

Evaluation-form

Course-code: STV2330

Course title: Public Opinion and Political Behaviour

Language: Norwegian English

Course convener's evaluation of the course:

Assess how the course worked. Be concrete. Discuss what worked particularly well, as well as what worked less than optimal.

The course was held for the first time. The course consisted of 10 traditional lectures as well as a guest lecture on the Norwegian general elections. In addition we had seminars built around the principles of active learning where the students did their own small empirical analyses, whether quantitative or qualitative, building a bridge between the methodology course in the first year and the BA thesis in the third year. This term paper was presented as a draft and received feedback from the seminar leader as well as fellow students before being handed in (and counting towards the grade) at the end of the semester.

Overall, we think it worked very well. We are particularly happy that the students were able to perform well on the term papers, which were designed to be challenging and analytical. Activity was high with many questions in the lectures, and turnout was consistently high on both lectures and seminars.

On the other hand, we were somewhat surprised by the very high share of foreign students, and this is something we should probably prepare more for next year. E.g. give more information on how the Norwegian university system works, assume less knowledge of Norwegian politics, and so on. We also had some feedback that students would have liked more information about the exam format at an earlier time, probably related to many of them never having had exams at UiO before, and they wanted examples of previous exams. Some students did not want to buy the books and there were few books available at the library. Finally, the seminar leader reported that the gap between the first seminar (where students are assigned term papers) and the second seminar (where students start presenting drafts) was too short at only about two weeks, not giving enough time for the students to prepare a draft.

Summary of feedback from student contact-point:

Fill in the key points from the student feedback. Mention what worked well, what worked not so well, and suggest areas of improvement.

The two student contacts did not show up for the evaluation meeting. Next year we must take steps to ensure that they show up so we can conduct a proper evaluation meeting.

Suggestions for improvements:

Describe how the course can be improved for the next time it is on offer. Assess to what extent it is necessary to make major changes to the course.

If the high share of foreign students holds up in the future, we should try to actively build on their knowledge of different political systems in the teaching. We will give more information

about the exam at an earlier stage next year and also include example exams from 2021. We will have a larger time gap between the first and second seminar. We have already contacted the library and they have bought more copies of the main book on the curriculum.

More long-term we wish to assess how we can make the course even more strongly oriented towards active learning.