Course analysis BIOR83 "Conservation Biology" spring 2019

Course leader: Ola Olsson
Other teachers: Johanna Yourstone, Anna Persson, Carsten Kost, Dafne Ram, Henrik Smith, Johan Ekroos, Johan Hollander, Jörgen Ripa, Lars Pettersson, Maria Blasi Romero, Maria von Post, Martin Stjernman, Max Lundberg, Mikael Hedrén, Nils Cronberg, Per Lundberg, Stefan Andersson, Tobias Kümmerle, Ullrika Sahlin, Yann Clough, Åke Lindström.

Number of students: 23 registered students

Grades: 2 Fail (U), 7 Pass (G), 14 Pass w distinction (VG).

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation
Number of answers: 13
Short summary of the result: Overall the responding students were unusually pleased with the course (grade 4.8). The students seemed to appreciate nearly every part of the course, and especially pointed out interactions with stimulating teachers, literature seminars with open discussions, computer exercises, and not least the excursion to Nordens Ark. However, they suggested improvements to classes about invasive species, and also some additional improvement to the R-based exercises, and wanted clearer instructions for the project.

II. Comments from the teachers’ team
The teachers on the course considered that the course this year went very smoothly, and that appreciative students further motivated the teachers to perhaps put a little extra effort in.

III. Evaluation of changes made since the previous course
After the previous course we changed some lectures to fit better with other lectures, and we developed the R-based exercises, which was perceived positively by the students. The excursion was changed to Nordens Ark this year, to study their captive breeding, re-introduction, and ecological restoration activities. The excursion was a two-day event, with the night spent at Nordens Ark’s hotel. This was a clear success. The students were very happy about it, and we felt enormously welcome at the park, and their staff gave us really valuable presentations and personal interactions with the students. Due to the Covid-19 crisis, classroom teaching was closed during the final week of the course. This only affected the project work, but the oral presentations were cancelled. Instead, the students had to write a peer-review of another project, according to written instructions that were given to them. Although disappointed with the cancelled oral presentations, they did appreciate the opportunity to learn about the peer review process.

IV. Suggested changes for the next course
The next time the course is given we plan to continue the process of linking lectures a little better, while reducing their overlap. We will also continue the development of R-exercises, and we hope that we can get the budget for returning to Nordens Ark.

2020-05-05, compiled by Ola Olsson