



MALMÖ HÖGSKOLA

COURSE REPORT Children's Rights, 15 credits

Course: Children's Rights

Term/year: Spring Term 2016

Ladok code: B123E

Course leader: Gitte Malm

Number of registered students: 19

Number of students who answered the course evaluation: 19

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

- The course was extremely interesting and the use of lecturers who were expert in certain fields for the topics covered enabled us as students to engage with the course content at a higher level.
- I liked the fact that we had to do a presentation quite early in the course about our own countries and children's rights. This was a good way to get to know your fellow students and learn more about the difference in countries.
- The literature assigned for each relevant class was appropriate and at a level of English that all students can understand.
- Group examinations are a great way of assessing the content learnt in this course. When groups work well together and everyone contributes, it can be a success.
- The group examination was the most interesting aspect of the course. By working together in a group with students from different countries, you learn to look at a situation in many different ways.
- My group mates give me lots of good ideas and I can think in a different way.
- I liked the fact that I was exposed to different professionals/academics from different backgrounds. It gives a holistic perspective to children's rights.

Your own contribution

- I made an effort to read most readings before class and take detailed study notes on the content covered.
- I learned a lot about the basics of children's rights and I linked this constantly to the situation in my home country.
- I met new people from different countries and shared some good moments.
- Through discussions and group work I had the chance to broaden my mind and expand my knowledge even more.
- The first presentation and the group work influenced me the most as both of them made me gain a lot of knowledge and I enjoyed doing them.

Positive/negative aspects – suggestions for improvement

- The first presentation was a bit too early.
- Not everyone was at the same knowledge level, which was sometimes a bit difficult for both sides (group exam).
- I'd like to know a bit more about children's rights in Sweden.
- It would be good with a lecture from a legal perspective.
- More theoretical discussions would have been beneficial in order to understand some concepts and to better analyse our work.
- Some of the lectures were not directly related to the UNCRC.
- This is very much a self-motivation based course. He/she needs discipline and should come for knowing, rather than grades.

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, as is meetings and knowledge sharing between students of different nationalities. The diversity of the topics presented at the lectures is another positive element although there is also a wish for more theoretical discussions. The group examination was that which was rated highest among the students. For most it was the best experience of the course; for others it posed unexpected challenges due to different knowledge and language levels. Attendance throughout the course varies. This depends, among other things, on the individual students' schedule. As the lecturers anticipate student participation and discussion during their lessons, low attendance can at times be a cause for concern.

Measures for improvement

A lecture on Children's Rights in Sweden could be an appropriate introduction to the course. There also needs to be clearer connections between each lecturer's topic and the UNCRC. Theoretical discussions on fundamental concepts is another important element that needs to be included. Enhancing student involvement is an ongoing challenge. One important expectation (formulated in a Welcome letter sent to all the students) is that we "rely on your activity and willingness to discuss and bring new perspectives to the course". Bringing together students from around the world facilitates new meetings and the sharing of ideas. The students need a constant reminder that this potential cannot be fully realized if they do not individually partake of and contribute to, this process.