

Course evaluation report autumn 2022

PSY2301 Bedømmings- og beslutningspsykologi / Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making

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Introduction

In the Autumn semester 2022, 83 students were enrolled in the course, of which 15 (18 %) participated in the course evaluation. Students could fill in the online evaluation form with 21 questions between 23. November 22 (the day of the exam) until 11.01.23.

The course consisted of 14 lectures that took place in a hybrid format (most streamed via zoom). The course ended with a 3-hour school exam where 3 (out of 4) questions had to be answered. The exam questions were taken from a pool of questions given to the students after each lecture. There were no other compulsory activities or assessments. This semester was based on a new syllabus incorporating timely topics in the field (e.g., moral judgments, conspiracy theories, nudging, artificial intelligence) and guest lectures by experts from different fields relevant to judgment and decision-making psychology (e.g., nudging, climate psychology).

General on the topic

Regarding the learning goals of this course, most students agreed that they were learning the relevant knowledge and skills (86.6 %)¹, that the covered topics were relevant to current issues (93.8 %), and that they could apply the gained knowledge/skills/competences outside of this course (93.3 %). The course provided less clear inspiration regarding possible work fields after their studies, nevertheless most students (93.3 %) agree that the “expert” lectures showed how the respective topics could be applied in the real world.

There were several suggestions for improvements:

“det hadde vært fint å få en formell tilbakemelding på noe før eksamen”

«Jeg synes boken i visse kapitler var litt utilgjengelig og vanskelig å forstå, men forelesningene hjalp veldig med å forstå ting bedre. Kunne kanskje vært en idé å ha noen form for seminar eller gruppetimer der man kunne diskutere og stille spørsmål om pensum.»

«Jeg syntes undervisningene og forelesningene av eksterne eksperter kan beholdes slik de var. Alt her var oversiktlig og ga god dybdeinformasjon om de forskjellige temaene. Pensumboken syntes jeg burde endres.»

Size, syllabus and own efforts

Most students found the space the course took in the study program and the syllabus appropriate. Students reported to have spent on average around 7 hours/week on the course. They were less satisfied with the new course book. While they found the topics that the book covered relevant, they found the book difficult to understand at times but accessible with the help of the lecture notes.

¹ Percentage of students scoring higher than the midpoint on a 7-point scale.

Teaching, lecturers and learning environment

Most students found the amount of teaching adequate, but some wished for additional seminars. In addition, more time between the last lecture and the date of the exam was suggested. Most students benefitted from the teaching but pointed out some variation in the quality of teaching. Most students were dissatisfied with the learning environment (rammebetingelsene), due to several technical issues with the streaming of the lectures via zoom.

Most notably, students' opinions were divided about the form of assessment in the course. 66.7 % thought the form of assessment was appropriate, while 33.3 % thought it was not appropriate. Many students pointed out that a home exam would have been a more appropriate form of assessment due to the quite comprehensive syllabus and interrelated topics of the course.

- "Tror hjemmeeksamen ville vært mer hensiktsmessig. Smale spørsmål gir vansker for å vise hva man kan og har lært i emnet. Synd hvis man ikke kan så mye om akkurat de konkrete spørsmålene og dermed ikke får vist hva man kan.»
- «Skoleeksamen generelt fremstår som lite hensiktsmessig i emner hvor diskusjon og forståelse er det man er ute etter å teste. Det er i tillegg en lite relevant måte å forberede studentene på arbeidslivet på»

Assessment by the person responsible for the course

Based on the student feedback, we feel reassured that we are covering topics in this course that are timely and relevant for students' (work) life. In addition, the changes made to the syllabus this semester seem to be in the bounds of the study time assigned to this course.

Based on the student feedback, we will work on improving the course in in these areas:

- 1) We will work on a reliable alternative to in-person teaching for students who cannot attend the lectures.
- 2) We will consider a change in the form of final assessment and a possible (peer-evaluated) formative assessment for practice during the semester.
- 3) We will consider a change in syllabus/course book or additional resources that aid understanding of the book.
- 4) We will work on a more thorough integration of the "expert" lectures with the syllabus and more emphasis on possible work fields.