

Emneevaluering / course evaluation ISV

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Navn / name *

Navn til emneansvarlig

Tobias Bach

Velg kursnivå *

Masterkurs

Bare for Master: velg blokk

Blokk 1

Emnekode / course code *

STV4030C

Emnenavn / Course title

Survey design for political scientists

Semester *

H2024

Student feedback:

A general problem in the course was rather low interest among students relative to the other two courses that are being offered at the same time. Another problem was sometimes rather low attendance of students in the lectures but also in the last sessions of the seminars. According to the seminar teacher the impression is that most students are just fulfilling the minimum requirements. The students were asked to provide some feedback on the course in the last session (and obviously this might be a biased group of students). One student commented that the course focuses very much on how your own survey will work. But the problem is that running your own survey is rather costly and that most students will be using existing surveys. Another student pointed out that the course makes them well prepared to use existing survey data which especially relates to the most recent lectures on existing survey data. One student noted that they learned very little about existing surveys in the methods teaching. They hardly knew that they were using "survey" data. They would normally only talk about data in general rather than anything else. Hence there might be a need to be more explicit in the compulsory methods courses on the type of data that are being used. Something else that was raised was that the memos which is the mandatory work to be done in the course and the take home exam are all about designing your own survey. Since several lectures did not cover that topic (while many did) may be a reason why students were not attending the lectures; they were simply not directly relevant to the tasks they were supposed to perform in the exam.

Reflections on how to improve the course:

One should consider introducing a portfolio evaluation, where students deliver smaller exercises related to the different topics of the class; hence going beyond the design of their own surveys or survey experiments. This would also follow more closely the approach of the other courses (which may have contributed to the low interest; the mandatory activities and examination type might be perceived as more demanding). The element that the course covers the use of existing data/surveys is crucial, and this was more emphasized this year relative to the previous year and worked very well. The fact that this is a very useful approach towards writing their master's thesis must be emphasised much more in the course description (and communicated to the students more generally when talking about master's theses). One could also consider including some more hands-on lectures or seminars where students would work with existing data. That would perhaps move the course closer towards STV4030A which needs to be discussed. This would also mean that being able to work with R would be a requirement and must be included in the course description. There is also clearly a need to have a team of several permanent staff that commit towards coordinating the course, who should work together to revise the course setup. Overall, there is a need for an adjustment, but clearly not for a complete overhaul.

Emneevalueringen bør inneholde:

1. Vurdering av emnet

- Læringsutbytte i emnet
- Undervisningsformer og organisering
- Andre relevante temaer som læringsmiljø, studentenes arbeidsinnsats og eventuelt vurderingsformer

2. Studentens tilbakemelding

- Oppsummering av studentenes viktigste tilbakemeldinger

3. Helhetlig vurdering og videreutvikling

- En samlet vurdering av kvaliteten på emnet
- Justeringer som er foretatt som følge av evalueringen.
- Muligheter for videreutvikling av emnet

The course evaluation should include:

1. Assessment of the course

- Learning outcomes in the course
- Teaching methods and organization
- Other relevant topics such as the learning environment, students' effort and possibly forms of assessment

2. Student's feedback

- Summary of students' most important feedback

3. Overall assessment and further development

- An overall assessment of the quality of the course
- Adjustments made as a result of the evaluation.
- Opportunities for further development of the course