

Course rapport – Autumn 2016

SANT 104: Culture, meaning and communication

Course coordinator: Andrew Lattas

Lecturers: Andrew Lattas

Teaching assistant: Malin Kleppe

This course report has been submitted to and processed by the Education Committee of the Department of Anthropology.

The courses structure

Teaching methods: Lectures and workshops

Coursework requirements: An obligatory essay (+/- 1500 words)

Exam: 8 hours written exam

Summarizing statistic

Student signed up for evaluation

	Education-/evaluation signups	Attendance	Passed
No. of students	104	82	79

Grade distribution

	A	B	C	D	E	F
No. of students	15	20	23	13	8	-

Fail percentage: -

Evaluation of the course

Evaluation form:

a) Procedural evaluation: There was a high turnout of students attending lectures and workshops, which provided a continuous conversation on how the students felt about the course.

b) Mid-term evaluation: Before the end of the course the workshop leader had an oral evaluation with the students in her groups. The feed-back was communicated back to the course coordinator.

c) A questionnaire: After the exam, all the students received a questionnaire, enabling them to give an anonymous feed-back about how they experienced the course.

Number of respondents: 27

Curriculum: Most respondents (25 out of 27) found the curriculum to be of relevance and well exemplified according to the subject of the course. On comments from the students some find

the curriculum fine as it was. Others find the literature to be too extensive, and are requesting some guidance on what is most relevant, and what could be recommended readings. The strategies seem to be that literature that's not discussed in lectures or workshops will be considered as less relevant. Some mention that the course has had the same readings over a long time, and might benefit from an update. The students are voicing a critique of having to pay for the articles in the literature kiosk.

Lectures: Most respondents (21 of 27) find the lectures to be of very importance for their academic progress. 5 respondents found the lectures to be of some importance, whereas 1 respondent has not answered. Overall the students report that they are very satisfied with the lecturer. They are happy with how the articles are presented, and highlight revision and no use of PowerPoints as a good way to understand the subject. Students also appreciate being able to access lecture notes. The students mention that this being a wide and complex course, it sometimes feels like we are in a rush. This makes it hard to open for questions at the end of the lecture.

Workshops: The students highlight the workshops as a great support to understand the lectures content. They were satisfied with the questions schemes, and experienced the workshops to be a place for thinking further and discuss. Some students request two workshops a week instead of one, and think that it would be better if the workshop came immediately after the lectures.

Experienced learning outcome: Overall the student report that they found the course to be interesting, and experienced a high learning outcome.

Final comment: SANT104 seems to be a well-received course amongst the students. In general, they were active and well-prepared throughout the semester. The students do report that they would wish for more lectures and workshops. A final observation is that this course attracts a lot of exchange students that comes from different disciplines. This offer great discussions, but for some it is hard to adapt in to an 'anthropological way of thought'. A suggestion is that we could reinstall the 'crash-course' in anthropology for our BA students that come from different disciplines.