

03.05.2024

Dear members of the programme council,

I am writing this letter to propose a modification to the structure of the seminars for PSY2405 – Introduction to Work Psychology, (PSY2405 – Innføring i arbeidspsykologi) specifically to implement compulsory attendance. Currently, while we have a mandatory assignment, seminar attendance is optional. I suggest mandating attendance at five out of seven seminars (70%), beginning in the upcoming spring semester (2025).

As the course coordinator for PSY2405 in the spring of 2024, I gathered feedback from students through various channels, as well as insights from seminar leaders. Based on this feedback, I recognized the crucial role seminars play in complementing the knowledge conveyed in lectures by providing practical applications and problem-solving through case studies.

Each week, a real-life workplace scenario was presented as a case study, allowing groups to collaborate, present their findings, receive peer and seminar leader's feedback, and engage in discussions regarding the issues and potential solutions presented. This format proved highly beneficial for students in applying theoretical concepts and honing their teamwork skills, ultimately better preparing them for the final exam.

While students appreciated the case studies, which were newly designed for each week to align with lecture content, and found the seminar experience valuable and fulfilling, not all sessions garnered high attendance. I firmly believe that mandating attendance would significantly enhance the quality of the seminar experience, fostering richer discussions and ensuring that more students can benefit from the weekly case studies. Rules for the regulated absence (gyldig fravær) can be applied as how it is applied to other compulsory seminars in general. There we can have a minimum of 3 seminar (of 7) as a minimum.

Making seminars mandatory will additionally help alleviate any possible perceived unfairness between students who attend and those who do not attend the seminars. Another rationale for mandating seminars is that it aligns the student workload more effectively with the credit points (10 ECTS = 250 hours of student work).

Drawing from my experience coordinating another course (PSY2407) where compulsory seminar attendance was implemented, I observed a notable improvement compared to seminars with optional attendance. Therefore, I believe mandating seminar attendance in PSY2405 – Introduction to Work Psychology will better align with the course's teaching objectives and provide a more enriching experience for students.

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Mehmet Cetin