**Course-code: PECOS4022**

Course title: Applied Statistics for Peace and Conflict Studies

Teachers: Jacob Nyrup (course administrator, lecturer, & seminar leader) and Jonas Schmid (lecturer & seminar leader)

Language:  Norwegian  English

**Course convener’s evaluation of the course:**

Jonas and I took over the course from Håvard Strand and Neil Ketchley, who have been running the course for several years. We have modernized the course 1) by updating the curriculum, so it includes state of the art textbooks and applied texts that fits with the curriculum for the given week, 2) by changing the seminars and the course to use R instead of Stata, and 3) by changing a few of the lectures to focus more on causal inference. Nonetheless, the course largely remains the same as before.

We were largely pleased with the class this year. The student group was active and hard-working, and they learned a lot in the five weeks we had to our disposal. This was confirmed by the exams, where the external examiner was impressed with what the students managed to achieve in such a short time.

Overall, we find that the course works well, and we recommend that it should continue largely as is. Nonetheless, we did face some issues this year which we should work on improving for next year’s course. First, the students have very varied backgrounds when commencing the course. Although it is a requirement that they should have a basic knowledge of statistics, many do not. Second, the exam for the previous course was in the first week of PECOS4022, which effectively meant that the students were not able to do any coursework for PECOS4022 during that week. Third, the course is very intense and there is a lot to learn in a short time. Therefore, it is of upmost importance to ensure that all students are onboard from the beginning and are prepared to work hard. Fourth, we had some issues with the exam, partly due to wrong information from the administration, partly due to the shift from covid to non-covid, and partly due to Jonas and I being new to UiO.

**Summary of feedback from student contact-point:**

The contact-points’ summary was largely positive. They approve of the learning outcomes and believe that they learned a lot during the course. Most agree that they have achieved proficiency in statistics and want to learn more. Furthermore, they are satisfied with the teachers and think they were effective in teaching and available and helpful. Yet, many also find the course to be very ambitious and intense. Some also find that the workload is overwhelming.

**Suggestions for improvements:**

We have the following suggestions for improvement:

* Work towards adding a refresher course (or some other material), so the students can refresh or learn the basics before the course begins.
* Update the exam format (has already been agreed to by the program council)
* Make sure that the previous course ends before PECOS4022 begins.
* We can work closer with STV4022