



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

COURSE ANALYSIS

Date 2021-03-23

Main Teacher: Olivier Van Aken

Number of students: 13

Number of answers: 7

Grades: U (1), G (9), VG (3)

Department of Biology
Education- Bachelor's and Master's
level

Course Analysis BIOR76 Plant Function, autumn 2020

Summary of the course evaluation

The students were generally pleased, with most respondents giving scores between 3-5, one student gave only 2 but not clear why. Some concerns were raised about how the balance between online/on campus teaching was handled, due to the Covid-19 restrictions. As the situation got worse during the running of the course and some students were more concerned than others, this was hard to avoid. We also had to adjust the schedule regularly to accommodate changes, which were sometimes quite late notice unfortunately.

The lab was this year mainly run by Bradley Dotson, and he received generally positive feedback about his willingness to interact and help the students. Some comments were made that it could be organised a bit more clearly.

Content-wise, the students seemed very happy with the lectures, seminars and group discussions. The level seemed appropriate for most, though some with no plant background at all had some difficulty initially (but passed the course). Some found the level of the lab a bit high.

Unfortunately, the visit to the Hilleshög breeding company had to be rescheduled to online only, but was still appreciated. It is definitely better to have it on location if possible next year.

Comments from the teachers team

The teachers were happy with the course evaluation, considering the extra organisation due to corona restrictions. Especially the doubling of enrolled students was great, hopefully this can be maintained in the coming years.

Students with special needs required quite a bit of extra time and energy to deal with. Some awareness of the 'NAIS' certification for students with special needs should be raised with the teachers, and also discuss what are acceptable specific changes that can be made for such students. It is important that the students declare such a certificate at the start of the course, and clear agreements on exceptions/adaptations should be made well in advance, not at the last minute when the student gets into time problems.

Evaluation and changes made since the previous course

The course had been re-organised recently, and this was maintained this year. The new structure seems to work. The project lab report and presentation were now given more formal evaluation and were weighted a little more than previously in the final grade. This was overall positive, and some students felt it should be weighted even more as it takes up a lot of the course time. If that would be implemented, I feel like the quality of the actual work (e.g. plant maintenance) should be scored as well, not just report and presentation.

Suggested changes for the next course

Some improvements in laying out the goals and practical plan for the Arabidopsis lab should be made. Many felt unsure of what they were supposed to do sometimes. The use of the 'CIRA' project as starting point for the whole course lab could be evaluated, but it would require a lot of extra work to come up with something entirely new.

Some more clarity in what is expected knowledge for the phylogeny section should be given to the students.

Some students request recording all lectures and make them available online.

Other teachers involved in the course

Mikael Hedrén, Mats Hansson, Torbjörn Säll, Stefan Andersson, Helmy Youssef, Bradley Dotson.