

RELV228/328 Religion and Politics

Report, autumn term 2018

Praktisk gjennomføring

The teaching consisted of eleven lectures, one introductory, nine that presented and discussed some of the major themes in the four course books with special focus on their methods, analytical categories, theoretical perspectives, and results, and one final lecture that gave an overview of and contextualised religion and politics worldwide during the autumn of 2018.

Strykprosent, frafall og karakterfordeling

Between 15 and 25 students attended the lectures, and 18 took the exam. Out of them, six received an A, four a B, two a C, three a D, one an E, and two an F, which is a very good result, but understandable since the students who study this type of course have a special interest in the theme. After the publication of the examination results, I sent (through Inspera) individual feedback to each of the students with a short motivation of the grade.

Kommentar til studentevaluering

There was no evaluation of the course this term, but comments from individual students have been positive.

Studieinformasjon og dokumentasjon

Information about the course has been available at Mitt UiB and was given to the students both at the first lecture and continuously during the course.

Tilgang til relevant litteratur

The course literature consisted of four monographs. The books dealt with (1) religion, politics, and secularisation, (2) religious violence and terrorism, (3) religion and globalisation, and (4) religion, politics, and network theory. In addition, the students were recommended to follow how religion and politics interacted in the world during the autumn of 2018 by continuously reading the Internet versions of one African, one North American, one South American, one Asian, and one European newspaper.

The students did not have any problems in getting the literature. All the books were for sale at the Akademika bookshop and were also available at the university library.

Faglærers vurdering av rammevilkårene

Everything worked well.

Lokaler og undervisningsutstyr

Everything worked well.

Internasjonalisering

The course is international in many respects. It deals with international themes, is given in English and all the course books are in English. In addition, every lecture began with a 10–15 minutes summary of the latest international news about religion and politics.

Faglærers samlede vurdering, inkl. forslag til forbedringstiltak

This course was given between 1997 and 2014, and was taken up again in 2018. Even if the course worked well and the results were good in 2018, I think that too many different themes were taken up. I therefore intend to renew the course and the literature list until next autumn in order to make the course more focused.

Bergen, 14 February 2019,

Håkan Rydving
(Course leader)