Course Summary for NGEN16 Biosphere-atmosphere Interactions" ht2020

Course coordinator: Harry Lankreijer
Teachers in the course: Thomas Holst, Janne Rinne, David Tenenbaum, Patrik Vestin and Harry Lankreijer
Number of students: 9 registered students, one stopped 2 weeks before end, one put pause in studies after end course
Grade distribution: 1U, 2G, 4VG. 2 did not take the exam.

Evaluation

Summary of the course evaluation

Number of survey responses: 7 of 9, which is 77.78 % of the students

Short summary of the evaluation responses: In general the students were satisfied with the course, although there was a range in the responses. Three out of 7 graded the course bad, 2 very good. The overall score for the course was 3.3 out of 5 again with a range from 2-5 that the content was as expected. The aim as defined in the course syllabus was covered (4.3/5). The students expressed that the workload was high and mentioned the field report and the report for the RHESSys model exercise, although they could not compare and confirm if this was due to the distance and individual set-up following the Covid-19 regulations. On the other hand it was mentioned that working alone did affect their work and that the course was more hectic with some last minute changes. Without on-campus meetings, the communication is suffering. Important comments from the students were to get more involved during the zoom lectures, and deciding which moments are best for on campus and which not, could have been better. This year, the examination was experienced to be rather short in time after the deadline for the modelling report giving little time for studying the material. This can be due this year that students were more depending on their own planning and less cooperating on campus. Improvement of the field campaign schedule and better info on the expectations for data analysis was requested.

Comments from the teaching team

The course went well, although much was changed due to the Covid-19 adaptations. Fieldwork was more divided without being at a research station. We acknowledge the comments given by the students but also we teachers have to learn the new methods of teaching. Being a small group of students we could have had more moments on campus, but also should have planned more carefully which moments were more relevant on campus. In general, my conclusion was that the students handled the changed course setup due to Covid-19 leading to much more individual work, rather different, leading to different opinions.

Evaluation of changes implemented since the last time the course was given The measures taken under the Covid-19 regulations made this course completely different and often ad hoc solutions and improvements based on the last year evaluation could not really be implemented. Distance teaching takes often much more time and some topics could not be taken up in the course. Also general discussion/evaluation was reduced in quality.

Suggestions for changes to implement before the course is given next time

Introducing more detailed requirements for data analysis and report structure on field work. Steering exam preparation with some discussion/evaluation moments on the presented material. For example the article discussion could be extended with examples from the study material. More time on introducing the RHESSys model, which means extra LH.