Course analysis BIO39 "Biological monitoring" spring 2019

Course leader: Olof Hellgren

Number of students: 24 registered students

Grades: 2 Fail (U) (Both pass after reexamination), 13 Pass (G), 9 Pass w distinction (VG).

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation
Number of answers: 12

Short summary of the result: Overall the students were very pleased with the course (grade 4.0). The students appreciated the mix between projects, lectures and fieldwork (4.5) and especially the practical parts of the course were highly appreciated (4.0-4.8). One the things that still needs some improvement is the GIS introduction although it was better this year compared to previous year. The big challenge here is the wide range in prior knowledge the students have, and we need to get them to be able to implement and use GIS in order to conduct some of the practical parts of the course.

Comments from the teachers team
On the whole the teachers thought that the course went well, and that it have settled into a stable format after the big changes that happened a couple of years ago. We got aware already during the course that some of the exercises needed more information and clarity as they generated a lot of extra questions once the exercise had started. We also felt that having 24-25 student is the absolute maximum number of student in order to make the course as good as possible and to ensure that the student will get equal amount of help and support.

II. Evaluation of changes made since the previous course
After the previous course we made very few changes due to the big rearrangements previous years, what we did change/tried to improve where the section and exercises that included GIS, by making more comprehensive instruction compendium and more hands on exercises. This improved the rating for this section but we are aware that we still have some work to do on this section. We also added new project-work that is supposed to run for several years on our field site. These new sections are monitoring schemes of actual red-listed species in the area that was found for the first time three years ago. That we are conducting “live” monitoring that produces real data seems to be highly appreciated by the students.

III. Suggested changes for the next course
We will continue to improve the GIS exercises, improve the information regarding the exercise “Case Repport Östarp” and especially the instructions for the nature evaluation. On the whole we are continue to improve and streamline all the new major sections on the course that where implemented three years ago.

2019-10-11, compiled by Olof Hellgren