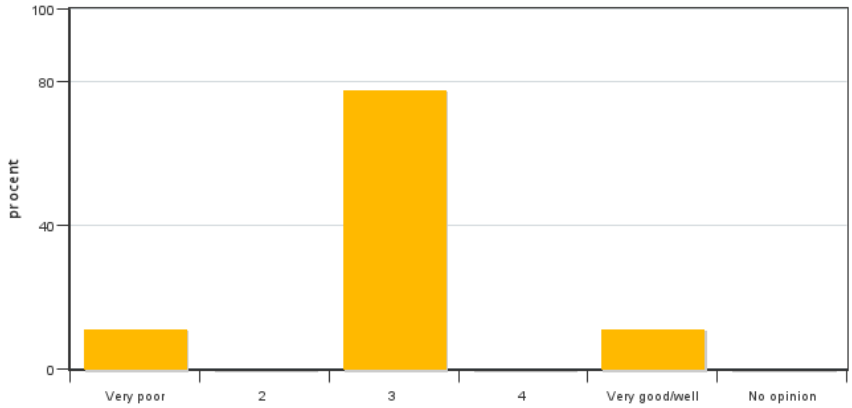
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2024-10-24 - 2024-11-14

Answers	9
Number of students	13
Answer frequency	69 %

Mandatory standard questions

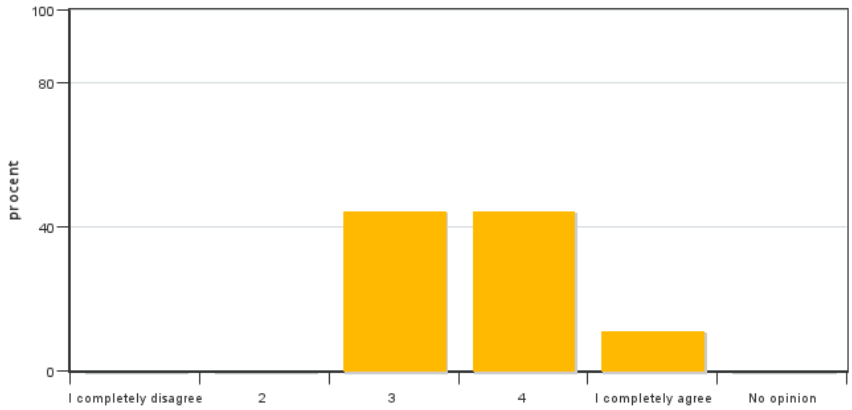
1. My overall impression of the course is:



Number of answers: 9
Average: 3,0
Median: 3

Very poor : 1
2: 0
3: 7
4: 0
Very good/well: 1
No opinion: 0

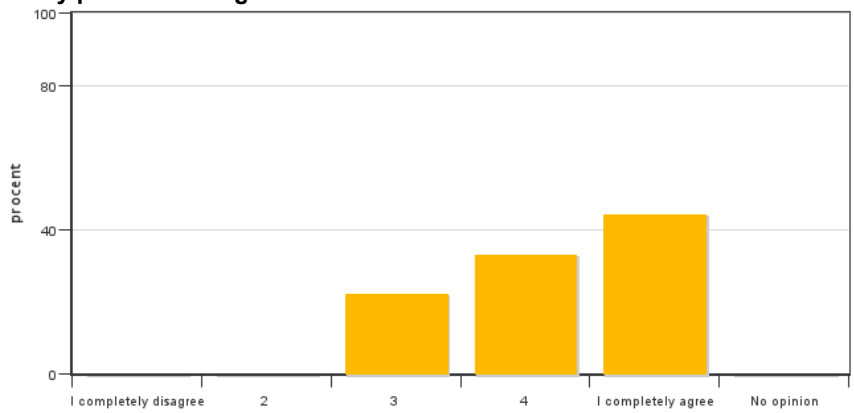
2. I found the course content to have clear links to the learning objectives of the course.



Number of answers: 9
Average: 3,7
Median: 4

I completely disagree: 0
2: 0
3: 4
4: 4
I completely agree: 1
No opinion: 0

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

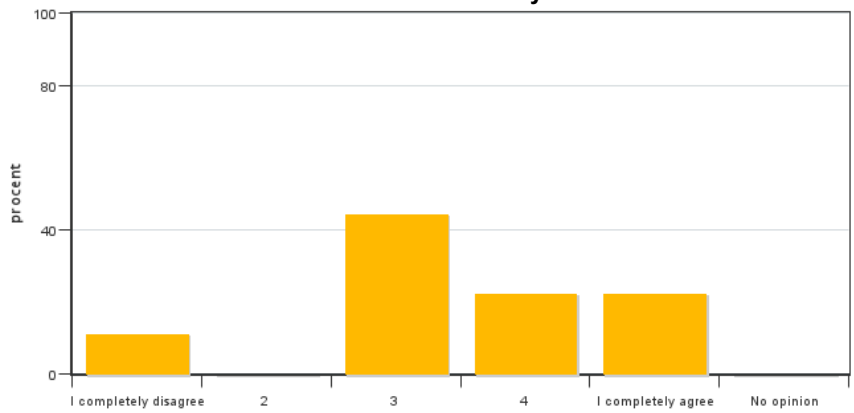


Number of answers: 9
Average: 4,2
Median: 4

I completely disagree: 0
2: 0
3: 2
4: 3
I completely agree: 4

No opinion: 0

4. The information about the course was easily accessible.

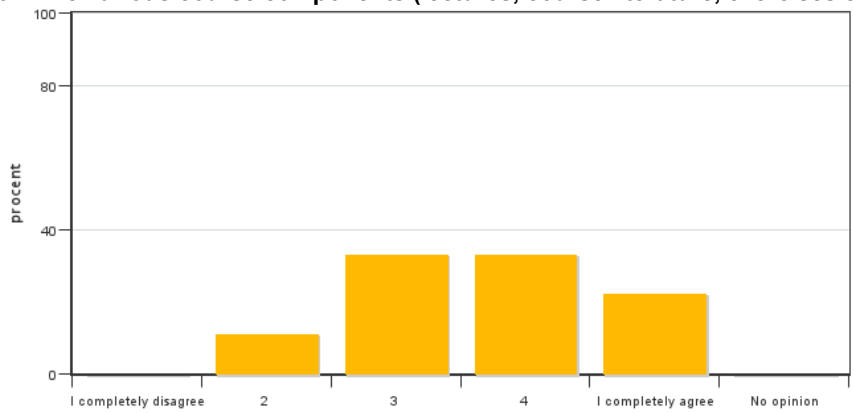


Number of answers: 9
Average: 3,4
Median: 3

I completely disagree: 1
2: 0
3: 4
4: 2
I completely agree: 2

No opinion: 0

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

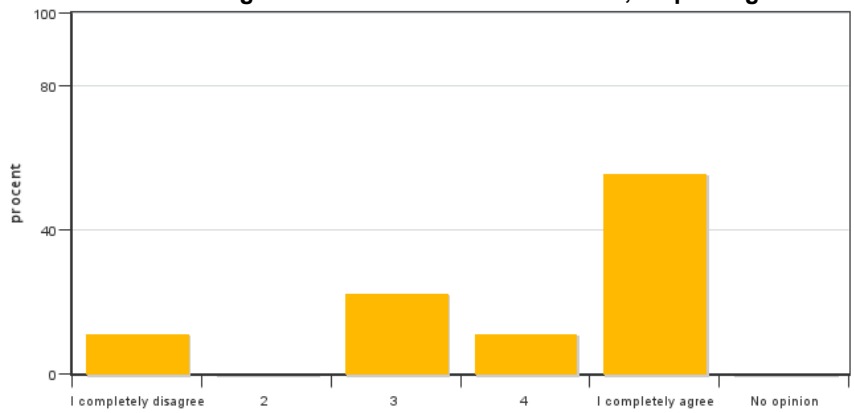


Number of answers: 9
Average: 3,7
Median: 4

I completely disagree: 0
2: 1
3: 3
4: 3
I completely agree: 2

No opinion: 0

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

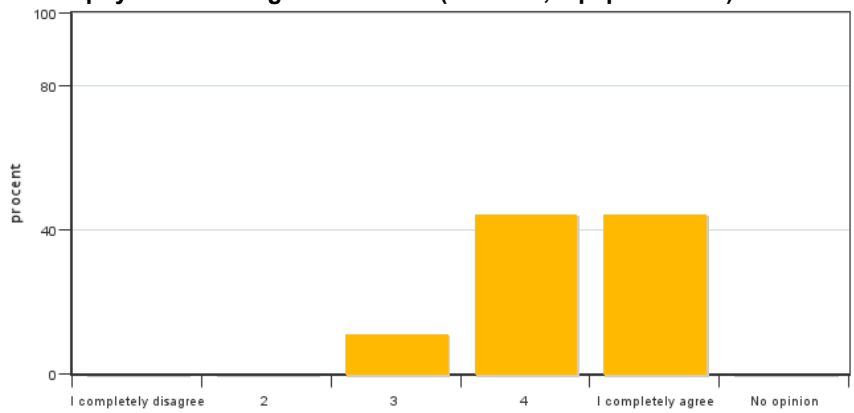


Number of answers: 9
Average: 4,0
Median: 5

I completely disagree: 1
2: 0
3: 2
4: 1
I completely agree: 5

No opinion: 0

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

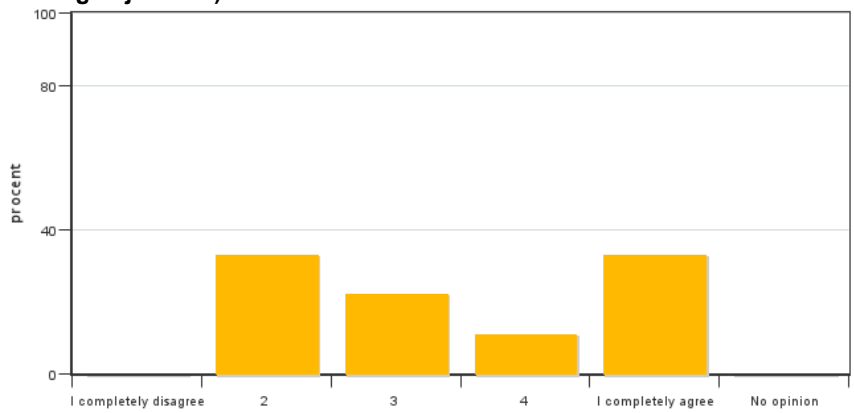


Number of answers: 9
Average: 4,3
Median: 4

I completely disagree: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 4
I completely agree: 4

No opinion: 0

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

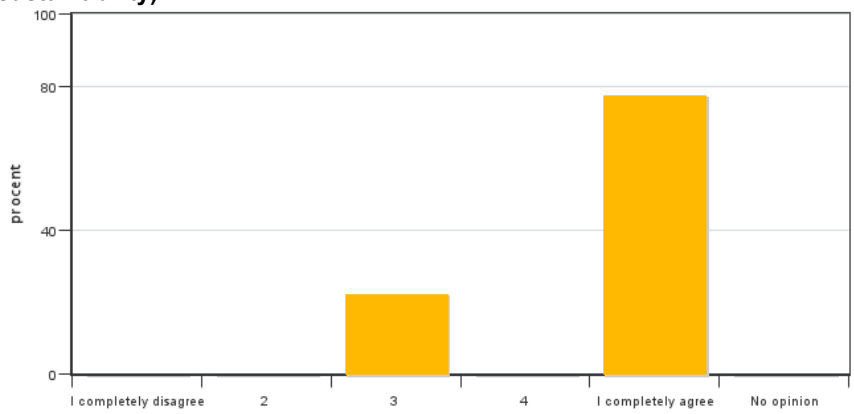


Number of answers: 9
Average: 3,4
Median: 3

I completely disagree: 0
2: 3
3: 2
4: 1
I completely agree: 3

No opinion: 0

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

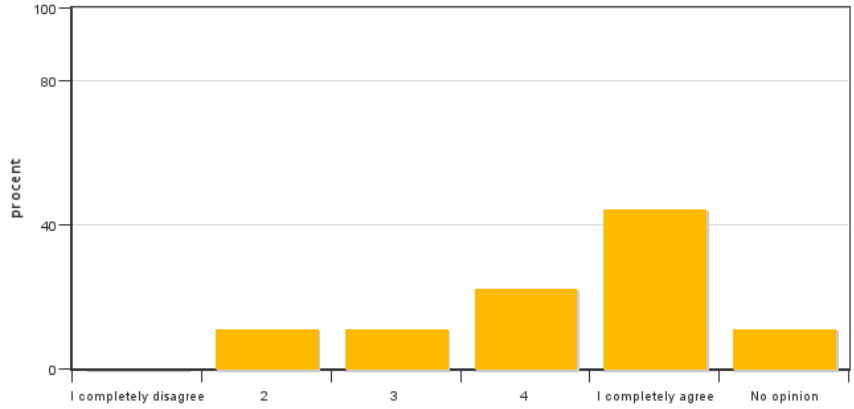


Number of answers: 9
Average: 4,6
Median: 5

I completely disagree: 0
2: 0
3: 2
4: 0
I completely agree: 7

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).

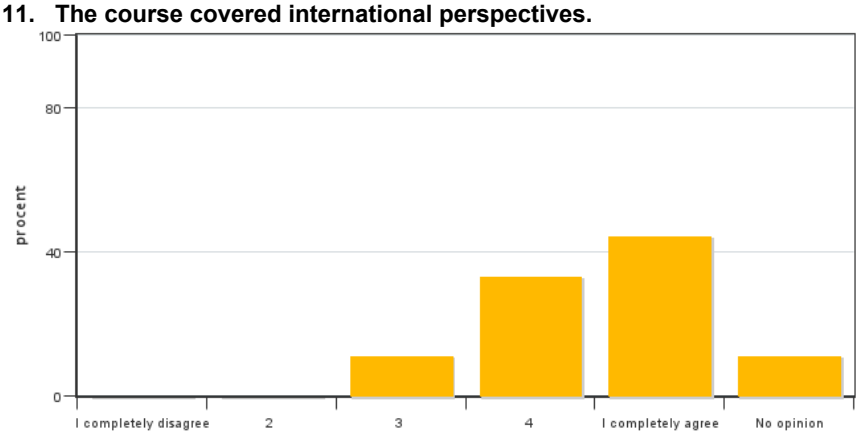


Number of answers: 9
Average: 4,1
Median: 4

I completely disagree: 0
2: 1
3: 1
4: 2
I completely agree: 4

No opinion: 1

11. The course covered international perspectives.

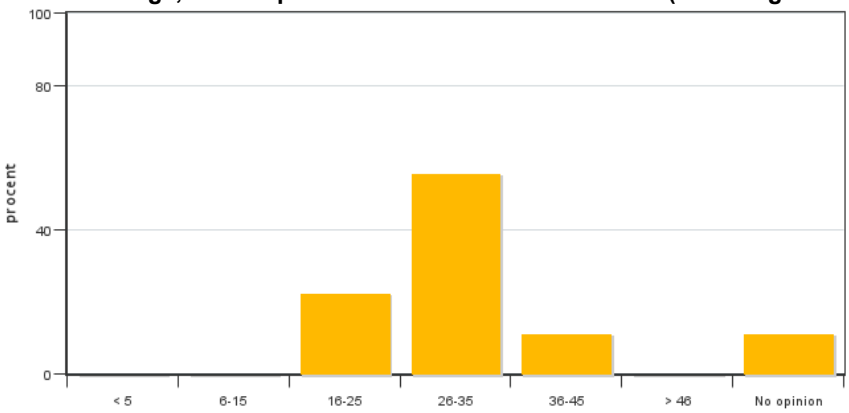


Number of answers: 9
Average: 4,4
Median: 4

I completely disagree: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 3
I completely agree: 4

No opinion: 1

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



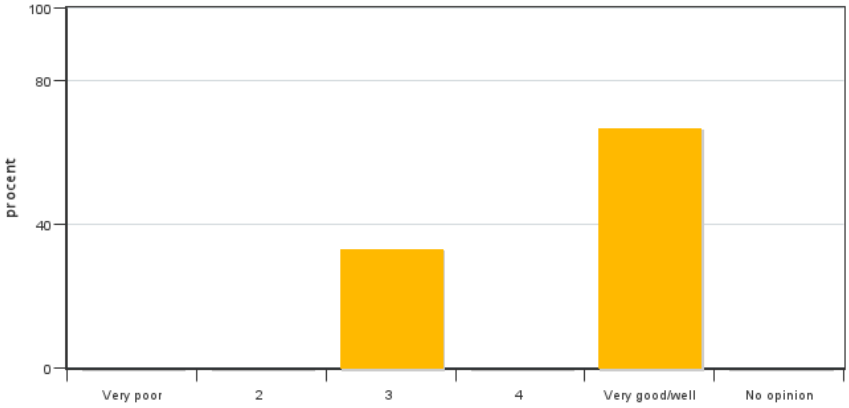
Number of answers: 9
Average: 28,8
Median: 26-35

< 5: 0
6-15: 0
16-25: 2
26-35: 5
36-45: 1
> 46: 0

No opinion: 1

Additional own questions

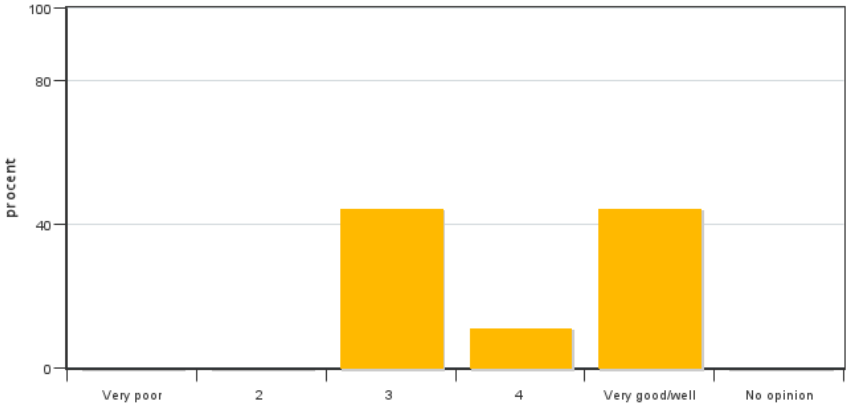
13. How did you experience the study visit to the Biomass Technology Centre (BTC)?



Number of answers: 9

Very poor : 0
2: 0
3: 3
4: 0
Very good/well: 6
No opinion: 0

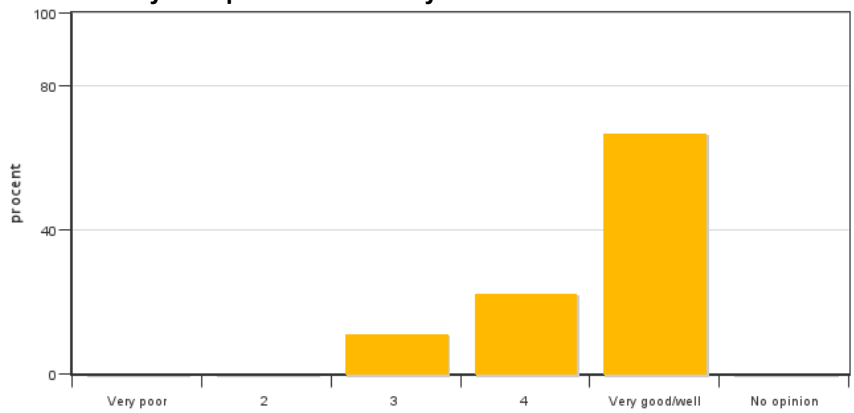
14. How did you experience the study visit to the Sävar saw mill?



Number of answers: 9

Very poor : 0
2: 0
3: 4
4: 1
Very good/well: 4
No opinion: 0

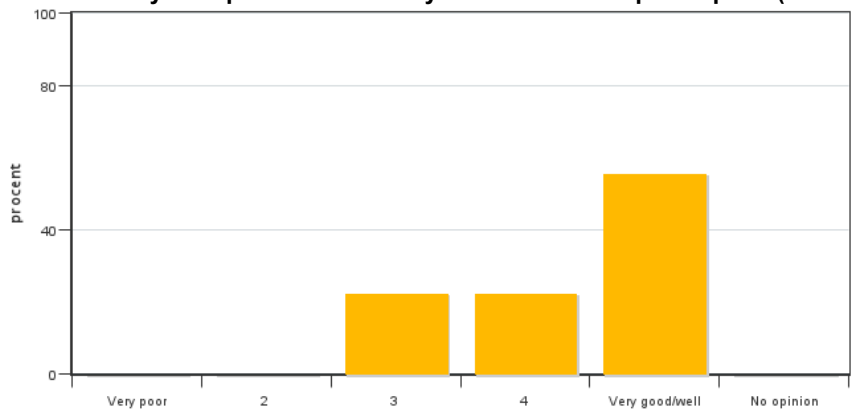
15. How did you experience the study visit to SCA Obbola?



Number of answers: 9

Very poor : 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 2
Very good/well: 6
No opinion: 0

16. How did you experience the study visit to the Dåva power plant (Umeå Energi)?



Number of answers: 9

Very poor : 0
2: 0
3: 2
4: 2
Very good/well: 5
No opinion: 0

17. Please comment on the on-campus week. Besides the study visits, what worked well for you? Do you have suggestion for how the on-campus week could be improved?

Course leaders comments

This was the first time this course has run as a hybrid course and the first time in English. Therefore there was a lot of work done to adapt the course to the new format, work with the classroom technology, provide English-language literature and completely reinvent the grading and assessment methods (The course budget was insufficient to do all these things as well as one could wish). The latter task was necessary in order to eliminate having written exams (which have been challenging to book with our partners at Umeå University and have been costly in terms of fees and sacrificing classroom time because too often we cannot get the times we wish for). All this preparation work was invisible to the students so I understand their constructive comments. Naturally, the course will be improved for the next year, starting with tuning the grading system. It seems a better introduction is needed for the reflection tasks, as the students failed to understand that the purpose of writing the reflections was for them to think more about the lectures and reinforce the take home messages; there were no right or wrong answers here, they were personal thoughts to help thinking about the subject matter. It was good to see that everyone enjoyed the on-campus week and the study visits. There is no possibility in the present course budget to hire a bus for these visits and therefore we have no choice but to rely on student drivers (and pay petrol costs) or we could not have any visits. Regarding the language of instruction, the course leader has indeed informed all the speakers and study visit hosts that the course is in English. It is simple out of our control if they switch to Swedish or do not have the time to translate their presentations. Lastly, it was difficult to get the distance students to complete the course evaluation.

Internal comments

Student representatives comments

The answer frequency from the students were 69%, 9 out of 13 registered students filled in the course evaluation. Time spent on the course was around 26-35 hours for most students. The overall impression from the students who have answered the course evaluation was a 3. The lack of clarity regarding the grading system in the course in combination with a lack of feedback on reflections seem to be a common theme among the responding students. The students seem to feel that the topics and lectures were very interesting and have given them a better understanding of the forestry sector. The last-minute notices regarding reflections and the number of reflections given was however, not well received.

The response towards the various course components have been positive. The respondents liked the guest lecturers but bring up the reflections again as something confusing. The social/physical learning environment was predominantly positive, some lectures/material seem to not have been given in English when they should have been. A few hiccups with the technology in the hybrid classroom was mentioned, but overall it worked out good according to the respondents.

The evaluation regarding the examinations has been quite mixed, some people happy with the form of examinations, others feeling that the grading system and the feedback given for the reflection assignments was unsatisfactory.

The campus week was very appreciated by the students, some students had already visited some of the places previously but still felt they got something new from the experience. The transportation during the field week was something that a lot of the students brought up as an improvement point, a bus organized by the course was brought up by several students as something that could probably have made it better.