Umeå University, 901 87 Umeå, Sweden
Department for Geography and Economic History
www.geoekhist.umu.se

Summary of course evaluation

Course name, course code: Global Equality, 2KG047

Start and finish date: 19/1 – 1/6 2017

Date of summary: 26/6 2017

Number of registered students/participants in evaluation: 15/5

Forms of evaluation: Oral and written evaluation at the end of the course.

1. *General comments about the course and its implementation*

The students seem overall very pleased about the course; they express that it has been very interesting and that it has provided them with new knowledge. All students except one think that the expected learning outcomes of the course have been accomplished (one student wanted to explore the issue of scale more deeply). The students mention that they have achieved knowledge about inequalities around the world in relation to different topics, and also that they have acquired skills on essay writing. They mention appreciating the discussions during seminars, and having enjoyed meeting international students from many different countries. Some were very positive about the possibility to write papers on different themes. The overall opinion among the students is that the course is well-organized and well-functioning.

2. *What has worked (particularly) well during the course?*

Many students express that they have enjoyed taking the course; they have learned a lot about many different topics, and they have particularly appreciated writing papers and discussing these during seminars with fellow students from diverse cultural backgrounds. The administration and organization of the course functioned well (students appreciate e.g. that teachers have been easy to reach and have given quick feedback). The quality of the student papers were high, perhaps thanks to a lecture on referencing held by a librarian at the beginning of the course and thanks to a new discussion seminar before the final paper.

3. *What has worked less well or failed?*

The students suggest improvements/changes on the following issues: the time of the course (too late, the students were tired); the literature (too Eurocentric according to some students); the class room (not "pleasant"); how to manage student groups (one student wished that the teacher would divide the students into groups for assignments, and not the students themselves); more in-depth discussion on key concepts and theories (e.g. equality/equity); the structure of the final seminar/conference (pairing of papers with similar theme, more time to ask questions to the presenter). As teachers we notice a tendency for students to be absent from seminars, although they are compulsory.

4. *What needs to be done before the course is given next time?*

The course is overall well-functioning, but some ideas for changes will be taken into consideration. The students' remarks regarding, e.g., the literature and the wish for more discussion on key concepts (e.g. equality) will be remembered when the next course is planned. The time of the course is unfortunately set to evenings as this is an evening course but the matter will be discussed (whether it can be possible to start earlier). The extra assignments given when a student is absent from a compulsory seminar could be made more difficult so that more students attend the seminars.