

Course Evaluation, M.Phil., Spring 2013

SANT 303 *Project Proposal and the Methodology for the Anthropology of Development,*

Course leader: Anette Fagertun

Lecturer: Anette Fagertun

Seminar Leader: Mads Solberg

The course evaluation report has been submitted to the panel on education at the Department of Social Anthropology, UiB.

Course structure

Form of teaching:

12 lectures of 2x45 min. 6 seminars of 2x45 min. Mandatory presence in class and seminars.
Number of students: 19

Mandatory work demands:

Completion of a project proposal of about 3,000 words +/-10%. The project proposal is accepted following the student's successful presentation of the proposal for a committee consisting of the student's individual supervisor and one additional academic staff member (Pass/Fail).

Examination:

Compulsory submission of an Essay (2000 words +/- 10%) at the end of the course which is to be written and submitted within five days. The Essay is submitted online, in a digital folder within the Kark-system, via a link on My Space (Pass/Fail).

Summary of statistics/numbers

Students signed up for the exam

	Course/assessment registered	Attendance	Passed
Number of stud.			

Grades

	A	B	C	D	E	F
Number of stud.						

Passed: 19 of 19 Passed the Obligatory Essay **Failed:** 0

Evaluation of the course

Forms of evaluation:

a) Processual evaluation: contact and dialogue between lecturer and seminar leader(s) throughout the course. The small size of the student group in a seminar room facilitates feedback and open dialogue. The course and seminar leaders met weekly and discussed the progress of the course.

b) Midway evaluation: not relevant.

c) A questionnaire: cover themes not revealed by the continuous feed-back and dialogue during seminars and lectures; handed out at the penultimate lecture. Central issues in questionnaire are: seminar groups, students' participation in discussions and their perceptions of learning outcomes.

d) Contact between course leader and students throughout the course: through discussions in class, conversations in breaks and after lectures and communication via e-mail.

Syllabus:

The questionnaire (c) reveals mainly positive feedback on syllabus and that syllabus provides examples of the themes of the course SANT303. A suggestion in the questionnaire was to add a monograph focusing on methodology on the syllabus and another student suggested adding a few more recent articles.

Lectures:

There is mandatory presence in class. Most students were well prepared in terms of syllabus and took active part in discussions. Some students expressed a wish for more focus on the project proposal. The lectures were structured in a way that allowed and encouraged students to ask questions during class and the lecturer constantly tried to engage the students in discussions on the topic of every lecture. In the questionnaire it becomes evident that most students were prepared for the lectures and that most students find lectures important for their understanding of the course syllabus.

Seminars:

There is mandatory presence in seminars. Seminars were dedicated to discussions of the book *A Short History of Anthropology* by T.H. Eriksen and S. Nielsen, (2001). Students in groups present and discuss chapters. Lecturer participated in a seminar dedicated to the presentation of problem statements for the project proposal. The questionnaire reveals that most students were well prepared and that they found the seminar important for their understanding of the course syllabus. A few students write that the book of TH Eriksen & FS Nielsen should have been on the syllabus for the first course of their M.Phil. program.

Perceived learning outcome:

Given that the M.Phil. group is relatively small, 19 students spring 2013, and both lectures and seminars are conducted in a learning environment based on discussions, dialogue, presentations and questions, there has been close contact between lecturer, seminar leader and students throughout the course. The students have through discussions in class and conversations in breaks expressed that they have learned about central aspects of methodology through the SANT303 course. In the questionnaire all students agree that they have been provided with central perspectives within the methodology of anthropology and various methods for gathering data.

Aspects to be followed up:

Consider for next course to give more attention to the writing of the project proposal; perhaps use one more seminar for this purpose. Consider to include a god text on quantitative methods or quantitative versus qualitative extrapolation and a monograph to read with the focus on discovery procedures, fieldwork and methodology.

