

NORAM4508 2009-II PERIODISK EMNERAPPORT

NB: kurset var en "leseemne" som møtte 5 ganger i totalt.

1. Beskrivelse av og kommentarer til eventuelle avvik fra og endringer i emnebeskrivelsen

Det ble ikke gjort endringer eller avvik i emnebeskrivelsen.

2. Kommentarer til kvantitative gjennomføringsdata på emnet (karakterer, stryk, frafall)

5 studenter var påmeldt emnet, 5 var eksamensmeldt og 4 tok eksamen. 2 studenter fikk B og 2 fikk C.

3. Er det indikasjoner/eksempler på særlig god kvalitet? Hvordan er de fulgt opp?

4. Er det indikasjoner på sviktende kvalitet? Hvordan er de fulgt opp?

None of the 5 students had a thorough background necessary to the course. Background is defined, first and foremost, as the capacity to work with ideas, and analyze the theoretical & methodological foundations of a text. Secondarily, background means an introduction to the content of the field—American environmental studies. None of the students in the seminar took the preliminary course, NORAM 2585.

The fact that neither of the 2 students who filled out the form agreed that the course taught them practical skills ("praktiste ferdigheter") is indicative of the depth of the problem in the program: a failure to understand that critical reading skills is 95% of what's needed to write a good thesis.

5. Hva er det fokusert på i denne perioden mht utvikling av studiekvalitet?

Requiring student-led seminar sessions . . . Although one loses quite a bit in analytical capacity, and the reports were limited in scope, some of them were quite good. They also prompted more detailed reading on the part of students who are not in the habit in the reading in the course of the semester.

6. Forslag til tiltak for å forbedre emnet

Prerequisite courses

What is the point of having saremner at the 2000 level, if they aren't used as prerequisites for advanced courses?

Enrollment policies (administration)

Only 1 of the students had any interest in pursuing further studies in this field; the others had already decided on a thesis topic with another instructor. The right students were not enrolled in the course.

Skill acquisition

A greater emphasis on critical reading is needed in our program to prepare students for a real graduate-level seminar.