

Course evaluation

### **SOSGEO4801 Social movements (Spring semester 2024)**

Student enrollment in SOSGEO4801 was significantly lower in 2024 than in previous years. We ascribe this to the very late announcement of the course due to an error in the online course information system. Given the contemporary increase in mobilization and movements, and the growing interest for the topic among students, we expect the enrollment to bounce back to a more normal level next year.

A course evaluation was conducted during the last lecture and took the form of anonymous written assessments. Nine students submitted their feedback.

**The student evaluations of the course and the lecturers are very positive.** In different ways, all the students express that they have enjoyed the course. The students especially highlight that the diversity of topics, lecturers and teaching methods have made the course very dynamic, interesting and engaging. The lecturers are commended for their competence as well as their classroom engagement with the students. A few students add that the integration of social movement theories could be strengthened in some of the case lectures.

**Active student participation promotes learning.** The students are very positive to the use of group presentations and discussions in the second part of the course, as it activates the students and deepens their understanding of the course topic. There is thus strong support for the current teaching format. Some of the students state that they would like to see even more time for discussions, while a few indicate that they do not want this at the expense of more conventional lectures. It is also notable that some students would like a more structured format for the student contributions (e.g. pre-given questions and formats), while others state that they appreciate the openness and freedom that they are given.

**The change of exam format caused confusion.** The examination of the course was changed from term paper to school exam due to the growing concerns about the use of artificial intelligence tools. The feedback from the students, both in oral conversations and in the written course assessments, was that they saw this late change of exam format as unfortunate. Many of the students write that they would have liked to have more information about the exam earlier, including access to example questions, as this would allow them to study more effectively and better prepare for the exam during the course.

Based on our own experiences and the feedback from the students, we conclude that the course has a thematic format and organization that works well and is received positively among the students. While we will continue the work of improving the course, we do not see any need for major changes at this moment.

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