



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN
Institutt for geografi

Emnerapport høsten 2013:

SAS8-GEO Scandinavian Area Studies - Geography: Environment and Society

Innhold:

1. Informasjon om emnet
2. Statistikk
3. Egenevaluering
4. Studentevaluering
5. Oppfølging

Emnerapporten er gjennomgått i
Undervisningsutvalget ved Institutt for geografi

Dato: 13.02.2014

1. Informasjon om emnet

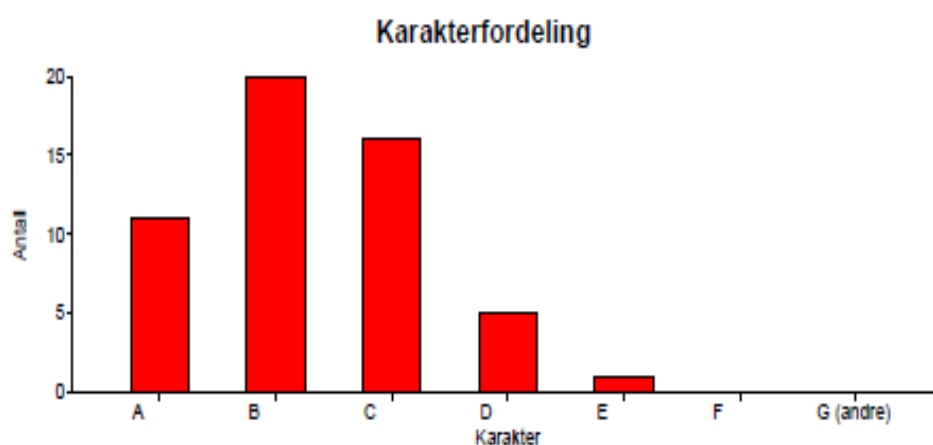
Emne	SAS8-GEO Scandinavian Area Studies - Geography: Environment and Society
Undervisningssemester	Høst
Emneansvarlig	Arnfinn Seim
Vurderingsform	Presentation of a subject of students own choice (approx 15 minutes) and oral exam.
Undervisningsform	Lectures, seminars and excursions
Obligatoriske arbeidskrav	None

2. Statistikk

Eksamensmeldt	57
Bestått	53
Stryk	0 (0%)
Avbrutt	0
Ikke møtt	3
Gjennomsnittskarakter	B

Karakterfordeling

Ordning	Antall studenter	A	B	C	D	E	F	Andre
M Muntlig	57	11	20	16	5	1	0	0
	%	21	38	30	9	2		
	%	21	38	30	9	2	0	0



3. Egneevaluering

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

Evalueringa vart foretatt utanom "tur", SAS 8 sto ikkje for tur til evaluering, men som vikar-kursansvarleg 2013 meinte eg det var viktig for den faste ansvarshavande (Kerstin Potthoff) å vite korleis kurset hadde gått 2013.

Dei spørsmål som standardskjemaet inneheld var berre så måteleg tilpassa mitt behov, eg endra derfor skjemaet ein del.

Det eg som kursansvarleg var mest interessert i og som eg fann mest nyttig var:

- korleis fekk studentane greie på kurset, informasjonskjelder og årsaker
- korleis fungerte den nye læreboka (Rusten, ed: "Norway")? - kva deler av boka "trefte" publikum best?
- ekskursjonsprogrammet - synspunkt på det ? Problem: Vi var blitt kutta drastisk i midlar til gjennomføring, Hardangerturen var blitt halvert, frå to til ein dag. Naudløysing måtte bli tatt i bruk. Fordel: Fleire kunne delta (studentøkonomien), men ulempe: Viktige deler av det faglege opplegget måtte bli kutta. Amputert opplegg, men fekk vi likevel til eit akseptabelt opplegg ?
- informasjonsgangen - greidde ein å informere godt nok under kurset ?
- så var eg interessert i synspunkt på mogeleg forbetringar.

Arnfinn Seim

Kursansvarleg vikar

4. Studentevaluering:

18 studenter har svar på undersøkelsen

#1 What do you study at your home university? (shorttext)

- spatial planning
- Social Geography & Spatial planning
- Political Sciences
- Economics
- Physical Geography
- Geology
- BSc Human and Physical Geography
- Geography/Environmental Studies
- Human Geography, Spatial Planning and Environmental Sciences

- Geography and Meteorology
- Bsc Human and Physical Geography
- Political science
- Geography
- Spatial Planning
- Physical anthropology
- Economics
- Geography
- Geography

#2 How did you get to know about the course? What was your information source? (text)

- reports from former students
- Overview of the courses on the UiB website.
- A former student from my university
- Reports of former exchange students of my university
- Homepage of the university and the courses for exchange students there
- my student counselor (of the faculty of mathematics and natural science) in Bergen gave me the advice to take place in the SAS8
- Erasmus meeting at home university and further information from UiB on the internet.
- Courses list on UiB website, leaflets in Department building.
- My home university told me about the course, because other students also followed it. Ofcourse I also found information on the website of UiB.
- Internet
- UiB course descriptions on the website.
- UiB website and some advices from former students in UiB.
- Last years Erasmus-students recommended the course; Introduction at semesterstart;
- UiB Website
- A friend of mine who attended the course last year.
- Leaflet
- The list of courses for foreign students
- Webpage uib.no

#3 How will you evaluate the quality of the lectures? (choice)

- Very good: 4
- Good: 11
- Average: 3

#4 Please add information if you have any supplement comments to the lectures: (text)

- even though most of the students had been German I would have preferred less examples from Germany in order to have the same knowledge basis for everybody
- Maybe sometimes too much general, without problematization.
- I enjoyed it to get some inside-information about Norway and especially Bergen from Arnfinn. It was great that he told us about so many events in Bergen. Also the topic was very nice presented and the lectures weren't boring!

- I prefer clear arranged slides to follow the lecture and sometimes I missed the thread.
- I find lectures very inspiring, interesting and I liked the atmosphere. It was also great to have lectures with guests, for example professors who helped in creating our main book "Norway".
- It was a lot of wikipedia information. Sometimes I missed the academic information.
- - a few lectures seemed to be really general and just for basic information - maybe less lectures and "deeper" knowledge would have been better
- Arnfinn was a great lecturer with a wide and varied knowledge on Scandinavia. He made the course interesting and it was particularly enjoyable to go on the feild trips and other walks around Bergen as Arnfinn was a great guide!
- Prof. Seim was very very helpful and he is a great lecturer
- very passionate tutor; but sometimes the lecture seemed not well structured, connection between topics were missing

#5 How do you evaluate the excursion programme? (choice)

- Very good: 13
- Good: 5

#6 Additional comments/suggestions for the excursions: (text)

- They were really nice! Arnfinn was able to explain a lot during the excursion. i got a very good overview about the different norwegian landscapes.
- Arnfinn is a very knowledgeable guide!
- It was excellent supplement for the lectures, especially for people who visited Norway for the first time. Great opportunity to see and experience lot of new things. Also helped to understand a lot of new aspects.
- Really nice excursions. Well-prepared and for a good price!
- - more hiking - excursion to Voss? Hardanger vidda pretty far, but still it was nice
- I really enjoyed both the excursions although I feel that the trip to Hardanger would have benefitted if we spent less time in the coach and more time outside although I understand that we were under some time constraints.
- I didn't participate that much to the excursion programme but it was clearly well organized and showed the great implication of the teachers.
- I would have liked more outdoor-activities during the 2 main-excursions (maybe hiking, longer walks, stay for 2 days..)
- Very good interesting and well organised excursion programm. I appreciated plenty of opportunities for smaller excursions such as city walks.
- excursions and day tours were great.

#7 How do you evaluate the book "Norway"? Please mention chapters that you found especially useful(number is enough). (text)

- good, but the chapters have different demands to the reader. some chapters are way to detailed and are missing to explain the general trends / developments in Norway to foreign students
- The book is quite useful to give us a look into the society and economy of Norway. It helps us

understand Norway better. Some chapters however are almost like wikipedia pages. The most interesting chapter to me was 15, because of both the subject and the way it's written: there's a real research behind it.

- Good book, very interesting and easy to read. Good pictures I liked the chapters 14, 15,18 and 19
- The book was maybe a little bit too detailed...and sometimes there was a content gap between lecture and book but all in all the book was very helpful.
- It was nice and easy to read. There are a lot of interesting topics, some were more interesting than others (for me, I think it depends on which subject the reader is focussing). The figures illustrated the text in a nice way.
- The book is okay. I miss some critics - if you read the book it seems to be, that everything in Norway is excellent. Additionally is the layout extremely bad and it was a hard time to go through the whole book.
- The book is a good overview of the past, present and future of Norway and the systems at work in the country. Chapters I thought were especially useful: 6, 8, 13. The only thing I would say about the book is that it is sometimes a little repetitive. For example in the 13 and 17, and in 11 and 15.
- Good book, lot of new, sometimes surprising informations, good division of subjects, works very good with the lectures. At some points may be too detailed but I wouldn't say it's a big problem or disadvantage.
- Nice book to read, but really detailed. Also a lot of wikipedia information. Chapter 4, 15 and 18 were really nice chapters, quite interesting. I missed a chapter about the Sami people.
- Huge book. Less would be good. 1,2,5,6,7,10,16,18,19.
- The book is a good base although it can be repetitive. I found the chapters on the welfare state and the relationship between the EU particularly interesting.
- Interesting book, I appreciated chapters : 4 5 8 12 17
- + A lot of information compiled in one book + good to read/understand + actual - some chapters too detailed e.g. 9,12,13,17
- especially useful: chapters 2,4,7,8,14 and 17
- I have to say that the book was not so good as I expected. All the information in the book contained was said already during the lectures in more amusing and shorter form. A good thing I found there were the pictures, but these were possibly even in the presentations provided on the Mi Side. So I would say that presentations would be sufficient for students and book can be enough for curious ones only
- Very good chapters: 2,14.
- In general, I missed the sometimes the relation between title and content.
- book was not critical enough. there were also some parts missing, which are important nowadays, f.ex. integration of immigrants, foreign affairs and so on.

#8 Communication and administration of the course: how do you evaluate the contact with the department? (choice)

- Very poor: 1
- Average: 1
- Good: 6

- Very good: 8
- I don't know: 2

#9 Do you think the information published on "my space" is sufficient to keep you updated according to the course? (choice)

- Yes: 18

#10 Do you have any suggestions on how to improve the course? (text)

- make it possible for everyone to join the excursions (i know that is difficult)
- This was the best course in my whole student life so far!!!
- No, I liked it this way :)!
- It would be great to improve the structure a bit more: same layout of the slides in every lesson, clear headings, a short overview over the topics we gonna speak about in the lesson at the beginning of each lesson (table of contents)...
- More academic, less wikipedia.
- - summary of the important things after each lecture
- I wouldn't neither compendium nor the book Norway consider as compulsory (even when the word compendium already contains compulsority in it's name...).
- connect the different topics, welfare - oil - education system; Government - immigrants - foreign policy and so on.

#11 How will you give a joint evaluation of the course? (text)

- Very good to get to know Norway and the Northern States. I would definitely take it again.
- I would suggest this course to every student who will ask me about lectures in Bergen!
- It was actually really nice to get so much information about Norway and Scandinavia and I'm happy, that I joined this course, nevertheless it was sometimes extremely hard to follow the lectures...
- how?! My joint evaluation of the course is "good".
- I don't much understand the meaning "joint evaluation" but it would be definitely positive. I liked it.
- I learned really a lot of useful things there.
- The lectures gave a good overview about the Scandinavian area and especially Norway. That was exactly what I expected and so I think there is not a lot to improve. The way of examination was also very good. It gave every Student the opportunity to focus on something he's really interested in, but made also sure, that a general knowledge about Scandinavia will be achieved.
- All in all it was good. Especially the comparrisson between other nortic countries were helpful. but sometimes information we got, were not that scientific and detailed, but probably because the audience came from very different fields of studies. Anyway thanks a lot to Arfinn and his grand enthusiasm!

Oppfølging av/kommentarer til tidligere evalueringer. Hvordan rapporten følges opp, evt. tiltak eller endringer som er gjort/planlegges gjennomført på bakgrunn av emnerapporten

Studentdeltaking og svarprosent:

Ein tredjepart av studenten svara (18 x). Det er akseptabelt tatt i betraktning av at evalueringa kom ut svært seint i semesteret.

Men svargruppa er kanskje ikkje heilt representativ, ser ut som det er ei kjernegruppe som har svara, dei "perifere" studentane er lite representert. På den andre sida: Dette er nok dei som følgde mest med.

Totalt var det vel 60 studentar som var registrert og av desse så følgde stabilt ca. 40-45 studentar forelesingane, og det er eg svært nøgd med for "normalt" så er det på kurs flest maks 2/3 frammøte. Fråfallet var lågt samanlikna med år nokre år tilbake. 53 fullførde, 1 student gav sjukemelding og 3-4 melde avbod kort før eksamen (andre kurs pressa på). Eit par studentar gav opp (dels etter råd frå meg, dårleg engelsk språkkunnskap) og nokre få «blei borte».

Informasjonsgangen

Det vart gjort mykje første vekene vedr. informasjon, det er kritisk å "halde studentane" gjennom august og inn i september, då kan ein lett "miste dei". Tidlegare år har Kerstin og eg vore "pågåande" med startinformasjonen. Første informasjonsmøte må ha ein høg profil. Generelt bør instituttet vekte kvalitet på dette første møte med kurstilbodet høgt

Gjennom semestert fekk studentane ved inngangen til kvar veke (søndag/måndag) utsendt ein mail via «My page» med beskriving av komande veke sitt program, «Message» vart ikkje bruka, men massemelding på eposten. Lite problem: Tar tid før studentane lærer å sjekke sin UiB-mailkonto. Også generell nyttig Bergensinfo. vart lagt inn i vekemailane. Trur dette samla gjorde sitt til høgt frammøte.

Undervisning og eksamen.

Undervisning: " 2 x 2 timar pr. veke. Tysdag og onsdag 1415-16. Problem oppsto tidleg: Ein var tildelt for små auditorier, måtte bytte til rom som tok minst 50-60 studentar. Litt kaotisk i denne skifteperioden. Lærdom: Stort nok auditorium frå starten av.

Undervisninga bestod av 3 blokker:

(1) kursansvarleg sin gjennomløpande undervisning, august-november. 14 doble timar. Litt stor spreing i tema slik at ikkje alle timar kunne bli like gode (dette er avspegla i vurderinga)

(2) ekskursjonsprogrammet med førebuingstimar (3 forelesingar) + sjølv ekskursjonane (a) Bergen (b) Øygarden og kysten (c) Hardanger og fjellet. Alt ved kursansvarleg.

(3) Gjesteforelesingar av staben, 7 stk.: Håvard Haarstad, Heidi Bjønnes Larsen, Grete Rusten (2x), Rannveig Øvrevik Skoglund, Odd Inge Steen og Ole Reidar Vetaas.

Intensjonen her var at kurset skulle innehalde eit sett "spesialistforelesingar". Kursansvarleg sine timar skulle vera samanbindande gjennom kurset, halde kurset samla. Totalt fungerte dette truleg brukbart, men av evalueringa er det tydeleg at noko vart for generelt. Dessverre er ikkje "gjestene" spesifikt nevnt, om korvidt dei "nådde fram". Skulle ha spurt meir spesifikt om gjestetimane i evalueringa. Eit særlege problem i undervisninga er at studentane er svært spreidde i bakgrunn og nivå. Det som for velskolerte tyske studentar er elementært er ikkje elementært for utanomeuropeiske studentar (Asia, Australia, SørAmerika, Nordamerika var representert). Kinesiske og japanske studentar er vanskeleg å "nå", kulturforskjellen er stor.

Munnleg eksamen av 53 kandidatar er krevjande, men det viste seg at det let seg gjera i løpet av ei full veke med ein kommisjon.

Den nye læreboka:

Ikkje eintydige svar. Den nye læreboka verkar vera god og bra tilpassa, men nokre kapittel er nok meir skrivne for eit internt norsk publikum enn for eit internasjonalt publikum. Ein tar ting for gitt som ikkje er det. Boka kom i juni 2013 og det tok tid å få innarbeidd henne for undervisninga same haust. Det kapitlet som ved eksamen direkte hadde suksess var Knut Hidle sitt om hytter og hyttekultur. I undervisninga vart det presisert at den nye boka var det sentrale pensumet, kompendiet var støttelitteratur. Dessverre tok mange dette for bokstavleg og forsømde kompendiet. Vi må undersøke salgsstatistikken på Studia for å få informasjon.

Lærdomar:

- er i hovudsak innlagt i kommentarane ovanfor, og følgjande punkt bør bli lagt vekt på:
- første 2-3 vekene og informasjonsmøtet må framleis bli vektlagt
- ein må få tilpassa store auditorier frå starten av
- ekskursjonsprogrammet må bli økonomisk gjenoppretta
- balansen mellom allmen og grunnleggande kunnskap og spissa kunnskap er truleg eit uløyselig problem, men ved tilbakekomst av fagleg ansvarleg person kan ev. problem (evalueringa) bli justert.

Arnfinn Seim
28. januar, 2014