

## **Deltakerevalueringen of HIS2416 av et referansepanel**

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### **Introductory comments**

Relating to the first point (student involvement), from the first class meeting and periodically thereafter, I gave the students short texts and divided them into groups to discuss the texts among themselves and then in plenum. This helped them to get to know each other from the beginning and eased class participation thereafter

Relating to the second point, while with a couple of lectures I still stayed close to my text, I managed to refrain from reading for the most part. In any case, I spoke slowly and looked at the students and came with unscripted comments.

My disappointment was that, even though the classroom experiences were improved, only four students wrote the obligatory essay out of the 10 which I had on a list as being still in the course. Also, of the four who did hand in the essay (all passed), only two took the exam.

I mailed the six students and asked why they did not hand in an essay and received responses from four of them.

### **Responses from non-essay writers, examples of responses:**

“I did unfortunately not find myself in a position to comply with the requirements of the course and hand in the obligatory paper. The reasons for this do not in any way reflect on your abilities as a lecturer or the way the course was set up. [...] I decided to treat it as a challenge and an opportunity to learn something about a field of which I had no prior knowledge, but have come to realize over these past few months that I do not have the energy to read and write on weekends like I planned.”

“The only reason I dropped the course was due to my job. I studied fulltime and worked last semester and realized it was too much work, so had to cut back on some of the courses I had signed up for this semester.”

### Course Evaluation for HIS2416 of Spring semester 2008 by students:

Complaints by students: None

Suggestions for improvement: One

General attitude about the course: Good

### **Further Comments:**

What has been said to me about the course, HIS2416, is that it requires a high level of independent-study motivation on the students' part. There have been no significant complaints with regard to either the course or the instructor. The students I've spoken with have only said that they would prefer more eye-to-eye contact with the professor. They said that this has not interfered with their progress in any capacity, but it would enhance the class dynamic through a greater connection with the professor.