



Minutes from the programme board for Chinese Studies

Date: Friday 22 September 2023

Time: 12.15-14.00

Place: seminar room 216, HF building / Zoom (see Zoom link in Outlook)

Present: Huiwen Zhang, Guowen Shang, Jens Karlsson, Julia Marinaccio, Celina Kolltveit (student representative), Marit Skaatan (admin)

Want to read the appendices? Please contact the student advisor.

Agenda

9/23 Approval of agenda

Approved

10/23 Approval of minutes from previous meeting (appendix 1)

Approved

11/23 Discussion of arranging HSK tests for UiB students

Guowen: We do not have an examination site for HSK tests in Bergen. Test results are important if the students want to go to China, for example for Chinese immersion trips. It's essential for our students to get a test score. They only have on-site tests in Oslo. It's possible to do the test online. We need to contact them and ask if we can set up a test site in Bergen. Costs: 300 NOK student fee.

Guowen will ask the department management if this is a cost (or hours) that the department can cover.

12/23 Reflections upon courses taught in Spring semester 2023: KIN201, EAS251, KIN101, KIN102 (discussion)

KIN101-KIN102

Guowen: The students have been active and motivated. The chinese song-singing session was successful.

Student representative:

Comment about the last exam:

- Little time to finish in time when they wrote on paper
- Possible to increase time, or reduce tasks?

Feedback on the schedule in KIN104: Wednesdays are heavy with sessions 8-10 and 14-16.

Helen will discuss this with the students in KIN104.

EAS251

The group has been interactive. The physical teaching was good.

Challenge: Many students waited until the last moment to start working on their thesis, despite many tasks that were meant to get them started early. It's difficult to force them to start early. Writing should be a gradual experience.

Suggested solution: We could consider giving the students more time – postpone the submission deadline further, after the KIN201 exam.

Mandatory exercise in current course description: an oral presentation + attendance. We could consider adding another mandatory exercise.

Suggestion: Include in the course description: Submit two drafts for supervision before submission. We will take this suggested revision into the EpN process spring 2024.

Guowen suggest we keep the original deadline because external examiners need time to work on the assessment. Some students will always request more time because they start working on the thesis late.

Suggestion: Students could choose their own individual topic. Make it more goal-oriented by limiting the scope of topics they can choose from.

Suggestion: Teachers make a list of topics to choose from.

KIN201

Helen was overall satisfied with the course. Jens was also satisfied. The results were what we could reasonably expect. We can do even better next time. We can improve how the exam is tailored to the types of exercises we do in the seminar.

13/23 Reform of the BA program, especially the development of two potential courses, one by Helen and Jens, the other by Shouhui and Guowen (discussion) (appendix 2)

First semester will remain the same.

Should we choose broad or more specific course titles?

Want to distinguish ourselves from Oslo by using specified titles. Sociolinguistics and Chinese philosophy not taught in Oslo.

Jens: We need to think about distinguishing KIN100 from the new courses. Would be ideal to include language learning in the first semester. Now we could revise KIN100 into something resembling a language learning course. Change course title – no overlap in titles. Helen's suggestion to new course title: KIN100 Introduction to China

Add two introductory lectures to reshape content.

Guowen will have a look at the KIN100 course description.

Language programme:

Include 20 credits on philosophy, literature and culture in these two new courses

Remove 20 credits from the language courses

Reach a high enough level in spoken and written language?

If they want to study Chinese in China in the third year.

Student advisor: We need to involve the students more broadly and get feedback on drafts of the course descriptions before they are passed by the programme board.
Student advisor and student representative will make a plan for student involvement.

Other

External examiner will come to Bergen in week 44.

