



MALMÖ HÖGSKOLA

COURSE REPORT Children's Rights, 15 credits

Course: Children's Rights

Term/year: Autumn Term 2015

Ladok code: BU123E

Course leader: Gitte Malm

Number of registered students: 21

Number of students who answered the course evaluation: 21

Type of evaluation

A written evaluation based on three different aspects (see below) was handed in by the students on the last day of the course, after their final examination.

Summary of the students' course evaluations

Thoughts about the course – related to aims, literature, working methods, content, examination forms

- Great variety of topics covered and good examination format. Presentations are much more engaging than tests. I also particularly enjoyed the international aspect - it made the class quite fascinating, and I appreciated the time for discussions/opinions in class.
- I've learned about other people's views on things I never even really thought about before.
- I really liked the presentations; it was interesting to hear from different countries and cultures.
- The methods were good, being able to share our opinions.
- I really liked the working methods used in the course. The content was always related to the aim and I feel I have learned a lot about other countries, but also about mine.
- I liked the fact that we had one group and one individual assignment and presentation because I think both of them are very important.
- The examinations were always interesting and I enjoyed choosing my own topic.
- What I really liked about the course is the fact that the topics were chosen from different areas of children's rights. It focussed on the UNCRC in theory, as well as in practice, educational level and general knowledge. Although it was the first time for me to work on a convention and dealing with articles and rights, I can say that I really learned a lot and broadened my horizon with regard to my future profession as teacher.
- The literature was mostly good, but sometimes it was difficult to understand.
- Although some of the course literature was very theoretical, I managed to read through them and learned a lot while reading.
- I thought that the literature was quite interesting and broad, so we learned a lot of different things.
- The countries outside of the Western world I found most interesting.

- The course was fun and I really enjoyed each guest speaker that we had. The lectures were extremely clear and well-organized. I am very happy to be part of the course because I learned new things and can see things from different perspectives.
- The texts we had to read were sometimes not mentioned at all in class. Maybe there should be better connections between literature and lectures.
- I think it would have been good if each lecturer would have, in the beginning, connected his or her topic/presentation to the UNCRC to kind of keep the flow.
- Taking this course opens the students' minds to many important yet neglected issues in our generation. The examinations were fulfilling. I enjoyed mostly the idea of having a special expert lecturer for each lecture.
- It is a good way of examining, having a debate with the class.

Your own contribution

- I loved participating in the class discussions and hearing what my classmates had to say.
- I think that a lot of people learned some things about my country that they didn't expect to learn.
- I would have liked to participate more, but as English is the third language I am studying I sometimes felt it difficult to express what I was thinking.
- I felt very motivated and eager to learn more. I like to discuss and contribute openly in class.
- Through my research I learned more about my own country and could convey my knowledge to the other students.
- It is nice to work in a group with students from different countries working on one topic and sharing opinions as well as discussing different aspects.
- This course has helped me personally and will affect the way I will raise my children in time.

Positive/negative aspects – suggestions for improvement

- A lot of very interesting discussions which really made me think.
- Examining with presentations. I really like this way of working and having the possibility of sharing our countries rights and explaining our situations.
- Good way of examining; very interesting topics throughout.
- I would prefer to have more classes and learn more things. I would also prefer not to have different teachers every time.
- It felt like we could not go into detail so much since we only had one lesson with each teacher and each topic.
- Because we changed teachers a lot we hardly got to know the teachers personally.
- I really appreciated the diversity of the different cultural backgrounds (students and teachers).
- Better connections between the individual sessions.
- It is a great course with very capable lecturers and interesting topics.
- I think that a lecturer should have more than one lesson so that an actual structure could be built up within a topic.
- More workshops, practical classes, interaction.
- I liked listening to lecturers speaking about their own studies and articles.

Analysis

This is a popular and much appreciated course where Swedish and international students get to meet and work together, sharing experiences of their different countries through discussions, readings and lectures on different aspects of Children's Rights. The examination forms are rated highly, with an individual assignment as well as a group assignment (a comparative study in mixed country groups). The diversity of the topics presented at the lectures is another positive element. Overall there is a desire among the students for more class discussions, workshops and interactive working methods. In general, the students found the lecturers to be very capable and the different topics of great interest. Some students appreciate the fact that there is a special expert teacher for each lecture; others feel that changing teachers frequently limits personal contact and deeper analysis of the topic. Course attendance varies depending on the individual students' schedule. Some are at the same time enrolled in other courses; others have planned short trips away as part of their exchange programme.

Measures for improvement

- Enhancing student involvement by setting aside more time for class discussions, seminars, eventually increasing the number of workshops and by preparing interactive lectures.
- Establishing clearer connections between lecture content and the UNCRC.