Course analysis BIOR52 "Applied Ecotoxicology" spring 2019

Course leader: Olof Berglund
Other teachers: Olof Regnell, Martijn van Praagh

Number of students: 27 registered students

Grades: 0 Fail (U), 10 Pass (G), 4 Pass w distinction (VG) 8 (4), 5 (5).

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation
   Number of answers: 19
   Short summary of the result: Overall the students were less pleased with the course (grade 3.8±1.1) than former years (5 year mean 4.6±0.2). However, comments and grades varied greatly. The students especially appreciated applied projects with external stakeholders and environmental risk assessment project, but suggested improvement regarding feedback and evaluation of the projects. The number of seminars was considered too many. Also, they felt they lacked the required knowledge in basic statistics and ecotoxicology needed to address certain learning activities.

II. Comments from the teachers team
   Possible reasons for the varying comments and grades (especially regarding feedback and assistance with projects) may be that the course had almost the double amount of students as usual. This may have influenced the possibilities for communication during feedback sessions (even though there was an extra session compared to former years). The students experienced problems solving tasks associated with their projects independently (individually or in groups). However, the workload was considered medium and only 28±9 hours/week were reportedly spent studying. Also the module with literature search designed for the applied projects was omitted this year due to staff changes.

III. Evaluation of changes made since the previous course
   After the previous course we changed the timing of modelling exercises as suggested by previous students but, this was not appreciated by this years students. Workshop on outlines (peer-review) was not thoroughly appreciated mainly due to the timing of the session.

IV. Suggested changes for the next course
   The next time the course is given we plan to reinstate the literature search module. Also, even more emphasis will be made to encourage students to use all the tools available to the on the course website to solve their tasks more independently. We may consider reducing the number of seminars and change the hand in dates to earlier, as to enable more time for feed-back on the projects. Also the timing of certain learning activities will be optimized.

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