

# Periodic evaluation – ANTH4020 Academic writing and project development – Autumn 2019

**Course description:** See <https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/sai/ANTH4020/index.html>

**Statistics:** 30 students were enrolled; 24 submitted their project proposal. The proposals were evaluated on a pass/fail basis. All submitted proposals passed, and each student got feedback on their proposal through Inspira.

**Previously conducted reports:** None, this is the first offering.

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## Points of Evaluation

### General

- ANTH4020 was offered for the first time Autumn 2019. Overall, the course managed to provide students with insights into and experience with both academic writing and project development. The teaching was centered around the students' own MA projects and we tried in each lecture/seminar to discuss issues in relation to the students' projects. It is my impression that the course facilitated the project development in accordance with the course's learning outcomes.
- The teaching consisted of a total of 7 lectures of which 6 were given by Jon Henrik Z. Remme. 1 lecture was given by the University library (Marianne I. Lien) and was related to literature searching and reference practices. In addition, the course ended with two sessions where students presented their projects orally and with Powerpoint. PPs were uploaded on Canvas. In order to provide students with new and fresh eyes on their projects, these seminars were led by Samwel Ntapanta and Franziska Klaas. Each student presented their projects and got feedback from both fellow students and seminar leaders. The presentations gave the students experience in presenting orally as well as describing their project ideas in a brief and concise manner.
- The lectures were generally well-attended, although attendance dropped somewhat towards the end of the lecture series.
- Curriculum for the course consisted of 4 books and one online article. The books were used mainly as background reading for the course. Two of the books, Ghodsee and Narayan, to a certain extent cover the same topics, although they do so in quite different ways. Students found Narayan's book most useful and I would recommend this to be kept on the list.

### Suggestions for improvement

- Some of the students apply to the program with a relatively vague sense of their MA project. Teaching this course for those students can become a challenge since it becomes hard to make concrete the various topics one discusses. Perhaps it would be a better idea to cover some of the more general issues such as data storage, literature search and ethnographic writing in the first part of the course and then move the more specific project related issues towards the latter part. That would give students time to develop their project a bit further from their applications and ease both learning and teaching on project specific issues.
- The seminar parts of the course seem to have worked well and should be kept as is. It would be possible to demand uploading to Canvas and have students and seminar leaders provide feedback on Canvas as well.
- A topic that we covered in the lecture on ethics and data management touched on issues related to NSD and safe data storage. We could easily have used more time on this, and it might be considered expanding the course with one extra lecture in order to cover this issue

more comprehensively. At the time of teaching, we did not have in place a safe data storage system. The uncertainties with regards to safe data storage generated some worries among students that should now be lessened as we have now set up access to UiO's storage hotel (Lagringshotell) for all MA students.