Course Summary for 'GISA21 – Introduction to Geographical Information Systems' - VT 2013 through VT 2019

Course coordinator: David Tenenbaum

Teachers in the course: Many over the 12 semesters

Number of students: Approximately 630 students, approximate 490 completed the course

Grade distribution: All completed receive a grade of G

Evaluation

I. Summary of the course evaluation

Number of survey responses: 486, which is 99% of the students who completed the course.

Short summary of the evaluation responses: In general the students were very satisfied with the course. The students felt the pedagogic approach supported their understanding and learning in an excellent way (3.8/5), generally felt the workload was appropriate (3.2/5), and felt the balance between theoretical and practical elements was near ideal (2.9/5).

II. Comments from the teaching team

In the HT18 and VT19 semesters, this course ran with new lecture material, some streamlining of overall structure, a slightly reduced number of exercise tasks, and completely new examinations. The teacher team was generally positive about the refreshed version of the course. Some issues were discovered and corrected as the semesters proceeded, but there was little in the way of major problems. One of the final modules still has a theoretical task that too many students find too challenging.

III. Evaluation of changes implemented since the last time the course was given

By comparing this report to the last one that closed at the VT18, it is clear that the fundamental nature of the course remains the same (which is to say, good and effective) because the 54 new responses over two semesters are essentially statistically indistinguishable from those from the previous ten semesters. Feedback on the new lecture materials was generally positive.

IV. Suggestions for changes to implement before the course is given the next time

Some small adjustments continue to be required, particularly with respect to the final theoretical exercise task, which seems to be still be too mathematical intensive for many students in this course.

2019-06-17, this summary was done by David Tenenbaum