

Evaluation report Autumn 2021

AMERICAN STUDIES

Study Programme: **American Studies**

Level: **BA/BA minor/MA**

Study Board: **English and American Studies**

Evaluation strategy for the education: **Midterm and final**

What specific courses does this summary include:

Amerikansk kultur og verden, American Studies in Practice, Topics in American History and Society, Topics in American Literature and culture, Amerikansk udenrigspolitisk historie, Theory and Method in American Studies, Thematic Course: The Fight for Racial Equality: From the Age of Jim Crow to Black Lives Matter (ca. 1890-2021), Amerikansk historie (Amerikanske studier), Introduktion til Amerikanske Studier. Amerikansk litteratur før 1900

Positive examples for inspiration:

Students seem generally speaking content or more with the teaching given the largely positive feedback given in the multiple choice sections. The use of group work in particular is popular, just as many of the staff are praised for being highly enthusiastic as well as knowledgeable about their field.

Conditions that call for further follow-up:

Curiously, there are several complaints about the evaluation forms themselves. The only place students are allowed to give any written feedback is in the "How many hours did you spend" section, which I agree is odd. Is this on purpose? As a reviewer of the evaluation forms it is difficult to summarise the degree overall when there are almost only percentages for various levels of "frequency" of strongly disagree up to and including strongly agree. One teacher points this out too (although most teachers have not taken the opportunity to self-evaluate). However, from what little there is to go on, the following have been remarked: Several students complained about the length and frequency of film clips used in class, especially in some of the history classes. However other students point to this as a strength of those very same classes, so not certain this is something that needs to be universally corrected. One student complains about classes being too much about anecdotal stories "from various students lives", but seeing as this is the sole complaint regarding the quotidian nature of classes and the numbers generally speaking point to a high level of satisfaction, I think this particular complaint can be filed as, well, anecdotal. In the teacher student feedback section of American Studies in Practice, the teacher remarks the following:

“The negative responses about the lack of relevance of teaching to the final exam illustrate the struggles with defining this class and its mix between practical work and academic topics. A clearer definition of the academic topics in the courses is needed as the practical exam and academic readings are very far apart at the moment”

Future initiatives based on the evaluations:

Tweak the evaluation form so that more specific feedback is possible

Initiatives since the last evaluation: **None**