

## Course report

**Course:** SAMPOL 203  
**Period:** Spring 2018  
**Professor:** Per Selle  
**Lecturers:** Aaron Spitzer, Elin Monstad

### Introduction:

In spring 2018, we debuted the course SAMPOL 203, Comparative Arctic Indigenous Governance. The teaching portion of the course consisted of 12 lectures, each lasting approximately 1.5 hours, many using PowerPoint. The reading portion of the course consisted of numerous, fairly advanced books and articles – an average of approximately 100 pages of reading per class. The test was a 10-hour at-home exam.

### Breakdown of marks:

Of the 92 students registered for this course, 80 students (i.e., 87%) took the exam. Of those, 76 passed the exam (95%), while 4 failed (5%).

The grade breakdown was:

A	7
B	23
C	21
D	17
E	8
F	4

The average grade was a C.

### Student assessments:

Of the 92 students registered for this course, 16 completed the student evaluation. Four reported they attended all lectures; eight attended 7-10 lectures; two attended 4-6 lectures; and two attended 0-3 lectures.

Below are the averages of their numeric assessments (on a scale of one to five):

To what degree have the lectures contributed to your learning:	3.875
To what degree has the curriculum contributed to your learning?	3.5
How would you characterize the level of difficulty of this course?	3.375
How would you characterize your academic gain from the course?	3.6875
How would you evaluate the knowledge and skills gained?	3.533
What is your impression of Mitt UiB?	3.25

Several stated they were especially satisfied with the lectures.

Several stated they were dissatisfied with the readings, finding them either too numerous, too difficult, or too boring. There were also criticisms regarding failure to provide lecture notes on mitt.uib and technical delays in posting assigned readings to mitt.uib.

Regarding how to improve the course, suggestions included a less stressful exam format, more books rather than articles, better transitions between topics, and less reading material overall.

Ten students stated they would recommend the course to other students, four were unsure, and two stated they would not recommend the course.

### **Teacher's overall assessment**

Overall we feel this course was quite successful.

Going forward we would like the library to be more prompt in posting assigned readings to mitt.uib (despite our supplying all books and articles to the library, some were not posted until more than a month into the course, and a few were never posted at all).

We will update lectures and reading lists to insure that the most recent relevant scholarship is represented.

We found the new 10-hour, at-home test format to be successful. While the format was clearly challenging (i.e., stress-inducing) for some students, many of them were successful in coherently – and sometimes very insightfully – comparing Indigenous governance opportunities and challenges in Norway and Canada.