

Course evaluation MNKOM9010 Communicating Science, Fall 2020

This document summarizes the teaching, results and evaluations the PhD course MNKOM9010 Communicating Science at the MN-faculty at UiO. Report submitted January 2021.

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Administration: Administrative manager at IBV, My Hanh Tu (m-h-tu@ibv.uio.no)

Numbers: Applicants: 45. Admitted: 26.

About the course: Two weeks of intensive teaching (16-27.Nov) on Zoom from 9-11 and 12-14 each day, followed by two weeks of individual work with the home exam. Submission deadline: 11.Dec.

The teaching consisted of conversations, reading, writing, video and audio material, discussions and peer feedback sessions, managed on Canvas and implemented through Zoom.

Learning outcomes: After completing the course, PhD-candidates should be able to:

- outline the main traditions in science communication
- analyze, compare and evaluate genres in science communication
- communicate science to a specific audience by choosing an appropriate genre and style
- reflect on the value of science communication as a PhD-candidate and in a future career

Changes from 2019: The evaluation from 2019 was very positive (score 5.4), but a lot of work for everyone involved. For 2020, I slimmed the course down to 4 hours of teaching every day to allow productive Zoom time. I also allocated more time to social activities to make sure participants could interact and get to know each other online. In addition, I included Padlet and Miro as digital tools to support the online teaching and learning. I kept the style, tone and good atmosphere the same.

Results from 2020: The 26 PhD-candidates submitted an impressive range and quality of work at their home exams: opinion articles, science blogs, videos, infographics, news articles, interviews, a science game and a Wikipedia article. All participants passed the home exam (pass/fail).

Course evaluation by participants: 20 responses to an anonymous web form with five open questions and a score (1-6). Representative quotes presented below:

Overall score: 5.9

1. Most important learning outcome:

“This course gave me amazing toolbox for my future communication of science.”

“Analyzing other people's texts can improve your own writing”.

“Being able to have a systematically design and correct a piece of text is a game-changer.”

2. KEEP:

3. DEVELOP:

4.

5.

Evaluation by course responsible:

Teaching MNKOM9010 is a great privilege. It is fun, challenging and a lot of work, but a wonderful way to get to know and support the PhD-candidates at the Faculty. The course this fall was a great success! Thanks to all the participants for their contribution and responses, and to My Hanh Tu at IBV for excellent administration!

Future development:

The next round of teaching is at the end of January 2021, with a new group of participants. I plan to keep most of the course as this fall, but tidy up some of the shorter assignments in Padlet/Miro and allocate more time to discussions where needed. I will also consider including assistant teachers in the course, as part of building a community of science communication teachers.