

MAE4050- Current topics and debates in assessment and evaluation 2022

Course evaluation

5/8 students answered the questionnaire

Information and material

All respondents agreed or strongly agreed that information provided on the UIO page, CANVAS page, and through given materials was sufficiently clear and accessible. Received information about the assignment requirements was also sufficient and clear. Only one student reported that information on the CANVAS page was not sufficiently clear.

Structure and time management

All students agreed or strongly agreed that the pace of the course, workload, number of breaks, and time plan were adequate. The number of sessions was adequate for the content of the course for all students, except for one who disagreed with this statement. One student reported that the connection between different course modules was not clear, while others reported the opposite. Students invested from 3h to 10 h per week in the course. One student reported that he/she invested 100h in the course by the 18th of September (4 sessions). This year we have a limited number of required papers to 2 for students delivering class notes, but for those presenting all reading was mandatory (required + additional). In most cases, this sums to four (4) papers for presenters.

Content and teaching

Overall, students reported that the content of the course was interesting, helpful and motivating. They also reported that the course increased their interest in the topic, that the course was easy to follow and that their questions were appropriately addressed. One student reported that the place-based part of the course did not work well. However, this year we did not have an opportunity for hybrid teaching and all sessions took place on-site. Especially motivating and helpful were all interactive parts of the sessions. Students reported

“Debates in class”

“Student presentations and ensuing group discussions”

“How Tore guided the class was especially helpful on how should we address the exam”

“The discussion parts towards the end of the sessions”

Especially positive aspects of the course reported by students were

- 1) Relevant and interesting topics;
- 2) Format of the course;
- 3) Variety of topics moderated by different lecturers

Most of the students enjoyed participating in the course and all of them would recommend it.

Students also gave some suggestions on how we could improve the course. They suggested making explicit the ways in which topics covered in the course are connected (if anyhow?). Further, they suggested that more emphasis should be given to the formulation of scientific arguments. One of the learning outcomes that we discussed at the beginning of the course was the difference between subjective opinions and scientific argumentation. Thus, teachers could emphasize or point those differences in the class and help students form proper argumentation.

Students also suggested and actively asked for the exam to be pass/fail instead of having grades. This is something to consider next semester.

Other reflections

A student who presented first had less time in preparation since the topics given to students were available only after the first session (introduction). Maybe the course coordinator should have published the list of topics and students two weeks in advance. Moreover, this semester we had more topics than students. Since, it was only one extra session the course coordinator took the responsibility to prepare this one. However, in the future, we should count on the fact that number of students and topics can vary.

Course coordinator
Jelena Veletic