LUNDS UNIVERSITET

NATUR-
VETENSKAPLIGA
FAKULTETEN

Biologiska institutionen
Grund- och avancerad utbildning

KURSSAMMANSTÄLLNING

Datum 2020-10-26

Kursansvarig: Staffan Bensch, Helena Westerdahl
Antal studenter: 23
Betyg: 1 student UK, 11 students G, 11 students VG
Sammanställt av: Staffan Bensch, Helena Westerdahl

Course analysis BIOR25 Molecular Ecology and Evolution, autumn 2018

Summary of the course evaluation

Number of answers: 16. Over all the students were pleased about the course (grade 4.2) and we got a lot of positive feedback. The overall scores was however lower than in the previous couple of years (~4.5), something that we interpret as a consequence of the coronaenforced shutdown that had negative consequences for the two-weeks research project that typically is a much-liked ending of the course (scored dropped from 4.9 to 4.6). Compared to last year, the students were less satisfied with the excursion (scores dropped from 4.7 to 4.4) and the lab-projects that are based on their own data collected at this excursion day (from 4.6 to 3.4). From the comments, the complaints are related to the larger group sizes (6 instead of 5) which made the lab (Heden) more busy, less time for each students to do hands-on lab work, and also resulted in more waiting time. The new course book did not meet our expectations (drop from 3.7 to 3.4).

Comments from the teachers team

Overall the teachers were very pleased about the course.

Evaluation of changes made since the previous course

Based on the feedback from the students, we expanded both the literature project and the research project by one day each. For a

better overview of the discussion seminars, we handed out a document at the start of the course, listing the dates for the seminars and specifying which of the book chapters and papers to be read for each meeting. We are constantly revising the course to make it closer to the research field in Genomic Ecology and to include the latest molecular genetic methods following the developments of ’high throughput sequencing’. As for last two year, we are using the program Geneious when we analyzed the DNA sequences. This program is costly but we managed to get 15 licenses for 10kSEK that were available from January to March. We continue to have license-free programs in parallel so that the students can do DNA-analyses at home on their own computers.

Suggested changes for the next course

We will replace the course book to a new revised edition of the book that we have been using during the last couple of years. We are taking the critique on the BarCoding part seriously and will find ways to reduce the crowdedness during the labs by considering reducing group sizes and increasing the number of course assistants. This will be a challenge because of restrictions of the course budget, localities for lab work, and exactly how to do this will also depend on the corona situation of which we presently only can guess. Many students expressed that their background knowledge in genetics was not sufficient to make full use of the initial part of the course. In response, we will have a step-by-step demonstration / workshop to prepare the students about the concepts and methods that they will encounter during the first weeks of the course.

Other teachers

Atena Aivars Cirulis, Charlie Cornwallis, Anna Drews, Anne Duplouy, David Gomez Blanco, Bengt Hansson, Mikael Hedrén, Tomas Johansson, Jane Jönsson, Max Lundberg, Samantha Mellinger, Emily O'Connor, Lars Råberg, Hanna Sigeman, Mikael Sörensson, Niklas Wahlberg, Ye Xiong, Hongkai Zhang