

Emneevaluering / course evaluation ISV

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Navn / name *

Navn til emneansvarlig

Maryna Povitkina

Semester

Våren 2025

Velg kursnivå *

Masterkurs

*

Bolk 3

Emnekode / course code *

STV4341

Emnenavn / Course title

Comparative Environmental and Climate Politics

Emnerapport / course report *

Course Evaluation stv4341

1. Assessment of the course

The course contained 9 lectures, among which one lecture was a guest lecture, and one seminar. The seminar is a debate/discussion on the pros and cons with democratic rule for responding to climate change and other environmental problems. The goal of the seminar was for students to train articulate an informed opinion on a heated topic. This structure of the course worked well.

The exam was a term paper and an oral presentation to a group of students. The goal of the exam is to train conducting an independent empirical study using comparative research methods and communicating academic knowledge in writing and orally. The term paper worked well in the course as it helped student develop their writing skills and analytical skills. Although there was a risk of AI usage, it was minimized through the analytical nature of the task where comparative method was applied to study a specific environmental problem. In order to further diminish the reliance on AI in writing the paper, I supervised the students throughout the course in their choice of the environmental problem and traced the paper development. Oral part of the exam also helped assess whether students worked on the term paper themselves. Overall, the term paper worked well but the oral part of the exam only reached some of its learning outcomes. The aim with the oral part was 1) to practice communicating independent research orally; 2) for the course coordinator to have an additional check on whether the students wrote papers themselves; 3) for students to learn about various cases in successful and less successful environmental politics around the world through peer presentations. While learning goal #1 was successfully reached, the ability of oral exam to reach goal #2 is questionable. Moreover, feedback from student representative showed that most students were "done with the course" with the term paper submission and were not attentive, which defeats the purpose of goal #3. I consider replacing oral part of the exam with another form of assessment, as it seems to create more complications for everyone involved (administration, course coordinator and students) than presents a solution to the problems it is designed to solve.

2. Student's feedback

Overall, students liked the course very much. Several students mentioned, both through in-person communication and through a course evaluation in nettskjema that this was one of the best courses they had taken. The students in particular liked the structured approach, detailed explanation of complicated concepts, material delivery, and the reading.

Among things that could be improved, the students mentioned that lectures could have more examples to illustrate concepts that are introduced during the course. The students also gave suggestions on how question and answer sessions can be organized better in class in order to engage more students – to first divide students in groups to discuss and then ask group representatives to speak up. I will utilize this feedback the next time the course is given.

3. Overall assessment and further development

Overall, the course works very well. I plan to make small adjustments to the material delivery during the lectures with more examples when introducing political science terms and concepts. Also, when asking students a question, I will first ask them to write the answer down for themselves, then discuss in groups, then speak publicly, with the aim to increase engagement.

Among the big changes, I plan to reconsider the oral part of the exam and change it to another examination form for the reasons mentioned in part 1 of this evaluation.

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