



Studieplan 2009/2010

Society and Culture

Studiepoeng: Arbeidsmengde i studiepoeng er: 30.

Studiets varighet, omfang og nivå

Duration and academic level

The programme last for one semester. The programme is accepted as part of Social Science Studies in the Teacher Training Education (in Norway) and can also become an integrated part of BA programmes nationally as well as internationally.

Innledning

Introduction

This programme, “*Challenges of Contemporary Society*” is carefully designed to welcome international students to spend one semester at Hedmark University College, and to receive a full academic programme in English. The programme offers a unique combination of cultural and political investigations into core aspects of civic, economic and politic life. The programme originated as part of the tri-partite agreement between Pacific Lutheran University, Washington State, US, University of Namibia and Hedmark University College in 2002. Students from the three academic institutions should be given the chance to meet and study core questions of to day in an intimate and academically productive atmosphere. The programme is designed to meet the requirements for an international exchange semester in most universities.

This programme caters to those who would like to spend one semester at Hedmark University College without having to learn Norwegian, and yet studying in an international context.

Læringsutbytte

Overall goals of programme

The overall goal for the programme is that students participating in the programme should develop:

- a capacity to identify core cultural, political and economical variables of an unknown culture or nation (case: Norway)
- an awareness of and competence in distinguishing cultural myths from cultural content
- skills in real cross-cultural communication
- a deeper insight in own culture and how that is perceived by others
- a capacity to function as a minority in a work situation



a capacity to work in partnership on a project with people from different cultures.

Målgruppe

Student recruitment

The programme is designed to meet an international body of students studying for a degree in Global Studies, Political Science or other programmes where a cross cultural approach to society and politics can be a part. The programme will also be of value for immigrants with an academic qualification that would like to familiarise themselves with the Norwegian society in an international context and with English as language.

Kompetanse

Competence

The programme will give the students experience in working across cultural differences with theoretical questions and case study based tasks. They will develop their capacity to experience and resolve situations of cross cultural problem solving and communication. In addition they will gain insight in the academic topics that the programme is focussing.

Opptakskrav fritekst

Students from recognised academic institutions can apply to be students on the programme. Applicants have to document the successful completion of at least one year of studies. Potential students should also be able to document fluency in English language.

Undervisnings- og læringsformer

Methods of work

The methods of study will vary between lectures, seminars, individual guidance and work in groups. Information technology is integrated in most parts of the programme. Classfronter - a digital learning platform is used as a tool of communication between the college and the students.

Vurderingsformer

Evaluation

The students are challenged to demonstrate their academic qualifications and topical knowledge through a variety of tasks. They will be asked to produce written reports, essays, oral presentations, home exams and oral exams.

Internasjonalisering

Internationalisation

The programme is based on student body that is composed of international and Norwegian students working together throughout the programme. The core of the programme is thus to prepare the



participants to be active partners in an internationalised world and to build relations across national boundaries and the continents.

Studiets innhold, oppbygging og organisering

Content, structure and organisation

The programme consists of three separate modules. All modules represent 10 ECTS.

Modules

Emner

Studiepoeng År 1

- [**The Norwegian Welfare State; Historic Development and Contemporary Challenges**](#)

10 studiepoeng

- [**Democracy and Development**](#)

10 studiepoeng

- [**Conflict Management and Field Study**](#)

10 studiepoeng



Emneoversikt

2SKU01 The Norwegian Welfare State; Historic Development and Contemporary Challenges

Emnekode: 2SKU01

Studiepoeng: 10

Språk

Engelsk

Forkunnskaper

Læringsutbytte

Goal

After having completed this module, the students should have a basic understanding of the historic development of modern Norway, the growth and structure of the Norwegian/Nordic welfare state and the concurrent structural political debate of and changes to this model. "Case Norway" will act as a common point of reference throughout the programme when discussing various challenges of contemporary societies.

Innhold

Content

The first half of this module focuses on the relation between Norway's history and the development of the nation's political answers to historic and present challenges. The Constitution of 1814 and its ideological references, the political situation giving establishing parliamentarism in 1884 and the peaceful establishment of the sovereign Kingdom of Norway will be presented. The political and economic challenges of the last century will be introduced and discussed. The students will be familiarised with the structural and ideological frame work of the Norwegian/ Scandinavian Welfare model and how this is challenged and altered through both internal and external forces today.

The second half of the module introduces and focuses International Politics and Norway's approach political activities in international. Students should become familiar with core concepts and theories of international politics and use this in their studies of one or more relevant case studies.

All through the module the students are challenged to reflect on and compare and contrast the knowledge they gain of Norway with that of their home/original country.



Organisering og arbeidsformer

Learning Methods

This module works through traditional lectures and seminars with high level of student participation. A five days excursion in mid Norway anchors the theoretical knowledge to experiential knowledge.

Vurderingsordning

Evaluation

Process assignments: 49%. Four hour written exam 51%. Oral presentation pass/fail.

Ansvarlig avdeling

Avdeling for lærerutdanning og naturvitenskap



2SKU02 Democracy and Development

Emnekode: 2SKU02

Studiepoeng: 10

Språk

Engelsk

Forkunnskaper

Students must have completed a minimum of one year of studies with a relevant academic profile at a recognised academic institution.

Læringsutbytte

Goal

The students should develop their capacity to understand and discuss challenges connected to the operation of democracy and development in contemporary societies. They should be able to demonstrate familiarity with key concepts and theories of democracy and development. They should also develop their capacity to recognize and understand the interconnection between ideology, theory and operational society and between action, myths and facts.

Innhold

Content

Through this module the students are introduced to a selection of theories and concepts that contribute to their understanding democracy, democratic institutions and their variations. They will also be introduced to and discuss theories of development. Relevant aspects of Norwegian society are used as examples and to give a common frame of reference to all students. This common focus opens for an active cross cultural investigation, as students will be requested to compare and contrast the Norwegian examples with those of the countries represented in the programme.

Core questions that will be introduced are:

What does “democracy” mean? What does “development” mean? Can any nation or political system claim to present the correct interpretation of democracy? Is economic development a basic prerequisite for the development of democratic institutions? Who is right and who is wrong in a situation where opposite interpretations give rise to conflicts? Who has the power to be right? Why do we interpret the particular situation the way we do?

Organisering og arbeidsformer

Learning methods



The module is taught through lectures, seminars and shorter excursions. The lecturing methods are based on a high level of student participation. Case studies will be used to focus contemporary challenges of society throughout the module. The formal programme also involves some interaction with representatives from relevant private and public bodies. Some seminars might be run with students from other programmes. Topics for discussion online will be made available for groups to comment on via Class Frontier.

Vurderingsordning

Evaluation

An oral individual exam constitutes 40% and a written presentation of a case study 60% of the grade.

Ansvarlig avdeling

Avdeling for lærerutdanning og naturvitenskap



2SKU03 Conflict Management and Field Study

Emnekode: 2SKU03

Studiepoeng: 10

Språk

Engelsk

Forkunnskaper

Students should be 2nd or 3rd years student and be able to document previous political or social science studies from a recognised academic institution.

Læringsutbytte

Goal

Through participating in this module, the students should gain a tentative understanding of how and why conflicts are part of contemporary society. They should also develop a critical and analytical approach to how and why conflicts are maintained, and be able to identify some core relations between the way a conflict is understood and the way it is mediated and sought resolved.

Innhold

Content

The students will be introduced to a selection of theories of reconciliation, peace building and conflict mediation. Emphasis will also be placed on giving the students insight in how our approach to and understanding of a conflict influence our analysis of and eventual methods of mediating the conflict.

Emphasis will be placed on working through relevant case studies, and give the students first hand insight into the Norwegian tradition of working with conflicts both within the Norwegian Society and internationally. The students will be introduced to the ideas behind and the practical operation of the Mediation and Reconciliation Service. They will also work with the approach and praxis of the official Norway as well as the work done by NGOs such as “The Dialogue Project” and the Nansen Network. The role of the media will be discussed.

Field study

In the second half of the semester, students will be offered a field study period. The field study is supervised and arranged to supplement the students’ theoretical understanding of their host community and to match their academic field of interest. The field study equivalents ten working days and run parallel with lectures and will be regularly debriefed in weekly seminars. Advanced students can substitute the field study with theoretical studies in agreement with their tutor and home academic institution.



The field study will be reported back in accordance with a pre designed report guide.

Organisering og arbeidsformer

Structure and Study Methods

The students will participate in seminars and smaller workshops. In addition they will receive ordinary lectures introducing core academic theories and concepts. Through their individual work, they will work closely with their supervisor. Topics and cases for discussion will be made available on Fronter.

Vurderingsordning

Evaluation

Report from field study or field research essay 49%

Four hours written exam 51%

Ansvarlig avdeling

Avdeling for lærerutdanning og naturvitenskap