

# Course Summary for "Global Ecosystem Dynamics, NGEN17" ht 2021

Course coordinator: Anna Maria Jönsson

Teachers in the course: Anna Maria Jönsson; Martin Berggren; Andreas Persson; Abdulghani Hasan; Zhen Duan, Wenxin Zhang; Deniz Koca; Lena Ström; Ulrik Mårtensson

Number of students: 16 students ht2021

Grade distribution: 0 UK, 1 G, 14 VG (n=15)

## Evaluation

### Summary of the course evaluation

Five students answered the survey. The general workload was graded rather high (3.6, on a scale between 1=too low, 3=ok, 5=too much), due to overlapping exercises. Practical arrangements, training in oral and written communication, and feedback from teachers were rated 4.2, 3.6 and 4.0 (max 5). The webinar with EEA and the final project were appreciated (3.8 and 4.2 respectively).

### Comments from the teaching team

The course was given on campus. Due to Covid-19 the presentation of case studies was carried out as a hybrid meeting. This was arranged with short notice, and it was difficult to get the video and sound working properly. The presentation of projects was carried out online.

The students have very different background knowledge e.g. in terms of hydrology, modelling and remote sensing. For students coming from biology all of this is new, whereas the students that have taken other courses at INES may find the exercises a bit shallow.

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

It worked well to have the introduction to Matlab before the remote sensing exercise. Matlab can however still be tricky for students without prior knowledge.

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

One teacher will leave for a new position, affecting one module.

Have a survey at the beginning of the course to gain more knowledge on the background of the participants, e.g. to avoid overlap between courses and highlight the requirements of Matlab.

The survey can help adapt the exercises both to students with and without prior knowledge, e.g. two sets of instructions with basic/advanced operations.

Check the modules of modelling/agriculture and remote sensing, to provide stronger links between lectures, reading instructions and the course book.

Encourage strong interaction with supervisors during the project assignment, check the planning of this course component so that it can be carried out without difficulties to keep in contact due to winter holidays.