

ANTH4030 - Midterm Review Report

Teacher: Maka Suarez

Semester: Fall 2022

The feedback from the mid-term review showed students who answered the form were very (71,4%) or somewhat (28,6%) satisfied with the course. Students felt they were very (51,1%) or relatively well (42,9%) prepared to conduct their research projects. There are overall good results as no student is less than or not satisfied with the class or feels less than expected or not well prepared for conducting their research.

Open comments were very useful for me as course instructor.

Some of the comments improved the ongoing class, like requests for more group discussions, which we translated into exercises in class centered on group and class feedback/discussion.

There are issues around structure that work on two different levels, class and MA program. Though they are related, I think there are certain issues that go beyond this class. Based on some of the feedback received, I tried to further emphasize how structuring an ongoing project can help prepare for fieldwork even if projects are at a nascent stage and can continue to change. It was useful to read about students' feelings (of anxiety and doubts) because I could address those too in following lectures.

Some of the comments will be helpful in slightly redesigning the course, like a better structuring of the monograph exercise and the use of the "implosion exercise" which we did in class but will work much better by preparing students ahead of time. Still, students felt it was a very useful exercise to center their research projects so I will be using it again in the future.

Reflections papers were highly rated by students, which is a good reason to keep them as an obligatory part of the class. It will probably be good to lower the number of reflection papers to 2 or 3.

Some of the doubts about conducting fieldwork were very helpful for me in designing an additional class activity based on anonymous questions about fieldwork that allowed students to openly ask about anything they were unsure about (theoretically or methodologically speaking). That exercise was so highly rated that we used it not once (as planned) but twice per students request.