



NATUR-
VETENSKAPLIGA
FAKULTETEN

KURSSAMMANSTÄLLNING

Datum 2020-09-01

Biologiska institutionen
Grund- och avancerad utbildning

Kursansvarig: Dennis Hasselquist,
Susanne Åkesson
Antal studenter: 29
Betyg: 16 Pass with distinction (VG),
13 Pass (G), 1 student from a
previous year Pass (G).
Sammanställt av: Dennis
Hasselquist, Susanne Åkesson

Course analysis BIOR81 Evolutionary Animal Ecology, autumn 2019

Summary of the course evaluation

Number of answers: 25. Overall the students were very positive to the course ('Overall, I am satisfied with the course' grade 4.3; 'What is your overall opinion about the course' grade 4.5). The students especially appreciated that the teachers and assistants motivated them and that they received good help and feedback (4.5), that the level of the course was appropriate (4.4), that it increased their subject knowledge (4.6), and the Conference (4.4) and the Literature project (4.3). The course literature (4.1) and the examinations (4.1) also got relatively high grades (both these aspects are demanding tasks that challenge the students a bit and therefore usually get a bit lower grades). It was really nice to see that book seminars (4.1) and discussion seminars (4.0-4.2) all went very well this year, and this was also true for the Ecophysiology project (4.2). A few students thought that it was a bit too much reading at the course. We find this a bit surprising given that the amount of reading (and writing) on this (and its preceding course) has decreased quite considerably over the last 30 years and at the same time scheduled for reading has increased. Overall, the student evaluation was extremely positive!

Comments from the teachers team

This year the course went super-well! We had a larger number of students (29) and this has previously affected the course a bit negatively due to very large seminar groups and many students in the classroom during interactive lectures (making students feel less secure and participating during discussions). This year, however, we saw very little of this. The students were very active and highly motivated, and discussions therefore were of high quality with broad and intense activity level among students. This is the perfect situation for this course where the aim is to make students learn evolutionary thinking and how to apply this on ecology and evolutionary questions. This year the pre-knowledge of the students were rather high which definitely facilitated for them to assimilate the pedagogics of the course, and thus its content. Thus, our worries of a decreasing trend over the last 3- 5 years of students having less advanced pre-knowledge, i.e. training in evolutionary thinking and how to make use of group discussions, was broken! We are very happy for this positive development – it was a fantastic feeling to have discussions with a group where a large proportion was highly motivated and advanced rapidly to a more mature level of understanding and interaction during the course. So to conclude, our overall impression is that the course went extremely well this year. One thing that can be worth noting is that among the men taking the course, only 14% obtained the grade Pass with Distinction (VG), while among the women 68% got VG. Note also that at in this course 75% of the students were women.

Evaluation of changes made since the previous course

As the 2018 course went really well, we made very few changes to the course in 2019. The only thing we did was to provide the students with the handouts and textbook at the exam, and they could not bring any other (handwritten notes) with them. The decision not to change any content of the course was apparently a good one, because the grades of the course exams were among the highest ever and student course evaluations very positive! We therefore think we presently have a close to optimal planning of the course, with enough time available for the different components and high but not too high demands. Still, it pose a

reasonable level of challenge for the average student, which is very important for an advanced-level course like this one.

Suggested changes for the next course

We see no reasons to make any changes – as far as we can see, the course functions exceptionally well!

Other teachers

Lars Råberg, Magne Friberg, Anders Hedenström, Jan-Åke Nilsson, Thomas Alerstam, Tobias Uller, Bengt Hansson, Erik Svensson, Åke Lindström, Helena Westerdahl, Jessica Abbott, Charlie Cornwallis, Rachel Muheim, Olle Anderbrant, Christer Löfstedt, Jep Agrell, Niklas Wahlberg, Anna Runemark, Glenn Svensson, Andreas Nord, Per Henningsson, Hanna Sigeman, Linus Hedh.