

MIED 4310: Key Thematic Areas in ESCY (Education and Social Change: Childhood and Youth Studies) Course Evaluation

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This course builds on the Introduction to ESCY in autumn 2022. It consists of four modules to cover the four interrelated key thematic areas pertinent to contemporary children and youth and their education: 1) digitalization, the blurring of boundaries between formal and informal learning, 2) migration, 3) new and emerging manifestations of social inequalities, and 4) cross-curricular, current affairs and emerging issues. These modules are conducted through lectures and seminars to further discuss central issues dealt with in them and (some of) the related required readings. The modules cover theories and empirical research related to the particular thematic areas dealt with. The syllabus has been selected with a view to furthering the historical, social change and cross-cultural perspectives discussed in the first semester.

The course is taught by Fengshu Liu (coordinator), Ola Erstad and Kristinn Hegna. The students are expected to carefully read the required readings and be active in contributing to group/class discussion.

We tried to collect feedback from the students along the way as well as asked the student representatives to collect anonymous feedback from the students when the teaching was over. It seems that only a very small number gave feedback. The students seem to be very positive about the course, particularly appreciating the class discussion and debates concerning the key issues in the various modules.

The literature for the key thematic areas worked fine. Some students expressed frustration over the number of pages to read in addition to other assignments, but overall they were satisfied with the core literature and how it was presented in the lectures and discussions.

A couple of them suggested that contribution to class discussion and presentation of readings and ideas should be counted as part of their general grade at the end of the course since they spent much time preparing for it.

A reflection from us instructors concerns the length of the term paper required of the students at the end of this course, which is a 15-20 page home assignment. We think that it might be more appropriate to make it shorter, e.g., 10-12 pages.