

# Course report BL5003 Tropical Marine Biology 7.5 hp

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**Course coordinator**

Johan Eklöf

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**Number of students taking exam/other relevant examination form**

8

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**Number of students passed**

8

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**Description of any changes since the last time the course was given**

New course leader, fully revised course material (handouts, essay instructions, study questions, etc.)

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**Positive things about the course according to students (summary based on both quantitative data from evaluation and the students' text answers)**

That the course runs completely online and that students can work on the material in their own pace, at their own choice etc.

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**Things about the course that could be improved according to students (summary based on both quantitative data from evaluation and the students' text answers)**

Add lectures, replace 1 of the 3 essays with some other form of examination.

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**Teachers' analysis of the course**

The course went well, especially given it was the first time for the course leader + assistant. The course suffered from the pandemic (quite few of the persons who signed up couldn't take it because of added time requirements caused by the pandemic).

Most students who took the course were pleased.

Several students struggled to hand in the essays on time.

Finally, we noted that some students repeatedly failed to follow the instructions to primarily read and review tropical studies.

Some also struggled to stick to the general topics chosen. This emphasizes the need to in even greater detail explain why they should do this in the written instructions and in online lectures.

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**Conclusions and suggestions for changes (if any)**

The overall grade was 4.0 (average of 3 responses). Difficult to draw any conclusions from 3/8 students answering, but 2 of 3 who replied gave many of the questions a 5 in reply (i.e. "completely satisfied" - the highest grade).

Suggestions for change:

- 1) add an aspect of student peer review of (1 of) the essays in Athena.
  - 2) add some form of online group discussion in chat form.
  - 3) let student choose topic on their own for the 3rd and final essay, as long as it does not overlap with their first 1-2 essays.
  - 4) MAYBE: add a physical online meeting early during the course with introduction, etc.
  - 5) MAYBE: add short online lectures that the students can watch on Athena.
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