

Action plan – HEALTH

Date: 29 Mar 2019

Action plan for		
<i>Programme:</i> Public health Master		
<i>Module:</i> Public Health Ethics	<i>Module coordinator:</i> Arja R Aro	<i>Response rate:</i> 41 %

Topic	Explanation	Follow up	Timing	Responsible
Length of the course	Several students said 4 weeks is too short a course for such a relevant topic and some also suggested it to be a full-length module. Short time also led to the information overload and students getting tired.	Discuss if it could be made longer	Spring 2019	Whoever will be the new coordinator
Too big a group	Yes, 73 students are too much for any ethics teaching, which is based on dialogue. Someone even suggested to split it in two. This big group makes it very difficult to discuss in plenary (although some said plenary discussion were good) and also the groups work becomes very difficult since even three instructors cannot really supervise the group work then.	If the group continues to be that big, maybe split it into two?	Future	The new coordinator
Relevance of the course	Over 80% of the respondents rated the course as relevant	Continue with it	Future	The new coordinator
Several students claimed that no reading was pointed to them	It is true that we did not give exact pages, except some pdfs; however, there were two core books, and for one of them we did point the chapters students do NOT need to read. On the other hand, ethics is philosophical topic and you need to read widely to learn from different perspectives. It is not a 'factual' topic, which you learn and do. I have also earlier brought up that this course comes much too early in the curriculum- in the first semester. The students are not ready to discuss and reflect yet, they expect factual knowledge.	Next time we need even more clearly explain why we do not give exact pages to read or give more guidance how to read. Also, it needs more emphasis that the books recommended are useful also later in life, after the studies	Next study guide and next course	The new coordinator

Compulsory attendance and compensatory assignments for absence	Some students did not like the course since it was compulsory to attend and also to compensate absences. These requirements were introduced since the topic is highly relevant and all students need to learn the basics	Presence criterion can be re-evaluated	Spring 2019	New coordinator
Lectures were unstructured	Several mentioned this. There was a clear study plan and we went through why ethics is important, what are the main concepts, theories and frameworks, tools to analyze ethics. It is difficult to say what the comments mean but we understand that it was the number of new concepts and tools which confused them. Also, we added an online part, which the students replying this survey in open answers, did not really use/understand. The separate survey on online part gave rather positive feedback. We attach the report on the online part done separately for the e-learning office.	Probably an even clearer overview of the topics can be given and concentrate on less theories- although some like the wide number of theories.	Autumn semester 2019	New coordinator
E-learning tasks uploaded too late	This we admit. The e-learning development was delayed for many reasons and the tasks for self-learning we sometimes uploaded in the evenings. However, these tasks were not required to be done for the following day, since they were to measure self-learning. This course was used to test the e-tivities.	Next time the e-learning tasks are ready, since now they have been developed.	Future	New coordinator
About 1/3 of the students were absent each time	It might be that those who could not fully follow the course, were those (at least partly) those.	?	?	New coordinator
More feedback	Some students reported that there was not adequate feedback given during the course	It needs to be ensured in the future that there is enough time reserved and proper methods employed to provide feedback to the students and allow them to ask questions either in the classroom and/or online (e.g. email, Blackboard). It is very likely that the large group of students this year also hampered the provision of adequate feedback. For more please read above our replies regarding the topic "too big a group".	Autumn semester 2019	New coordinator

General comment: The students' feedback shows that there is room for improvement in the course and it is suggested that the issues the students raised are taken into account as described above. Despite the challenges the students mentioned, it is important to note that according to the correction and grading of the course's exam papers the students exhibited very good analytical and critical thinking skills with regards to ethics and their performance was better compared to e.g. the previous year based on our experience.