Course Report

Course(s)

- Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences 2, SO7033-38297 7.5 hp
- Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences II, SO1FU16-FO803 7.5 hp

Semester
Spring 2021

Course Site Name in Athena
Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences 2-VT21 (6650)

Department
Department of Sociology

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Number of respondents
32

Number of answers
15

Compilation
Compilation_SO7033_SO1FU16_VT21.pdf

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

Based on our experience with Zoom teaching, we changed (back) from teacher-led labs to DIY labs. In addition, we changed the order to lecture > lab > literature seminar.

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 practical approach, DIY labs, the high level of ambition, learning a broad spectrum of models.

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)

Some students think the course is too challenging and demanding. Online teaching presented difficulties for some students, particularly when it comes to seminars.
The teachers' analysis of the course's implementation and results

The course has a very bimodal student population. This is not mainly between Master's and PhD-students, but within the group of Master students. This year, we have given out several Bs and even an A to master students. But some students feel the course is far above their initial skill level, resulting in a too demanding experience. However, for those where prerequisites and demands match, the course works well. Teaching on Zoom has its own sets of challenges, and this is reflected in the course evaluations. For some students, participating online worked fine, while others felt they lacked the opportunity to interact spontaneously with other students, avoid distractions and actively participate in the course.

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.

We are reviewing the eligibility criteria and discussing for which students the course must be mandatory.

Other comments

The objective of the course is to prepare students to work with state-of-the-art regression-based techniques. This means that the course must have a high level of ambition to be relevant. We also have to work within the departments' limits in terms of teaching hours, etc.