

Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo

Course report on MEVIT4618 Mediatization of culture and society spring term 2014

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Introduction

This course was given first time this spring 2014.

In general the evaluation is positive, however, some students found it partly difficult.

Participants

The course drew students from the Nordic Media master programme as well as from Media Studies. 16 students were allowed into the course, three did not meet. I followed the course online during maternity leave. A few students had longer periods of illness during the course.

The active students came from seven different countries: China, Germany, Nepal, Norway, Poland, Zambia and the US. Usually 6–10 students came to lectures and seminars.

12 students took the exam. There were one A, two B, five C, three D and one E (no F). No complaints were submitted.

Syllabus

The syllabus consisted of four key books on mediatization and five articles to collect from the Internet. In addition each student had to report a self-selected reading list of 100 pages relevant to their term papers. Total number of pages was close to 1000.

Teaching

The teaching was given as lectures on Tuesdays and seminars on Thursdays over seven weeks with two weeks without teaching in-between.

Resources and infrastructure

Lectures and seminars were in room 208 i the Science Park. This was suitable. The last lecture had to be moved due to power-cut of all equipment.

The students established a Facebook group among themselves, with the teacher present. The group was not much used.

Exam

The final evaluation is a semester paper. The seminars were to a large extent geared towards the development of the term paper topics and the final disposition and writing of the papers.

Learning objectives

The learning objectives were formulated for this first round of the course. They were mostly met. However, some students found the theories on mediatization difficult and wanted more examples.

Course description

The course description was new, as the course itself. It gave a good framework for the course.

Suggestions for improvement

More examples of mediatization processes should be developed and worked on during seminars. Combining lectures and student activity into one four-hours session with breaks should be considered.

Learning for other courses

Mediatization may be relevant as a reference and general perspective on media and societal changes in other courses.

Student's mid term evaluation

9 students filled in the form at the middle of the course. The students were asked to make comments – either positive or negative – on the listed aspects that they found important to remark on. Indication of answers in red below:

Department of Media and Communication/KL 6 February 2014

Mid-Term Evaluation MEVIT4186 (Mediatization) Spring 2014

Please consider:

- The information given to the students
- The start-up period of the course
- The course plan
- The given lectures
- The seminars
- The reading list
- The learning environment

This has been good:

- Information given to the students
- Learning environment
- Lectures
- Structure of the course

This could be improved:

- More examples on the theories of mediatization
- Some wanted lectures and seminars to be on the same day
- It would be helpful to point out the key reading to each lecture/seminar
- Less reading to each lecture/seminar than listed with the timetable
- More time to prepare for the exam after end of teaching

OVERALL ASSESMENT OF THE COURSE SO FAR:

Please give your overall mark on the course (teaching, curriculum, etc) on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 is the poorest and 5 the best mark. (Please circle the appropriate digit):

1	2	3 (1)	4 (2)	5 (6)
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Student’s final evaluation

9 students filled in the form which was distributed at the end of the course. The distribution of answers in red in the form below:

Student evaluation questionnaire for courses offered at the Faculty of Arts

You are hereby invited to evaluate the course MEVIT4618 spring 2014. We would be grateful if you could spare some time to answer the following questions. It is only through your feedback that we can improve our courses.

Best regards from the Departement of Media and Communication

1. How would you evaluate the following statements regarding the quality of teaching in this course?

<i>Statements</i>	<i>I agree</i>	<i>I partly agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
The teaching was engaging.	9		
The teaching was well structured.	9		
The teaching was clear and comprehensible.	9		

2. How would you say the teaching covered the course content?

- Very well 6
- Well 3
- Neither well nor poorly
- Poorly
- Very poorly

3. Are there parts of the course content that should have been allotted more teaching hours?

- No 7
- Yes 2

4. If you answered yes on the previous question, please specify which parts of the course content.

No remarks given.

5. Are there parts of the course content that should have been allotted less teaching hours?

- No 8
- Yes 1

6. If you answered yes on the previous question, please specify which parts of the course content.

No remarks given.

7. How would you evaluate the following statements regarding the exercises you were assigned during the course?

<i>Statements</i>	<i>I agree</i>	<i>I partly agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
The exercises made me work actively with the course content.	7	2	
The exercises made me work regularly with the course content.	6	2	1

8. How would you evaluate the relationship between lectures and seminars/groups/internet based teaching in this course?

- Very well 7
- Well 2
- Neither well nor poorly
- Poorly
- Very poorly

9. On average, how many hours per week have you spent on this course, including attending classes?

<i>Period</i>	<i>0-5 h per week</i>	<i>5-10 h per week</i>	<i>10-15 h per week</i>	<i>15 h or more per week</i>
First part of the semester		8		1
Second part of the semester	(No answer:1)	3	4	1

10. How would you evaluate the following statements regarding the amount of effort you put into this course?

<i>Statements</i>	<i>I agree</i>	<i>I partly agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
I could have put more effort into working with this course at the beginning of the semester.	2	4	3
I get more out of the teaching when I prepare for class.	8	1	
I could have put more effort into working with this course during the whole semester.	2	6	1
I have spent more time working on this course than on similar courses.	2	3	4
I have generally been well prepared for class in this course.	2	7	

11. Which learning activities have you used, and how would you evaluate their usefulness to your learning in this course?

<i>Teaching methods</i> <i>Statements</i>	<i>Demands too much time</i>	<i>Demanding but exciting</i>	<i>Could have been more of this</i>
Reading the syllabus	4	4	1
Writing papers	1	8	
Frontier activity	(No answer: 2)	4	3
Attending lectures		9	
Attending seminars		9	
Other	(No answer: 8)		1

12. How do you evaluate the following statements about the course?

<i>Statements</i>	<i>I agree</i>	<i>I partly agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
The course has taught me to analyze problems.	4	4	1
The course has taught me facts, ideas, methods.	8	1	
The course has taught me practical skills.	5	2	2

13. How do you evaluate the following statements about the forms of examination used in this course?

<i>Statements</i>	<i>I agree</i>	<i>I partly agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
They give me the opportunity to show acquired knowledge.	9		
They give me the opportunity to show acquired skills.	6	2	1
They make me work regularly with the course during the semester.	8	1	
There is too much assessment during this course.		3	6

14. If you could choose, which form of assessment would you prefer for this course?

- Portfolio
- Written examination
- Semester paper 7
- Home examination 2
- Oral examination
- Oral presentation
- Other

15. How do you evaluate the info given about following issues in the course description?

<i>Information about</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Sufficient</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Time and place for teaching	8	1	
Time and/or place for examination	7	2	
Course content and objective	4	2	2 (No answer: 1)
Prerequisites for the course	6	2	(No answer: 1)
Forms of teaching in the course	7	2	
Forms of assessment in the course	8	1	

16. What were your most important reasons to choose this course? (Check all that apply)

- It is required in my study programme and/or course group 2
- It was convenient to take the course this semester 3
- I was interested in the topic 9
- I wanted to take a course from this teacher 2
- Other

17. How satisfied are you, all in all, with this course?

- Very satisfied 7
- Satisfied 2
- Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied
- Unsatisfied
- Very unsatisfied