

Course Summary for" NGEA21-The climate system" vt 2022

Course coordinator: Maj-Lena Linderson

Teachers in the course: NGEA21, The climate system

Number of students: 28 registered students

Grade distribution: 20 G, 8 VG.

Evaluation

Summary of the course evaluation

Number of survey responses: 6, of which is 21 % of the students

Short summary of the evaluation responses: In general, the students think that the aims in the course plan was well covered in the course. The total scoring shows a large spread but an average score around 3.5, on a scale 1-5. The main issue is that the first part of the theory part of the course (before project) contains too much repetition of things taken up in earlier courses. The students thought that the time set off for this part was too long compared to the later theory part that contains more new stuff compared to what they have studied earlier. This is also a conclusion from the discussion in class after the project presentation and not only the digital evaluation.

The practical arrangements generally worked well although the mix of running the course online to a large extent and sometimes a mix of in classroom and online complicated it a bit. The students appreciate the mix of theory and practical work, such as exercises and the applied project focussing on climate adaptation. The discussion seminars connected to lectures were found valuable for the understanding, especially for the later part of the theoretical part of the course.

As there are few answers, it is rather difficult to draw any conclusions on improvements of the course else than the general issue of overlap with other courses. The rest seems to have worked fairly well. On a question on what could be improved, overlap was mentioned in principle by all. One student would have wished more maths and physics and climate modelling exercises while another one wishes a more applied climate course with focus on the climate crisis and how the students can contribute to societal change when they finished our program.

Comments from the teaching team

Since the course moved to the second year, the students have courses in hydrology, ecosystems analysis and methodology that covers large parts of the theory that is taken up in the first two themes, and an adaptation of the course in this respect is needed. However, it is clear from the exam results on the questions covering these parts that this theory is not so well grounded that it is possible to exclude fully from the course. Time set of could be reduced and have more focus on individual studies with less lectures. Except for a general need for more time in the latter part of the theory part (theme 3 and 4), the theory lectures and seminars need more time.

The lecture and seminar time was cut last year and it may be one more reason for the complaint on too little focus on newer parts in the course.

Furthermore, there is a discrepancy between the theoretical part and the applied project. The students do not see a clear connection to the between the parts. To solve this, there is a need for more focus on applied climatology in the theory part. Low score on the library lecture and exercise is due to overlap with earlier courses.

Evaluation of changes implemented since the last time the course was given

The adaptation to the movement of the course from first to second year has already started, however not all the suggested changes from last year was implemented during spring 2022, mainly due to all practical corona adaptation that required time. The student exercise reporting and feedback to these has been changed substantially to solve the problem with late feedback. This was the main issue latest years but seem to have been solved now.

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

The same content will be included in the course but the basic processes that the students find repetitive will still be covered but less time will be set of for this part. Instead, more focus will be put on applied climatology such as microclimate and local climate, and urban climate. This will be covered from lectures, exercises and literature summaries, the latter directly connecting to the project part. The library lecture and exercise will be adjusted to what is taken up in earlier courses in the program and adapted to the specific needs in the project work.

2022-10-05, this summary was done by Maj-Lena Linderson