

Emneevaluering / course evaluation ISV

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Navn / name *

Navn til emneansvarlig

Staffan Kumlin

Semester

Våren 2025

Velg kursnivå *

Masterkurs

*

Bolk 3

Emnekode / course code *

Stv4313

Emnenavn / Course title

The Welfare State and Democratic Legitimacy

Emnerapport / course report *

==Remarks from the course convenor

Twenty-four students followed the course regularly and took the exam. All passed the course with the distribution of grades as follows: A 4, B 7, C 11, <C 2). Approximately two-thirds of students were women.

The group size was large but not too large. Certain tweaks seminars were made to accommodate the relatively large number of students. Rather than having one 90 minute discussion involving everyone, we spent one hour on small-group discussions, and one hour on reports in plenum. Whereas in some previous years around one-third of the group were international exchange student there was only a small number of exchange student/non-Norwegian speakers this year. Despite this, most students elected to write the exams in English, which is similar to observations I have made in other courses. There seems to be little practical problems related to language.

This was the seventh time for STV4313 since the start in 2018. However, it was the first time since a reform involving major changes to the reading list, lectures, learning outcomes, etcetera. Briefly, the course is now more focused on recent welfare state change and more on the individual level consequences of such changes (i.e. political distrust, populism). Overall, these seem to have been a good and timely move. In addition to the large initial interest, lecturers were pleased to a near 100 percent turnout for each of the lectures.

==Student feedback

There were two meetings with student representatives. One half-way and one at the end of the course. Both meetings revealed that students were clearly satisfied with the course overall and appreciated the "engaging lecturers". The seminars were also clearly well received and student representative felt it was a "low threshold" setting for testing out if one had grasped the substance but also for applying them to current political events. It was also said that the focus on recent welfare state change, with resulting democratic tensions, as interesting and timely. Some possible tweaks concerning the seminar and exam instructions were discussed, in we followed up on these points in the latter half of course.

==Looking forward to 2026

All in all, the major changes done this year were well received. I foresee only smaller tweaks to the reading list

Emneevalueringen bør inneholde:

1. Vurdering av emnet
 - Læringsutbytte i emnet
 - Undervisningsformer og organisering
 - Andre relevante temaer som læringsmiljø, studentenes arbeidsinnsats og eventuelt vurderingsformer
2. Studentens tilbakemelding
 - Oppsummering av studentenes viktigste tilbakemeldinger
3. Helhetlig vurdering og videreutvikling
 - En samlet vurdering av kvaliteten på emnet
 - Justeringer som er foretatt som følge av evalueringen.
 - Muligheter for videreutvikling av emnet

The course evaluation should include:

1. Assessment of the course
 - Learning outcomes in the course
 - Teaching methods and organization
 - Other relevant topics such as the learning environment, students' effort and possibly forms of assessment
2. Student's feedback
 - Summary of students' most important feedback
3. Overall assessment and further development
 - An overall assessment of the quality of the course
 - Adjustments made as a result of the evaluation.
 - Opportunities for further development of the course