

Course Summary for GISA21 – Introduction to Geographical Information Systems through HT21

Course coordinator: David Tenenbaum

Teachers in the course: Zheng Duan, Abdulghani Hasan, Karin Larsson, Mitro Müller, Ulrik Mårtensson, Petter Pilesjö, Micael Runnström, Hao Zhou

Number of students: 80 students started the course in VT21 and HT21

Grade distribution: 51 students received a grade of G in the course in VT21 and HT21

Evaluation

Summary of the course evaluation

Number of survey responses: 721 for VT13 through HT21, of which is 85 % of the students

Short summary of the evaluation responses: In general the students were very satisfied with the course. The students felt that the design of the course supporting their learning well (3.8/5), that the workload of the course was generally appropriate (3.2/5), and that the balance between theoretical and practical components was nearly ideal (2.9/5). Gender was reasonably evenly balanced (52% male / 48% female).

Comments from the teaching team

Nothing was reported that distinguished the 2021 semesters from previous iterations of the course.

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

In HT21, we moved from Moodle to Canvas to disseminate course materials, and this went reasonably smoothly. Using Canvas instead of Moodle for this purpose seems to have not caused any serious problems.

In HT19, all exercises were updated for ArcGIS Pro and continue to be adjusted both for pedagogical and practical reasons, and the response has been that as ArcGIS Pro seems to continuously change, there continues to be some dissatisfaction that teachers cannot keep up with this by a small fraction of students... which is essentially not possible given the diversity of versions in use.

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

In VT22, we moved the course fully to Canvas, replacing AC as well. Starting with VT22, surveys and summaries will be conducted per semester. Continuing work will be done to attempt to keep up with changes in ArcGIS Pro, so that instructions match whatever interface the students are using, to as great an extent as possible. We will continue to adjust exercises to improve pedagogic value as best possible. We will continue to make needed adjustments to cope with the move to Canvas, which has required some small tweaks here and there.

2022-03-31, this summary was done by David Tenenbaum