

SVF-3021 Evaluation Report, Fall 2006

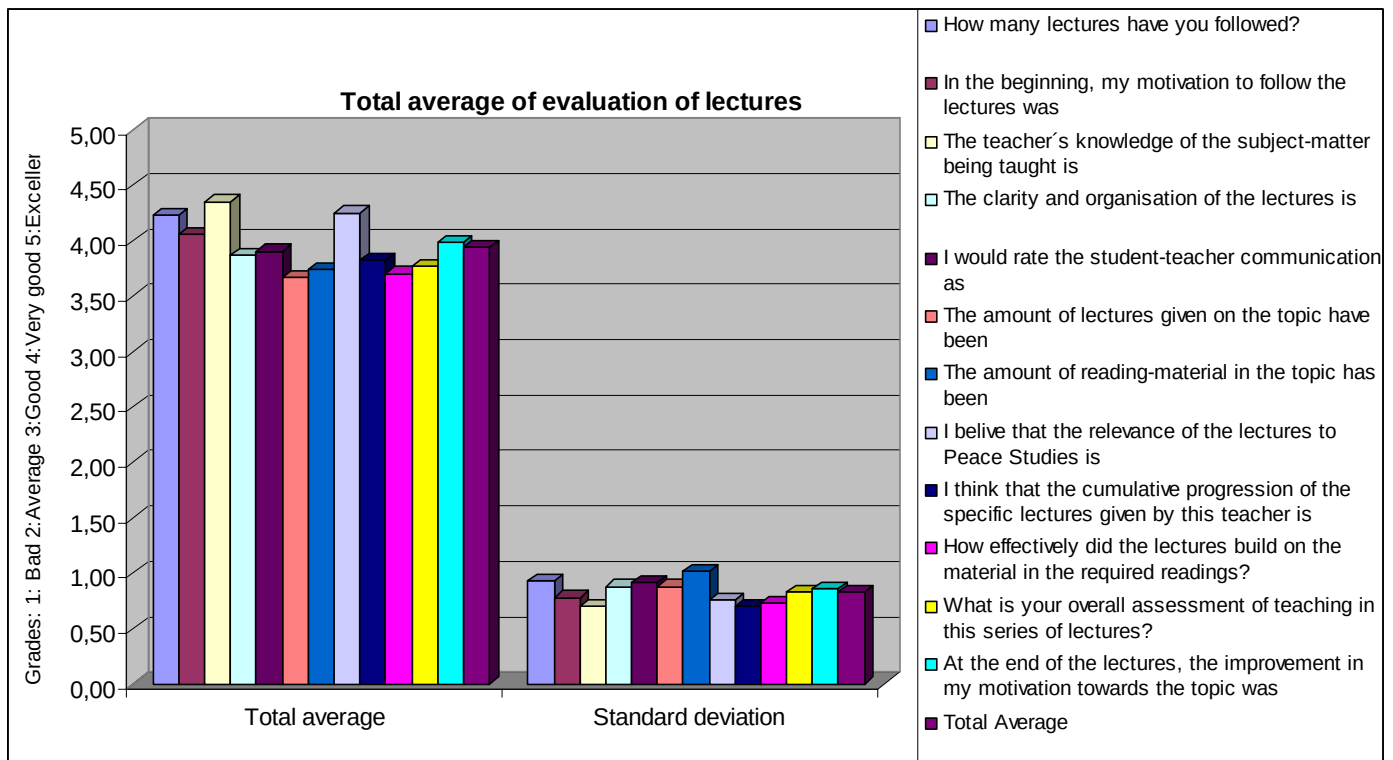
The student evaluation of SVF-3021 Integrated Peace Studies was performed through a) three rounds of questionnaires answered by students electronically in QuestBack and b) the Student Staff Liaison. The following report sums up the most important results from such student assessments and points to conclusions and measures that are to be taken in consideration next fall. The students' and the teachers' personal comments are removed in order for them not to be recognised. They are, nonetheless, still part of the whole evaluation process and play a great part in reaching the conclusions. This report is approved by the CPS Programme Board 08.02.2007.

The students registered in SVF-3021 anonymously filled out electronically QuestBack forms in three rounds. The first and the second round are questions related to the specific lectures whereas the third round is related to the exam and the subject as a whole. The questions asked are all to be graded on a scale from 1-5: 1-Bad (few) 2-Average (less than half) 3-Good (about half) 4-Very good (most) 5-Excellent (all). In all three occasions the forms included a space where students could make comments on how they experienced the subject.

1. QuestBack Results

1.1. Question on lectures

All lecturers teaching at SVF-3021 have been evaluated and have been sent their own evaluation individually and given the chance to comment on the results. As these individual results remains private information between the centre and the lecturer an average of all the lecturers is presented in the following diagram:

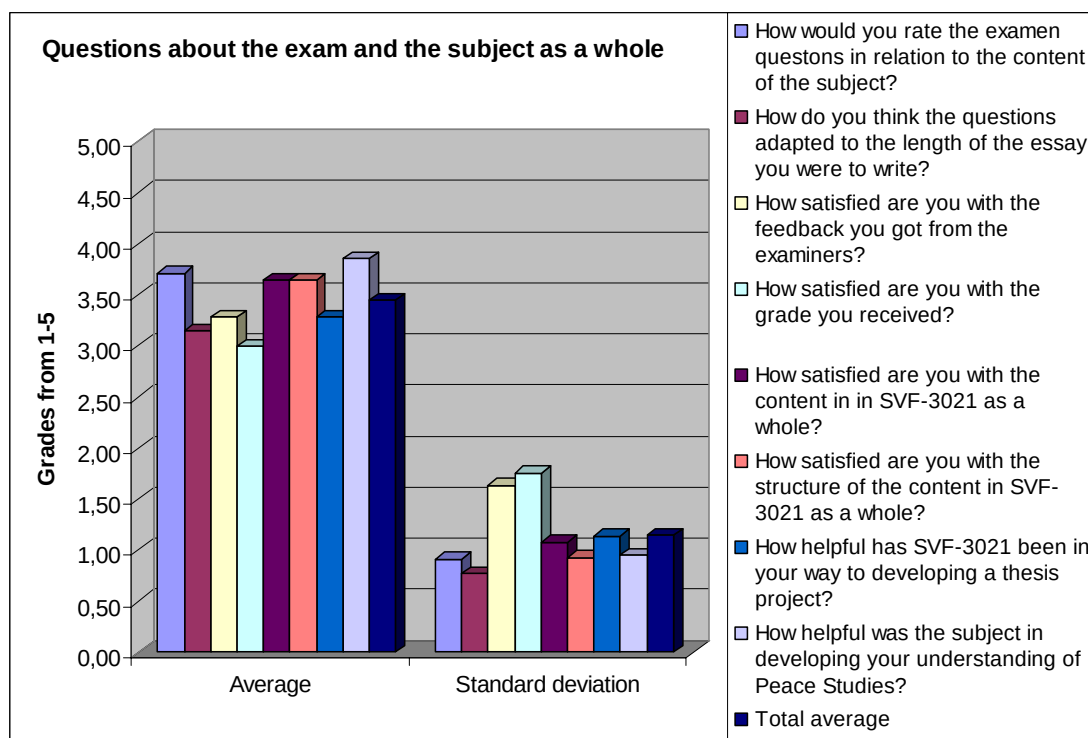


A total of 9 students of 20 answered the first electronic QuestBack questionnaire on the lecturers whilst a total of 11 students of 21 delivered filled out forms in the second

round of evaluation on the lecturers. The total average grades are an average of all the grades given to the teachers individually. The standard deviation is a measurement of the variation amongst the students' opinions. If the deviation is low it shows that the students seem to agree on that particular question.

1.2 Questions on the exam and the subject as a whole

On the third QuestBack evaluation the students was asked questions on the exam and the subject as a whole. In the diagram presented below the results of this evaluation is presented:



A total of 14 of 21 answered the electronic QuestBack questionnaire on the exam.

2. Student Staff Liaison (SSL)

There were four SSL meetings in the course of the Spring Semester 2006. The first one was on January 25th, 2006. The following meetings took place on February 23rd, March 23rd and May 24th, 2006. The results of the meetings are summed up in the minutes (DocuLive saksnr. 2006 01506).

The comments and measures on SVF-3021 Culture Conflict and Society taken up in the SSL meetings are:

20.09.06:

The students expressed that it can be a problem for the lectures that not everybody is prepared and that this makes the lectures go slow sometimes. They emphasised that since there are already a minimum of lectures in every subject, it is important that one can learn as much as possible.

Suggestion: For next year, the staff could stress the importance of start reading at an early stage and being prepared for the lectures. The lecturers could also be requested to expect that the students are prepared for every lecture. The students from the second year suggested that one could give tasks for

the students before the lectures, as they had good experience with this from this last year. That way the students will be pressured into being prepared.

01.11.06:

Both classes seem to experience some problems with attendance. As lectures and seminars are also discussion groups where everybody has impact on each others learning profits, low attendance can be frustrating for those present. This problem is to some extent difficult to deal with as making seminars or classes mandatory is not practiced at the centre. If though, this is something most of the students want, the administration would look into it.

The students also experience that not being prepared for lectures is still a problem, especially amongst the first years. This has however got better it was brought up at the previous SSL-meeting. It seems that the students are more prepared than in the beginning and that they are catching up on their reading now before the exam.

3. Conclusions and measures

It seems from the evaluations that the general impression of both the teachers and the course in general is quite good. Most teachers got over 4 as average grade and the course as a whole got 3.6. This serves as a good indication on not changing the course too much for next semester. Below is a summary of the main points from this evaluation:

- Attendance and preparedness: Both teachers and students have commented on low attendance and on low preparedness.
- Illogic build-up the first semester
- Lack of feedback on home exam

Measures:

- Attendance: Look into the possibility and the alternatives of making participation in these courses mandatory.
Preparedness: Stress the importance of start reading at an early stage and being prepared for the lectures. The lecturers could also be requested to expect that the students are prepared for every lecture. Another possibility is to give tasks for the students before the lectures. That way the students will be pressured into being prepared.
- If possible, move the exams and the lectures in the first semester in order to make a more logic build-up. The students should start off with and finish SVF-3021, keeping more focus on introductory topics, before they do SVF-3022.
- Make the exam commissions give important feedback to students during the oral examination. The Centre should provide the commissions with information about why feedback is important and what we would like for them to provide to each student (5-10 minutes each):
 - What are the candidate's strengths?
 - In what areas is there room for the candidate to improve?
 - What are some concrete suggestions for how the student can go about making these improvements?