

Emneevaluering / course evaluation ISV

Navn / name

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Emnekode / course code

STV2350

Semester

Spring 2023

Emneevalueringen bør inneholde:

Egenevalueringen emneansvarlig: Evaluer hvordan undervisningsopplegget fungerte. Vær konkret. Gjør spesielt rede for både det som fungerte godt, og det som ikke fungerte like godt.

Oppsummering av studentevaluering: Her fylles hovedpunktene fra tilbakemeling fra emnekontakt inn. Nevn hva som fungerte bra, hva som fungerte mindre bra, og kom gjerne med forslag til forbedringer.

Forslag til forbedringer: Gjør rede for hvordan emnet kan forbedres til neste gang det skal gis. Vurder i hvilken grad det er behov for større endringer.

The course evaluation should include:

Self-evaluation by the course convener: Evaluate how the course worked. Be specific. Describe both what worked well and what didn't work as well.

Summary of student evaluation: Here, the main points from feedback provided by the contact student(s) are included. Mention what worked well, what didn't work as well, and feel free to suggest improvements.

Suggestions for improvements: Explain how the course can be improved for the next time it is offered. Assess the extent to which there is a need for major changes.

Emnerapport / course report

Course-code: STV2350

Course title: Autocratic Politics

**Course convener's evaluation of the course: **

In our view the following things worked well:

- The inclusion of several instructors across all levels (PhD, Postdoc, Associate/full professors) as lecturers in the course continues to work well. Having experts on a topic teach the respective lectures clearly improved the overall quality of individual lectures.
- A strong focus on the curriculum with an emphasis on reading comprehension also continues to be an asset. A reason why this is worked is, we believe, that focused the seminars (and seminar exercises) strongly on reading comprehension and discussion of the readings.
- Several of the lecturers also successfully tied course lectures to current events, such as the Russian war against Ukraine, which helped to relate the relevance of course contents to students.

****Summary of student evaluation:****

The student contact point positively mentioned the following topics:

- The layout and the structure of the course are good. The order of topics was perceived as logical
- Thematic order is good and topics were well chosen
- The seminar sizes are good and allow for engaged discussion
- Having one seminar every two weeks works well

Things that could be improved:

- While students generally appreciated the focus in the seminars on discussing readings, some students note that the downside of that focus is that the seminars leave less room for discussing term papers & getting feedback on term papers.
- Some of the lectures could use more country/historical examples, since some of the topics are relatively technical
- Providing video recordings of the lectures

****Suggestions for improvements:****

- Given the change in exam structure, we will drop the main term paper at the end of the course and change the main exam to a school exam. This should mitigate the issue of having little to no time in the seminars to discuss the term paper
- We will instead have the students write short reaction papers (pass/fail) that will help them to engage with the readings even more and prepare for the final exam