



FACULTY
OF SCIENCE

COURSE ANALYSIS

Date 2021-03-17

Main Teacher: Dennis Hasselquist,
Susanne Akesson

Number of students: 23

Number of answers: 22

Grades:

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

Course Analysis BIOR81 Evolutionary Animal Ecology, autumn 2020

Summary of the course evaluation

Overall, the students were positive to the course ('Overall, I am satisfied with the course' grade 4.0; 'What is your overall opinion about the course' grade 4.1). This is 0.3-0.4 lower than last year, but rather similar to 2018. The students especially appreciated that the level of the course was appropriate (4.4), that it increased their subject knowledge (4.4), and they also highly appreciated the Ecophysiology projects (4.5), Evolutionary Biology and Society discussion day (4.4), and the Literature project (4.4). The Conference got a bit lower grading this year (4.0) than in 2019 (4.4). This could either be an effect of the covid situation making the Conference less realistic, but it might also reflect that the students this year were a bit less advanced when coming into the course as compared with in 2019. The course literature (4.0) and the examinations (4.0) 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 the teachers and assistants motivated them and that they received good help and feedback (4.1), and that book seminars (4.0) and discussion seminars (3.9-4.4) all went very well this year. Overall, the student evaluation was very positive! In particular given that the whole course had to be changed within hours and teachers had never before even tried out to conduct their teaching using Zoom.

As regards the adjustments done as a consequence of the covid-19 situation, the grading was 3.9. Reading the comments, students either think we did too large adjustments (they would have preferred to run the course as usual), or other students think we did adjustments a bit

too late (being worried about the disease spread). Moreover, some students pointed out that some teachers had problems with using Zoom (which obviously is true since it was more or less completely new to all teachers and there was no time to re-adjust...).

Comments from the teachers team

This year the course went really well, in particular in the light of the big changes that had to be made over-night due to the covid-19 situation. We had a normal size of the course this year (23) which probably helped to make the adjustments better implemented. The interactive lectures, however, was negatively affected by the Zoom (on distance) teaching technique, as fewer students were active than usual. Still, it was OK and worked better than we had fared. The students were very active and highly motivated, and discussions therefore of good quality with high activity level for most students. This year the pre-knowledge of the students was a bit lower than in 2019, and our feeling is that this affected the efficiency in learning. Still, for on-distance teaching at this type of high-level course the students did very well, and it was a pleasure to be a teacher for this cohort of students! So, to conclude, our overall impression is that the course worked very well also this year.

Evaluation and changes made since the previous course

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to make substantial changes to the course. These changes were all related to lowering the risk of spreading the disease. Thus, after starting the course as normal the first two weeks of the course (in early November 2020), we more or less over-night had to move everything over to Zoom-based teaching. This was surprisingly OK even for a course of this type, where the pedagogics rely heavily on discussion, direct contact between teachers and students, and building self confidence in students making them dare to come up with own ideas and present them to the group. Moreover, we had to work very hard to change the written exam into an exam conducted on distance (with students sitting at home when writing the exam). After many hours of thinking, testing and planning, we managed to find a very good solution and the written exam worked well! Besides these covid-19 related changes, we did not do any

changes this year as compared with the 2019 course (as we had super-positive evaluations then).

Suggested changes for the next course

We see no reasons to make almost any changes – as far as we can see, the course functions exceptionally well! And this was true also when all teaching had to be on distance using Zoom. However, cutting up the (very long) exam in two parts (before and after lunch the same day) was a really good innovation. It is likely we will use this format also in the future.

Other teachers involved in the course

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, Olle Anderbrant, Christer Löfstedt, Jep Agrell, Niklas Wahlberg, Anna Runemark, Glenn Svensson, Andreas Nord, Per Henningsson, Hanna Sigeman, Linus Hedh.