

## **Course Summary for Introduction to GIS, NGEA11 ht 2020**

**Course coordinator:** Micael Runnström

**Teachers in the course:** Helena Elvén Eriksson, Karin Larsson, Vaughan Philips, Per-Ola Olsson, Mitch Selander, Micael Runnström

**Number of students:** 32 registered students

**Grade distribution:** G=18, VG=10, F=4 (some have just exercises left. Only one have failed the exam (twice).

### **Evaluation**

#### **Summary of the course evaluation**

Number of survey responses: 18, which is ~56 % of the registered students

On average the students graded the course as good (overall score of 4.2, on a scale 1-5). In general students think it is an interesting course but difficult and quite high workload (3.3). Some extra time was given in the beginning of the course by adding time by moving exercise deadlines one day. Additionally easier first exercises (taken from GISA21, exercise 1 and 2) was given this year due to the on-line teaching mode this time. Still the students think it is too stressful in the beginning. Next time add one more day for exercises in the beginning.

The students get good motivation and inspiration from the teachers (3.8). Students have this year been given supervision through Microsoft Teams, which I think is working fine, but students seem to favour Zoom over Teams. Maybe use Zoom next time but the chat is not as good (Qs and As are kept in Teams so others can get help from it). In Zoom the chat disappears when the meeting is over. Maybe use some more video meetings in Tamas next year (if still on-line). Teacher resources cannot be expected to be higher next semester and I still think that students sometimes need to find solutions by themselves instead having a teacher to ask. It is an essential part of the learning process of GIS to be able to search and find solutions to problems that arise along the way. This introductory course shouldn't only be to follow instructions but also to try to formulate questions to use the Help function available in the program and also on the Internet. This year IDRISI tutorials was taken out and instead a more advanced and useful raster analysis exercise (Windpower ex for ArcGIS Pro) was provided. It will be slightly increased and edited next time.

Some students would prefer to have the exam in the end but it is good to have before the last GIS project of the course.

#### **Comments from the teaching team**

Teachers' opinion is that the course went well. Most students are motivated and eager to learn about this spatial tool.

**Evaluation of changes implemented since the last time the course was given** The added digitisation exercise is good but some wants it earlier in order to be able to use digitisation in the last project. There is now more time and not so hectic in the beginning since I added some extra time for the exercises in the beginning of the course.

**Suggestions for changes to implement before the course is given the next time** Maybe move the digitizing exercise to the beginning instead. This year they did a very quick digitizing exercise as nr 2 (from GISA21) and some thought that it was not useful with two digi exercises.

Maybe change the last projects instructions. Some think it is too much instructions, and wants to try and test more by themselves.

2021-03-30, this summary was done by Micael Runnström