Evaluation-form

Course-code: PECOS4022

Course title: Applied Statistics for Peace and Conflict Studies

Language: ☐ Norwegian ☒ English

Course convener's evaluation of the course:
We were largely pleased with the class. The student group was active and hard-working, and they learned a lot in the five weeks we had to our disposal.
The organization of the class became somewhat ad hoc as the lectures changed a few weeks before the class started. This led to a mismatch between the reading list and the lectures that can and should be remedied before the next iteration.
The transition from Stata to R did involve some extra work, but did not, as far as we can see, cause any significant problems.

The class had two student contact-point persons. The following synopsis is based on their feedback and is not necessarily representative of the group as a whole nor does it replace the evaluation surveys at the end of the class.
The contact-points' summary was largely positive, but with some suggestions for improvement. They approve of the learning outcomes and believe that the class was mostly successful in achieving these.
Specific suggestions for improvement highlight the reading list and the term paper. The reading list was deemed to be too long, too complicated, and partially out of sync with the lectures.
The term paper was criticized as too open ended. As it stands, the term paper challenges students on most aspects of a research process (save data collection). The contact point persons suggestions for improvements involve more handholding, more a more detailed task specification and more and better feedback during the process.
The class overall is also criticized for being too ambitious and for not taking into account that many students failed to meet the prerequisites specified.

Suggestions for improvements:
We believe the class is a largely in a good shape. Three lectures are too much, so a reduction by one will make things better. An updated reading list will better reflect the current lectures' priorities and teaching style.
Regarding the term paper, we should revise the supporting documents to better reflect the requirements, but we do believe we should maintain a high academic level for the class as a whole, including the term paper.