Course report KA714E, Victimology

Course name: Victimology
Semester: Master programme, criminology, first semester
Ladok code: KA714E
Responsible teacher: Caroline Mellgren
Number of registered students: 25 (active students on the course: 20)
Total of students who have answered the final course evaluation: 18 (90% of the active students, 72% of registered students)

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<th>Accomplished</th>
<th>Mark X</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Evaluation</td>
<td>Oral</td>
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<td>Mid Course or Mid Term Evaluation</td>
<td>Oral</td>
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<td>Final Course Evaluation</td>
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<td>Digital Feedback on the Students’ Answers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Feedback and Discussion</td>
<td>Not yet, but is planned</td>
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Summary of the Students’ Viewpoints
This course has always received positive feedback from the students. Therefore not many changes were made from last year. But based on last years’ course evaluation the peer review groups now consisted of three persons instead of two and the economic consequences of crime were discussed.

The overall evaluation of the course was high, all except one student rated the overall course as 5 or 6 (mean 5.3). The learning outcomes have been reached to a high extent, men 5.2. The work formats appear to have helped the students to reach the learning outcomes to a high extent (mean 5.2), although seminars and student discussions could be improved. Students are satisfied with the structure of the course. Students are less satisfied with feedback from teacher and fellow students. There is no individual feedback on assignments from the teacher during the course as assignments are handed in at the end of the course. There are two a peer review seminars at the end of the course where students comment on each other’s papers and ideas. The students thought that the examination was relevant in relation to the learning outcomes (4.9) but this could be improved (see analysis and suggested changes). The workload was considered reasonable to most of the students (4.9) but the number of hours spent on studying each week varies. A majority spent 21-30 hours per week on the course.
which suggests that there is room for a heavier workload either in the form of individual course work or as group work, workshops, and seminars.

In the "other thoughts" section of the evaluation students write:
"Really interesting course! Everything was very structured. Lectures and seminars were informing and again well-structured. You were never in doubt of what was expected of you. I have no negative feedback :)

"I think that was one of the best courses we had so far and a very interesting new angle and perspective on the field of criminology. Additionally it was very well structured, the assignments were clear and on the spot and also the input from guest lecturers (PHD students) was super interesting and well prepared and thought through."

The course included lectures by two Phd students who talked about important issues based on their own research. I will continue with these guest lectures.

As stated above, opinions on the work load varied and some found the three assignments to be too much:

“But I think that three assignment in 5 weeks are to much, especially because it was three big assignment. So for me, I didn´t have the time to read all the literature or attempt all class, because of the write assignment"

Analysis and possible Course Changes
Based on the comments made by the students this year and last year the following changes are suggested:
Hand in assignments continuously during the course instead of at the end of the course.
Consider collapsing two of the assignments into 1, or examine one of the learning outcomes in an alternative way to decrease the written workload and maybe increase the oral and group workload.
Reconsider the course summary seminar that did not work as intended.
Some students wanted more exact reading instructions for each lecture. However, the study guide was very detailed and included a thorough description of the themes discussed each
week. Therefore the students can be expected to find out the most appropriate reading themselves. I will however consider giving more clear instructions to some lectures. The overall structure of the course will not undergo any significant changes as students this year and last year are very satisfied with the overall structure of the course and rate the course high.