

Periodic Evaluation Report

KIN4540 spring 2016 "Elections in Greater China – Theory and Practice

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1. Was the course more or less carried out as planned?

Initially, the course was supposed to cover the whole of the so-called "Greater China" region, in this case including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, enabling a comparative perspective on different types, forms and systems of *elections*. But in class we then decided for a few changes in the schedule, tailoring the readings and presentations even more towards the students' needs and wishes, who wanted to focus on Mainland China. There was obviously a strong demand for a more general discussion of the Chinese political system as such, before moving on to the more specific original focus. The program we ended up with was a good blending of both general recap sessions and more specific questions and approaches that all of us were happy with. Students contributed extensively to the whole course and all intended activities (incl. oral presentations) were conducted as planned.

2. Course statistics:

6 students registered, 2 came voluntarily

4 sat for the exam (term paper)

Grades: 1xA, 2xC, 1xE

3. Necessary changes for next time the course is held:

We could consider offering written supervised exams as one form of final exam, as was also suggested by one of the students in the evaluation form. An argument against it is that our goal in designing these classes is to provide students with opportunities to exercise writing academic theses and they don't have too many chances to do that before starting to write their master theses. Also, the level of abstraction and analysis common in courses and content at the master level may be only poorly reflected in a written exam of a few hours. But it is definitely something that can be discussed again among the teachers of this course.

Beyond that I would stick to the course design as it is, as it has also shown to be running well. Keeping the curriculum open for some input and wishes from the students' side is definitely something I would like to do again next time I teach a KIN4540 course.

4. Periodic student evaluations: Comments

Unfortunately only one of the five recipients of the evaluation form replied. I find all suggestions absolutely reasonable and discussable. Only the one about the changes in the course code (emnekode) I don't really understand.

Check list for course description: checked; the one thing that should be changed is to have more detailed abstracts for each semester's focus field/topic, since the course features different topics each time it is given; maybe in the 'semester page' section in the course description.