

COURSE REPORT

Background information (To be completed by course administrator)

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| Course LADOK code: GP616L | Scope (hp): 30,00 |
| Course title: Political Science: Global Politics as Social Science | |
| Course coordinator: Mikael Spång | Number of registered students: 35 |
| Semester in which the course is conducted: HT22 | |
| Political Science: Global Politics, Master's Programme | |

Administration's perspective (To be completed by course administrator)

The administration's views:

Forms of evaluation and feedback (To be completed by the course coordinator)

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| Formative course evaluation: Mid-term evaluation on paper | Number of students who participated in the course evaluation: 1 |
| Summative course evaluation: Online evaluation after completion of the course | Number of students who participated in the course evaluation: 11 |
| Feedback to students: Posted on the Canvas page | |

Student's perspective (To be completed by the course coordinator)

Summary of the students' course evaluations:
To what extent do you consider you have achieved the learning objectives of the course?

1. To a very small extent 0 (0.0%)
2. 1 (9.1%)
3. 1 (9.1%)
4. 0 (0.0%)
5. 5 (45.5%)
6. to a very large extent 4 (36.4%)

Comments:

Some students thought that some teachers would need to work on structure, especially as regards time management – several teachers continued the lecture for around 30 minutes after the class should officially end. Sometimes, teachers repeat themselves.

Some students thought the course literature was hard to understand and in some cases not the best choice for the course.

To what extent do you think that the working methods /learning activities on the course have reinforced your learning and your ability to achieve the learning objectives?

1. To a very small extent 0 (0.0%)
2. 0 (0.0%)
3. 1 (9.1%)
4. 4 (36.4%)
5. 3 (27.3%)
6. to a very large extent 3 (27.3%)

Comments:

While I understand that Malmö University is fond of group activities, quite frankly I think its overdone - especially in this course. I would encourage reserving more time for individual work and presentations in class.

Some seminars could have been better prepared, with more discussions in smaller groups and prepared questions for discussion beforehand.

To what extent do you consider that the types of examination on the course gave you the opportunity to show how well you had achieved the learning goals?

1. To a very small extent 0 (0.0%)
2. 0 (0.0%)
3. 0 (0.0%)
4. 1 (9.1%)
5. 7 (63.6%)
6. to a very large extent 3 (27.3%)

Comments:

The individual examinations were great.

Except from the last examination for the last module. I prefer course papers where you have the ability to decide for yourself the type of questions you would like to investigate.

To what extent do you consider that the course as a whole has met your expectations?

1. To a very small extent 0 (0.0%)
2. 2 (18.2%)
3. 0 (0.0%)
4. 3 (27.3%)
5. 3 (27.3%)
6. to a very large extent 3 (27.3%)

Comments:

I think the course is more of western and European studies than global studies.

I had hoped for more theoretical groundwork, and perhaps more of a red thread throughout.

The course was mainly based around international relations which is fine, but would have loved a more central direction towards revolving politics and the systems behind how global politics is formed rather than a history on what happened in the 1600s. The courses were mainly geared at preparing students who are interested in PhD-studies.

I think the readings were not always as critical/interesting as they could have been. Sometimes they did not fully fit with the topic or the goal.

To what extent has the course given you the opportunity to take responsibility for your own learning?

1. To a very small extent 0 (0.0%)
2. 0 (0.0%)
3. 0 (0.0%)
4. 1 (9.1%)

5. 1 (9.1%)

6. to a very large extent 9 (81.8%)

Comments:

As the courses became harder and harder, one quickly realized that it is up to yourself to make sure to read and comprehend the literature. I felt that the seminars were not as enjoyable as they could have been. I would have much more preferred to have a seminar which was based around a discussions in smaller groups surrounding something which was tied to a previous lecture.

The seminar assignments were not enjoyable at all, the texts were hard to read and very hard to understand due to the many different terms and contexts. I felt that the lectures did not cover the seminar texts, it created new discussion but not discussions which progressed my learning and understanding of the course goals.

Other comments about the course and suggestions for improvements?

I think the course need to introduce African and Asian perspectives in the analysis.

It is clear that Malmö university is still a university in the working so to say, but I really wish that this course, and programme, would perhaps seek to raise the standard slightly. While people from different backgrounds must and should be encouraged, and it is only right to rely on the old doctrine of no-stupid-questions, I evaluate that too much time were wasted answering questions which had nothing to do with political science, and too often allowed room for opinions with no theoretical nor statistical fundament to stand upon. I consider this a shame, as I believe in an academic setting this is not too much to ask of one another, especially if time is dedicated for debates in the classroom. In those contexts, I wish the teachers and professors managing this class, would dare to ask of the students to base their opinions upon something more than just gut-feelings, although those are of course also of value.

I have nothing else to add. The course structure is good and I find all the areas involved interesting in their own unique way.

Incorporate case studies and real-world examples to illustrate key concepts and theories in global politics.

Invite guest speakers from government, think tanks, or NGOs to provide insight and perspective on current global political issues.

Expand the course to include more coverage of political systems and institutions, as well as the role of non-state actors in global politics.

Add a section on the history of international relations, to provide context for current global political issues.

Encourage the use of technology in the classroom, by using online resources such as videos to enhance the learning experience.

Incorporate practical skill-building components such as public speaking, and negotiation exercises.

Create a space for continuous reflection and evaluation, by having regular class evaluations and encouraging students to provide feedback on how to improve the course.

Incorporate a comparative politics component to the course by discussing and analyzing the political systems of different countries.

Encourage the use of current events and news articles to show the connection between course material and real-world politics.

I think the seminars could be improved by having clear learning objectives for them in a more, problem based learning type of structure. Moreover, the readings could be improved for some of the topics/modules.

Overall excellence in teaching and organizational skills.

Some professors are very bad at keeping within the timeframe, which is a bit disrespectful toward us students. I would appreciate if the professors could be better at staying within the scheduled time.

Teacher's perspective (To be completed by the course coordinator)

Summary of the teacher's views/Results:

Overall, most students completed the course and in so far achieved the learning outcomes as

they are reflected in the exams, papers, seminar participation and oral presentation. There is a need to improve on time management and instructions for seminars as well as to consider including a broader variety of teaching tools and tools for seminars, such as to work with cases and examples, negotiation practices and so on. There is also a need to invite guest lecturers from NGOs, think-thanks, and authorities and the like. Regarding the balance between different topics, there are reasons to consider the suggestions made but it is also sometimes difficult to make room for in-depth considerations of some topics since that often comes with making something else less important or removing it completely.

Analysis and action plan (To be completed by the course coordinator)

Analysis:

In line with what is said above, there are many things that work quite well but also room for improvement. Some of the latter concerns practical issues like time management and increased variation of teaching tools and ways to have seminars, both as regards the substantial focus and how they are conducted. There are also reasons to discuss and revise the course literature and the substantial focuses of the different modules.

Action plan:

For the upcoming academic year, some changes are planned. This in part relate to the structure. The module Visions of Global Politics will move to the end of the semester, in this way having the key modules that aim to provide the basis for understanding global politics first and then opening for understanding the several ways global politics is possible to do research about. We plan to invite some guests from NGOs, authorities, and international organizations but this yet to be confirmed. We will consider and update the literature.

Publishing and archiving (To be handled by the course administrator)

- The course report is published, and the students have been informed about the publication,
- The course report is archived according to the university's archiving rules,
- The course report is shared with the programme coordinator (if applicable),
- The course report is saved according to any additional requests on behalf of the department.