# **PED4404 – Learning cultures, leadership and participation in working life.**

# **Evaluation of Autumn 2023 course**

The course focuses on learning cultures, leadership and participation in work life contexts. Theories are introduced to conceptualize the tensions and dynamics that may arise as particular learning cultures and leadership styles are implemented as part of strategic management. The potential for participation and learning among individuals and groups are considered in this context and tied to current developments of open innovation and distributed learning cultures. The teaching and assignment forms deviate from other subjects that there is great emphasis on an intensive writing workshop as well as a final mutual reviewing session in addition to conventional lectures, and there is a term assignment consisting in writing a critical review article rather than solving predetermined exam questions.

It may be mentioned that the course responsible was appointed closer to course start-up than normal due to reorganizations, but the person had been responsible for the course earlier on (until 2021). In autumn 2023 there were 19 students including one foreign exchange student. All teaching and assignments were in principle in English, whereas some group work in groups which did not include the foreign exchange student appeared to occur in Norwegian.

**Course coordinator**: Terje Grønning

**Other teaching staff**: Eric Breit, Anja H. Olafsen, Arne Carlsen, Ismail Acar (literature search techniques).

**Organization of course evaluation:** Some continuous feedback has been obtained during and after lectures. In addition, a survey was distributed after the course. And the report is mainly based on these responses (4 respondents).

**Feedback from the students:**

The respondents are divided roughly into two parts, with three students responding in positive or very positive terms and the fourth person responding in part in critical terms. Although the former group is in overall satisfied with teaching, assignments and literature there are also recommendations:

* When asking for mutual reviewing provide a standardized form for reviewing which the students can use
* Have less articles as the basis for review writing workshop
* Have less articles in overall on the reading list
* Different/better way of presenting readings in Leganto

The additional and somewhat different types of remarks included a call for more detailed instructions as for how to write a critical review article and more active involvement by the teaching staff in sessions concerning students’ mutual commenting on drafts.

**Measures to be taken:**

We interpret the feedback as an inspiration towards developing the subject along similar lines as the existing format. Introduction of a template for use in mutual commenting can be considered, and additional and even more detailed literature and tutoring as for how to conduct critical reviews may be added to the course. A more active role of teaching staff in student-based sessions might be problematic due to regulations as for how involved teaching staff may be in both formative evaluation and end of course summative evaluation. The latter problem may, however, be solved by way of recruiting an additional external marker for the end of course evaluation.

Oslo, 15 January, 2024. Course coordinator: Terje Grønning