

COURSE REPORT

Background information (To be completed by course administrator)

Course LADOK code: IM626L	Scope (hp): 15,00
Course title: Theory of Science and Research Methodology	
Course coordinator: Emilsson Henrik	Number of registered students: 37
Semester in which the course is conducted: VT23	
Is the course an independent course, programme course or contract course? If the course has been completed within a programme, enter the programme name: International Migration and Ethnic Relations 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)

Formative course evaluation: (Describe the form of course evaluation and when it was completed)	Number of students who participated in the course evaluation: 13
Summative course evaluation: (Describe the form of course evaluation and when it was completed)	Number of students who participated in the course evaluation:
Feedback to students: (Describe how and when the feedback was given to the current student group)	

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

Summary of the students' course evaluations: Grade 1-6

- To what extent do you feel you have achieved the course's intended learning outcomes?
Mean 4.7

Comments:

The practical learning to use methodology was a great experience.

As someone who has no background knowledge in methodology, I feel that the course has prepared me to address my gaps.

With regard to the learning outcomes communicated in the course's syllabus, I achieved the aim of the course. Nevertheless, I now feel only equipped to perform a pilot research project in only one of the offered research methods tracks and have close to no insight into two thirds of the research methods taught in the IMER. I would have imagined being taught extensively on all the method tracks and various method options and hoped to be able to conduct research projects in more than one methodology. Therefore, the actual learning outcome of this course leaves me rather unsatisfied

2. To what extent do you feel the course's working methods/learning activities have been a support in your learning to achieve the intended learning outcomes?

Mean: 4.3

For statistics: I would have been way more motivated if we would have worked with migration data. In that way I could have used previously gained knowledge about migration in the analysis. I don't see Covid as a topic (in a way that it is not linked with migration) very relevant for the IMER field.

I think the course needed to be better structured. For example, it will finish on April 28th, but we start a new course the same week, which do not give us enough time to prepare for the pilot project delivery.

The feedback on our research projects of the lecturer in the 2nd part of the course wasn't helpful. Although I appreciated the feedback from my fellow students a lot and was happy to discuss the project among peers, the overall workshop situation didn't help. It was impossible for me to follow up on all our classmates' projects and to provide constructive feedback for all of us, so that I spend most of my time in the workshop staring into the void which felt like a waste of time. It would have been more helpful to have a consistent feedback group of maybe 3 student that follow up on each other constantly

3. To what extent do you feel the course's examination forms have given you the opportunity to show how well you have achieved the intended learning outcomes?

Mean: 4.4

I appreciated that the first exam consisted in the review of a master's thesis rather than in a simpler multiple-choice test, for instance, as I feel that this has enabled me to address my initial confusion about the topics and thus to deepen my understanding of research methodology. As for the second part of the course, the elaboration of a pilot project is useful to practice the learning outcomes achieved throughout the entire module.

2nd part of the course: Too little time to write a well-founded paper on the research project. I would have appreciated to have more time for writing the paper and a bigger scope, so that it actually makes sense of writing the paper. I understand the paper (which reflects my learning outcome) as only a superficial representation of what could have been written. 1st part of the course: critique from above doesn't apply

4. To what extent do you feel the course has met your expectations in general?

Mean: 3.8

I am still feeling a sense of confusion about some parts of the research process, but I am confident that those will be solved with time. Hopefully.

Part 1 of the course was too basic. Although I understand that there are students who had limited or no contact with science theory, there should have been an offer for students who already have the basic knowledge. It was a bit boring for me.

The lectures would have been more interesting if the theoretical considerations would have been made more concrete by discussing them more intensely with respect to the IMER field (the seminars are good examples I think).

For the statistics course: I think overall it was good! But it would have been nice if we would have spent a little more time introducing the basic commands of R. Also, more basic literature about R and Statistics would have been nice.

Not the course, but the program and university in general. I have been studying at MAU for almost 4 years now and the university always remains severely understaffed and generally unorganized.

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

Mean: 5.3

What has been good about the course?

Practical practice
Being able to choose a track

I personally enjoyed the second part (interviews and participant observation) as I felt encouraged to

pursue my own research interests while learning to put methodology into practice.

Opportunity to choose between different fields.

I have enjoyed the lectures, and the time we have been given to read PhD's and a master thesis. In the second part of the course, we were given extremely good guidance and space to discuss each other's projects - this is a good method of learning.

Part 1: The seminars because they actually contained IMER related contents. Statistics: The degree of freedom to design your own project and the associated paper.

I got to learn different methodological methods that I can apply for my future thesis.

Chosen literature was very helpful, student friendly, and on point for providing well-rounded introductions into the several topics.

Statistics and programming via RStudio and the teacher who taught us every details with patience and in details.

Being introduced to new topics.

What can be developed in the course?

2 years program student is better to learn 3 different methodologies as people did not decide on the thesis. I recommend to learn all not selecting only one methodology.

More classes (especially in the statistic track), it felt very surface level and I don't feel like I have learned a lot and did not have/receive the resources to deepen the knowledge myself. More material for self-study (again, mostly for the statistic track), like uploading more data to practice with relation to the course (again, relating to statistic), since the data and the examination are not related to the field of migration at all.

It can be made even more practice, but I wouldn't know how at the moment. Grading system.

The workshops could be even more structured in my opinion. Meaning that a discussion about a thesis should perhaps be directed a bit more by the teacher.

Insert more IMER related contents. Because of the lack of the I feel a bit disconnected to the topics we dealt with in the 1st semester.

Statistics: It would be nice if the expectations (i.e. what the presentation should contain of) were communicated more clearly.

A better structure of the course regarding time.

The schedule: Lectures on methodology could have been conducted in fewer weeks (not fewer sessions), so that we'd have more time for the pilot project.

Seminars of the first module could be workshops instead, it could be more effective.

Experience of the learning infrastructure:

Thanks to GPS administration to have a quick and kind response.

Good experience.

Everything is good...but this time we all have to write individually to GPS administration to register us for a new course.. this should not be the case.. the choice should be presented automatically on ladok.

Fine.

I love canvas

The learning infrastructure has been good so far.

- having three teachers creating a variety of deadlines in one canvas page was confusing

- mandatory literature should be provided on canvas. It was difficult to impossible to access one of the course's core literature.

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

Summary of the teacher's views/Results:

This course consists of two different modules, which makes it somewhat difficult to interpret the feedback from the students. However, mean ratings and comments show that the course has been well received. The fact that the students start with varying previous knowledge in methodology, theory of science, and methods is challenging. Despite these challenges, the students have been ambitious and shown a great attitude to learn.

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

Analysis: There seems to be a need for a bit more time to work on the assignments for the methods module. At the same time the examination on the methods module was a few days too late in the calendar and this must be corrected next year.

Action plan: The teachers will discuss if we need to restructure the course. Perhaps reduce the first part of the course with one week and use that week in the methods module.

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.