Course Report

Course(s)

- Master Thesis in Sociology, SO9010-38304 30.0 hp
- Magister Thesis in Sociology, SO9020-38330 15.0 hp

Semester
Spring 2021

Course Site Name in Athena
Master Thesis in Sociology-VT21 (6258)

Department
Department of Sociology

Published:
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Number of respondents
30

Number of answers
4

Compilation
Compilation_SO9010_SO9020_VT21.pdf

Description of changes since the last course and decisions already made since last course date (if any was made)

A voluntary mid term seminar was arranged this time, 8 students out of 30 attended. The instruction to examiner was revised, to emphasise that after the examination, students can correct mistakes and such but substantial reworking or additions are not expected.

The strengths of the course's according to the students
(summary based on quantitative results, text responses from the survey and any other evaluation during the course)

The students (4/30) stated that they have learned new things during the course and that the course was well adapted to their previous knowledge. The examination provided a fair assessment of their achievements in relation to the learning goals, and most of them found the course quite difficult. All of these answered that they had been full-time students (up to 40 hrs/week) and most stated that they had learned things useful in the labour market.
The weaknesses of the course according to the students
(summary based on quantitative results, text responses from the survey and any other
evaluation during the course)

The students found the teaching, course literature and relevance of the course fair too very
good, there are no harsh critiques, but little enthusiasm. As there is no regular teaching or
course literature, these answers reflect interaction with supervisors and examiners. There is
some interest in more regular teaching sessions and interim deadlines.

The teachers' analysis of the course's implementation and results

Nine students turned in papers at the end of the term. Last year there were four and the year
before that five. The students who answered the questionnaire had relatively good grades and
studied full time. The student’s answers suggest improvements and merit attention. The implied
idea that a more structured approach could be useful can also lead to other improvements than
directly mentioned by students. The individualist approach, with complete reliance on student
/supervisor interaction, could thus be complemented. However, voluntary mid-term meetings
have attracted little interest. As it is, many students need more than one term to complete the
course, many have full time jobs, etc. For these, demands for interim drafts at set dates may be
counterproductive and the overall completion rate will suffer.

Conclusions and suggestions for possible changes in order to develop the course and
any decisions already made to develop the course before future course dates.

If it works, don’t fix it … but some tweaking and tuning could be in order. A major redesign is not
on the agenda, based on this terms’ experience/answers.

Other comments

The questions asked are very general.