

Evaluation of SOS/SGO 9006 Spring 23

The format of the Nearing submission course (SOS/SGO 9006) has been that each candidate has received comments on their draft Introduction Section (article-based thesis) or selected chapters from the monograph from a specially appointed peer candidate, the rest of the candidates and the course convenors. Based on a very successful experience the previous semester when only one candidate attended and we thus arranged for an external specialist to comment, we decided to change formats. Each candidate received in-depth comments from a specialist commentator followed by shorter comments and questions from the peer candidates and convenors. About one hour was allocated to each of the candidates against 45 minutes previously. Most of this time was, as planned for, spent in a dialogue between the specialist commentator and the candidate.

We briefly summed up the outcome of the course at the end of the course. Later, four out of the six participants replied to questions about the seminar in a written evaluation. The use of specialist commentators was very well received, so we will continue with such a format. It was also expressed that the seminar was a good push for work on the Introduction Section and that such a push could come even earlier. In addition to the Nearing submission seminar, we will thus continue to arrange additional academic-social seminars for all candidates on the Introduction Section as we did later this semester. We will also include more about the Introduction Section in the first thesis course (SOS/SGO 9001). As asked for, we will give more information in advance of what is required from the PhD candidates in the new format when they comment on their peers. We will also give more detailed information about what to submit for those who write monographs.