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Emnekode	SAMPOL348
Emnetittel	Local and Regional Democracy in Multilevel Norway and Europe
Semester	Vår 2021
Institutt	Institutt for sammenliknende politikk
Emneansvarlig	Arjan Schakel
Sist evaluert (semester/år)	The course is new

Emnets undervisnings- og vurderingsform

The course had twelve 2-hour meetings during which students discussed the literature with the course coordinator. Four of the meetings were lectures on research design and methodology and were meant to strengthen students' knowledge and skills on academic writing and research.

Half-way the course, students had to hand-in a mandatory assignment (a research design of 1,500 words) which was not graded.

During the second half of the course, students had at least three individual meetings with the course coordinator and/or one of tutors in the course --i.e. members of the research team of the project Strengthening Regional Democracy. During these meetings students could discuss any issue related to academic writing and research, methodology and data that they were encountering while working on their research essays.

At the end of the course, students presented the preliminary results of their research essay and the course coordinators, tutors, and other students provided feedback. The presentation was not graded; it was meant to induce students to focus on a clear research objective for their research essays and to provide students with another opportunity to receive further feedback.

The students' grades were based on a 6,000 words research essay. Students had the whole month of May to work on their research essays --i.e. there were no classes-- and they could meet up with the course coordinator and/or tutor --i.e. the individual meetings described above.

Oppfølging fra tidligere evalueringer

This is a new course.

Evalueringemetode(er) Research essay

Sammendrag av studentene sin evaluering

Overall, the students indicate to find this an adequate course. They perceive to have had 'academic gain', there were a sufficient number of lectures and readings, both the lectures and reading the curriculum contributed to their learning, and they received (more than) adequate support while writing their research essays.

The students also indicate to spent much more time compared to other courses and (some of) the students indicate that writing the research essay was useful but also challenging.

Emneansvarlig sin evaluering

I noticed that students 'struggled' with reading all the assigned literature every week because they had to read (too much) for another course. Considering that the amount of literature assigned for this course was perceived to be adequate by the students I do not intend to implement any revisions. However, to help students to study the literature more efficiently, I will allocate readings across students and ask them to present 1-2 readings each seminar next year.

Students found the research essay useful --as a 'stepping stone' towards writing their MA-thesis-- so I will keep that as the final examination. The support while writing the research essay was perceived to be adequate but students found

it very challenging to write a research essay in which they had to review the literature as well as to analyse empirical data. Next year, I will provide more structure and hand out research topics that can be taken up and datasets which can be used to address that research topic.

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kontaktperson)**

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Mål for neste evalueringsperiode- Forbedringstiltak

The objective is to have a higher share (above 25%) of students who perceive their 'academic gain' as substantial or very substantial.
