Course analysis BIOR69 ”Population and Community Ecology” autumn/spring 2020

**Course leader:** Christer Brönmark  
**Other teachers:** Olof Hellgren, Stefan Andersson, Tina D’Hertefeldt, Jörgen Ripa

**Number of students:** 5 registered students

**Grades:** 0 Fail (U), 3 Pass (G), 2 Pass w distinction (VG).

**Evaluation**

I. **Summary of the course evaluation**
   Number of answers: 3

*Short summary of the result:* Overall the students were extremely pleased with the course (grade 4.7). The written evaluation corresponds very well with the discussion we had at the end of the course, when all students participated. Admittedly, we were a bit worried how the change to web-based teaching due to corona would work but both teachers and students are impressed by the outcome (students gave the adjustment to web-based teaching grade 5.0). In the course, the students particularly liked the balance between theory and practical application (“so many opportunities to actually use what you learned during the course and solve problems on your own”). In the course we combine learning and critical evaluation of ecological theory through reading and discussing the text book and scientific articles with practical application of theory (design, analysis, evaluation and presentation of their own projects) and this is evidently a highly successful and appreciated concept. Even the exams, designed to test how well students can apply their knowledge in a practical setting, get a high grade (5.0). The field excursion was restricted this year due to corona, but we managed to have three days of field work in the neighbourhood of Lund and this worked really well. Suggestions for improvements include a more extensive lecture on parasites, more discussion seminars on the text book and a list of which “zoom rooms” that would be used in the different lectures/seminars.

II. **Comments from the teachers team**
   The teachers have worked together on this course for many years and we have over the years developed a successful concept and work well together. Changing to web-based teaching at a very short notice was of course a challenge, but went surprisingly well.

III. **Evaluation of changes made since the previous course**
   We have not made any major changes in the course since last spring.

IV. **Suggested changes for the next course**
   No major changes planned.

2020-07-13, compiled by Christer Brönmark