

COURSE REPORT – Summary of course evaluation

Background information (To be completed by the course administrator)

Course LADOK code: KK621C	Scope (hp): 15,0
Course title: Communication, Culture and Media Analysis	
Course coordinator: Linda Austin	Number of registered students: 89
Semester in which the course is conducted: VT25 (Spring 2025)	
Is the course an independent course, programme course or contract course? If the course has been completed within a programme, enter the programme name. HACFD24	

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

Formative course evaluation, for example dialogue during the course (optional) An online feedback session was held 28 May 2025.	Approx. number of students who participated in formative course evaluation(s): About 25
Summative course evaluation (obligatory) SUNET digital survey	Number of students who participated in the summative course evaluation: 83 (93%)

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

Summary of the students' oral and written feedback: Trends seen in the comments reflect a strong satisfaction with the course structure, course content, assessment variety, and teaching staff while the few critical comments tended to focus on the frustrations felt by some distance students in navigating timezone differences within group work and live oral presentations. -- <i>1 To what extent do you consider you have achieved the learning objectives of the course?</i> A majority (73%) of survey respondents said they achieved their learning objectives to a very large or large extent. Sample comment: I think some teachers really brought wonderful and enriching material, ideas for collaboration were great and yet course objectives seems to be a moving target :)

Excellent course: really varied lecturers, materials are responsive to the changing landscape, topics are extremely relevant to the way we are engaging in this work now and raises poignant questions. I recommend this course to all of my colleagues working in ComDev spaces as a dynamic and flexible space of learning. Strengths are in the balance of lecturers with practical experience and excellent insights, as well as thoughtful reading lists. The course could lean more on peer-led reviewing, I found this to be extremely valuable where some of the formal grading and critiquing fell flat in terms of useful feedback and made for much more interesting discussion and connections within the classroom. Having more fora for open discussion might create more emotional attachments and retention of course material. Study groups are a great idea, hard to replicate remotely. The whatsapp chat groupssimulated this experience quite well during the group assignments, although I would still recommend grading individually, as not allgroup members contributed equally.

Overall, I really enjoyed the course and valued the opportunity to reflect on the communication for development sector, especially during such a complex and rapidly changing time globally. It also encouraged me to reflect on my own practice in meaningful ways. Great semester- looking forward to the next one!

My suggestion would be to further develop "Culture and Media Analysis"" in terms of both content and examination. Other than that, it was great to be part of the course and program.

I am really enjoying the course. I found the group work fun and enjoyed working more closely together with some of the other students, but the group size (6) was a bit large I think.

The course provided me with a strong foundation in understanding how media and cultural narratives shape communication in society. It deepened my critical thinking and analytical skills, especially in interpreting media texts and understanding cultural contexts. The mix of theory and practical analysis helped me see how communication strategies operate in real-world settings. It was a valuable and insightful course that enhanced both my academic and personal perspective on media and culture.

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2 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?

A majority (58%) of survey respondents said the learning methods and objectives were to a very large extent or large extent suitable in supporting them to achieve their learning goals.

Sample comments:

I had a very positive experience with the working methods used in the course, particularly the group work assignments and the flexibility to present our work in different formats. This approach really supported my learning and allowed me to engage with the content in a more dynamic and creative way. I especially appreciated the alternatives to traditional written assignments, which I often find rigid and time-consuming. The diversity of formats made the learning process more accessible and motivating for me.

Coming from a STEM degree, I really appreciated the teaching methods of this course and I always felt stimulated.

I understand the importance of group assignments and collaboration with other students, especially in a field like this. However, as a distance learner in a vastly different time zone from most of my peers, it was particularly challenging. Many of the lectures began at 11:00 p.m. for me, and one of my presentations was scheduled for after midnight. This made participation unnecessarily difficult.

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3 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?

A majority of students (51%) said the types of examination gave them opportunities to demonstrate their learning achievements to a very large extent or large extent while a significant minority (43%) said the diversity of examination types only achieved this objective in the middling survey categories.

Sample comments:

I appreciated the diversity in assessment formats. One assignment focused on an organisation, another was a book review – these changes in format made the assignments more engaging and allowed me to respond creatively, especially with the book review. Also, I enjoyed reviewing the work of an author who also gave a lecture in the course!

I found the group work examination a bit difficult to navigate due to the size of the group (6)

I think peer review is a great idea in theory, but it needs to be designed in a way that's more accessible – perhaps fully online and asynchronous – so that students aren't required to be available at difficult hours. I truly believe I can do well in the assignments, and I've really enjoyed the coursework, but some of the current methodologies have unfortunately become an obstacle to fully participating.

It was great that there were different types of assignments and yet different types require different types of grading. This was absent. And the assignments should be constructed in such a way that there is clear correlation between what is taught and what is expected to be shown.

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

A majority of students (83%) said the course as a whole met their expectations to a very large, large or good extent.

Sole comment:

It wasn't what I expected but I am really enjoying the course work and course set up. I feel that the lectures are engaging, interesting and dynamic and that the course lecturers are engaged and highly skilled within their respective fields. Canvas engagement is 10/10.

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

A majority of students (79%) said the course had given them the opportunity to be responsible for their own learning to a very large extent or large extent.

Comments:

I appreciated not only the responsibility I was given for my own learning but also the flexibility and range of the topics.

I'm very self-driven and enjoyed the opportunity to take ownership of my learning. As long as the instructions were clear, I was happy to work independently and explore the topics in my own way. The course offered several opportunities for this kind of self-directed learning. However, as mentioned earlier, I found that the group work and peer review components sometimes presented obstacles, particularly due to the logistical challenges they posed for me.

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

Summary of the teacher's views:

Course enrollment in 2025 (89 registered students) represented a 31% increase compared to the average enrollment during the previous three years.* The bump in student numbers will ripple through all ComDev courses as this student cohort progresses through the program, necessitating some adjustment to course assessments (such as reconfiguring group work assignments) and possible fluctuations in teaching staff.

As of mid-August 2025 and with one submission opportunity still pending, the course pass-through rate is about 75%, which compares quite favorably to the average pass-through rate of the three prior years (average 50%).

In 2025, in terms of the number of student submissions per examination, the following numbers are noted:

Assessment 1.1	67 submissions
Assessment 1	66 submissions
Assessment 1.22	66 submissions
Assessment 2.1	59 submissions
Assessment 2.2	67 submissions (as of 11 Aug. 2025)

Course content remained reasonably stable with the exception of minor adjustments to the reading lists. The course again was organized around two modules, the first themed 'carbon colonialism' and the second themed 'islands in the Anthropocene'. No adjustments to assessments were made. To accommodate the large enrollment, nine

instructors were active, including four colleagues “borrowed” from other programs. Three guest presenters gave regular lectures and students were offered 10 ‘extra’ presentations, such as seminars offered by other programs or universities or book launches.

One disciplinary issue arose concerning student research integrity which resulted in one student being suspended for the standard nine-week period.

*Prior-year course enrollments: 2024 = 66, 2023 = 64, 2022 = 75.

Action plan (To be completed by the course coordinator)

No major revisions of the course are expected as summative and formative student feedback remain positive and the teaching team is satisfied with the course content and structure. The roster of guest lecturers and outside events will evolve as opportunities arise. The addition of a new ComDev colleague to the roster in Fall 2025 will ease pressures on teaching/marking loads for existing staff in future semesters.

Remember to orally feedback the results of the course evaluation to

- the students who have completed the course evaluation
- the students of the next course round, i.e. the next time the course is given