



Course report:

## GEO308 Theory of Science and Research Design for Geographers

1. Course information	
Course description	<a href="https://www.uib.no/emne/GEO308">https://www.uib.no/emne/GEO308</a>
Semester	Autumn 2022
Course Coordinator	Connor Cavanagh
Forms of Assessment	Home exam, 5 days
Teaching and learning methods	3 joint lectures 4 parallel lectures for human geography and physical geography Total: 7 lectures (14 hours) 6-8 weeks  4 parallel seminars for human geography and physical geography Total: 4 seminars (8 hours) 3-4 weeks
Compulsory Activity	Seminar presentation and attendance

2. Statistics																																	
Registered for exam	33																																
Passed	31																																
Not met	2																																
Failed	0																																
Average grade	B																																
Grade distribution																																	
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Antall studenter</th><th>A</th><th>B</th><th>C</th><th>D</th><th>E</th><th>F</th><th>Andre</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>33</td><td>6</td><td>21</td><td>4</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>%</td><td>19</td><td>68</td><td>13</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>%</td><td>19</td><td>68</td><td>13</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr></tbody></table>		Antall studenter	A	B	C	D	E	F	Andre	33	6	21	4	0	0	0	0	%	19	68	13	0	0	0	0	%	19	68	13	0	0	0	0
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### 3. Egenevaluering/Self assessment

*Vurdering av undervisningsopplegget i forhold til mål og resultater (emneansvarlig)*

*Assessment of the teaching plan in relation to goals and results (course coordinator)*

Due to its complex structure – spanning the department's three Master programmes in human geography, geographies of sustainable development, and physical geography – GEO 308 is a demanding course to administer and implement. Last year, several changes were made in response to the 2020 course evaluation (fewer joint lectures, more parallel lectures, additional student-led seminars), which resulted in a broadly positive response from the previous cohort of students. These changes were upheld in Autumn 2022.

In general, the course examination results were again broadly positive in 2022. Given the diversity of student enrollment in GEO 308 – and the correspondingly wide range of individual student backgrounds – many students experience the course as quite challenging. However, the 2022 cohort broadly performed quite well on the final home exam. Once again, the student-led seminars appear to have been particularly helpful in preparing students for the exam.

### 4. Results from student evaluation

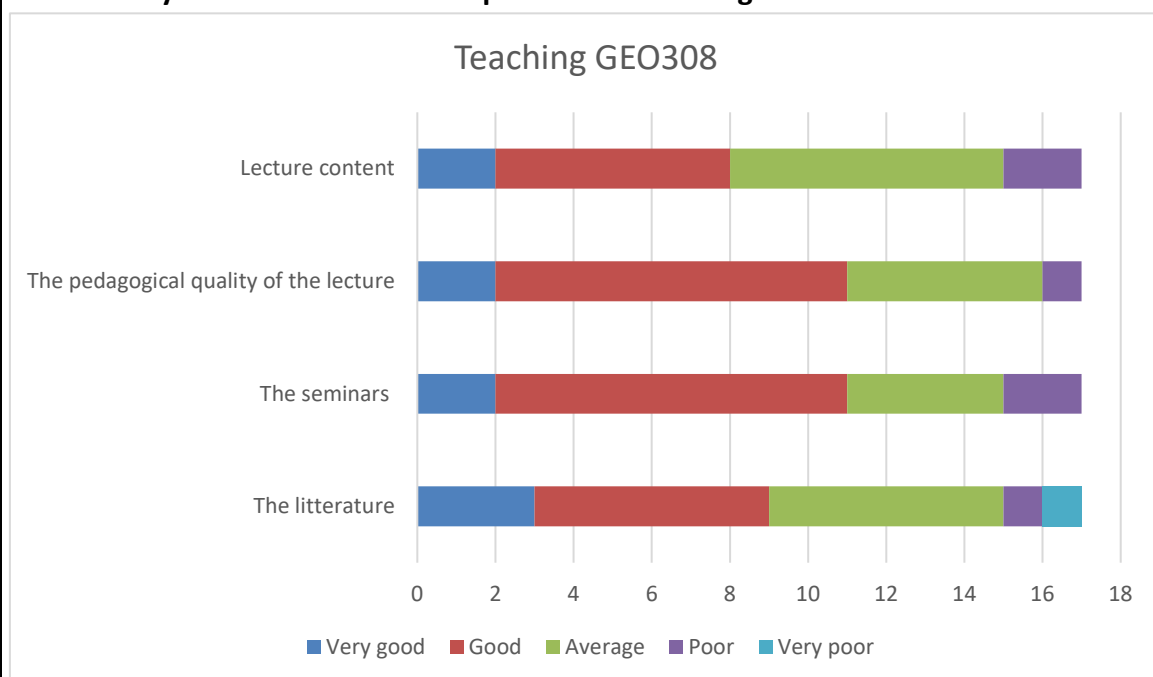
17 responses

#### #1 I study GEO308 as part of:

Masters program in Geography at UiB: 16

Exchange program: 1

**#2 How do you assess the different parts of the learning and assessment?**



**#3 Do you have comments on the lectures?**

*Kommentarer fjernet i denne versjonen.*

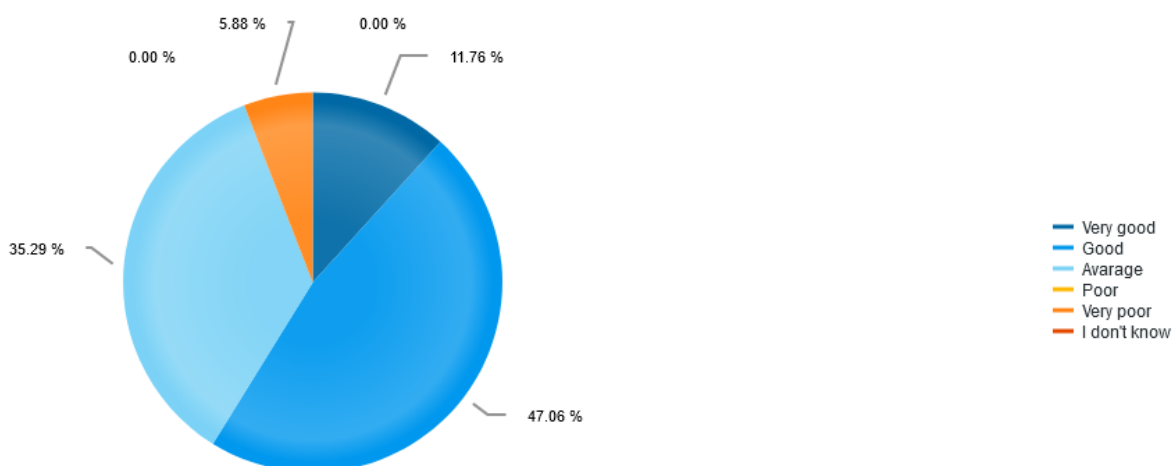
**#4 Do you have comments about the seminars?**

*Kommentarer fjernet i denne versjonen.*

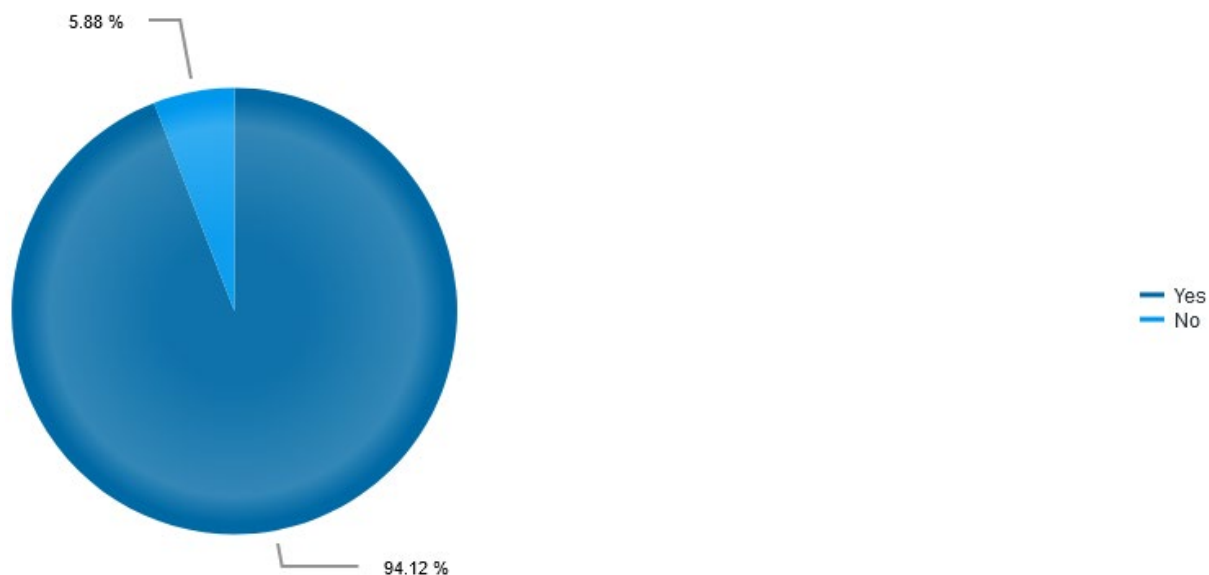
**#5 Do you have comments about the litterature?**

*Kommentarer fjernet i denne versjonen.*

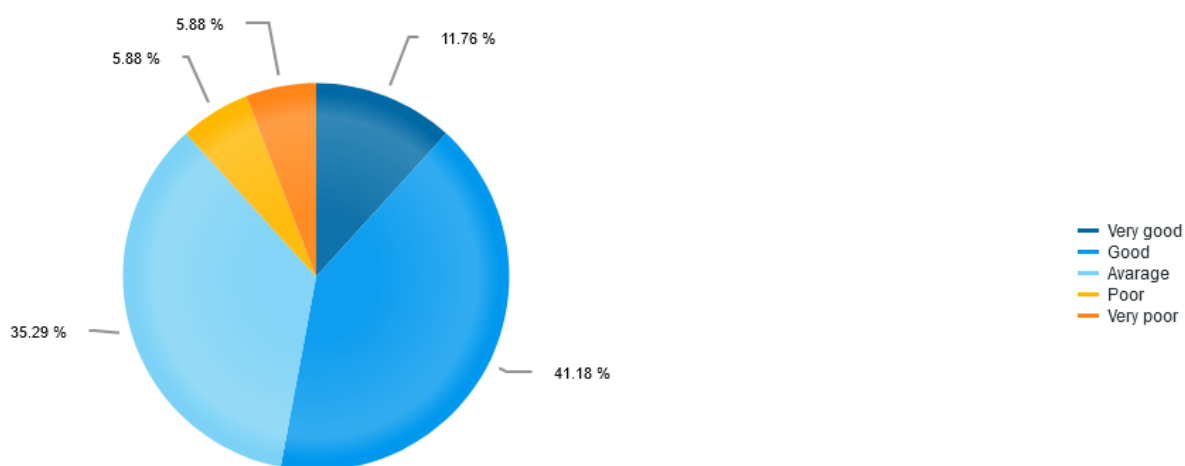
**#6 Did you find that the course reflected the learning outcomes described in the course description? <http://www.uib.no/en/course/GEO308>**



**#7 Did you find that the information at Mitt UiB, including announcements, was sufficient to keep you updated during the course?**



**#8 What is your overall evaluation of the course?**



**#9 Do you have comments on your overall evaluation of the course?**

*Kommentarer fjernet i denne versjonen.*

**#10 Do you have suggestions on how we can improve the course?**

*Kommentarer fjernet i denne versjonen.*

## 5. Oppfølging/Follow up

*Oppfølging av/kommentarer til tidligere evalueringer. Hvordan rapporten følges opp, evt. tiltak eller endringer som er gjort/planlegges gjennomført på bakgrunn av emnerapporten/ / **What adjustments to the curriculum would you recommend for the next time the course will be offered?***

As mentioned above, GEO 308 is an exceptionally challenging course to administer and implement. Given that GEO 308 spans the department's three Master programmes in Human Geography, the Geographies of Sustainable Development, and Physical Geography, the course must necessarily cover an uncommonly wide range of themes, concepts, academic traditions, and reading materials.

Particularly given that each cohort of students enrolls in GEO 308 at the very beginning of the study programme in the department, the course is thus often experienced as challenging. Nonetheless, exam results indicate that the majority of students are ultimately performing well in relation to the course learning objectives and evaluation criteria.

As a result of these examination outcomes, the core components of GEO 308 will largely be maintained in Autumn 2023. In response to student feedback, the course description will be clarified to remove any doubt that seminar participation and attendance is mandatory. In addition, further contributions to the course will be sought from department staff with expertise in physical geography or biogeography, which will strengthen the relevance of the course across all of the department's three Master programmes.