NGEN08, Physical Geography: Satellite Remote Sensing, 15 credits

Details of approval
The syllabus was approved by Study programmes board, Faculty of Science on 2007-06-14 to be valid from 2007-07-01, autumn semester 2007.

General Information
The course is an elective course for second-cycle studies for Master of Science with a specialisation in physical geography and ecosystem analysis, geomatics or atmosphere science and biogeochemical cycles. The course is also given as an individual course.

Language of instruction: English
The course is normally given in English.

Main field of studies
Physical Geography

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements
A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes
The aim of the course is that students upon its completion should have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

Knowledge and understanding
The student is expected to:

- describe the basic physical principles of remote sensing,
- account for the basic technical principles of satellites, sensors and ground receiving and treatment systems for data collection and the properties of available data from these systems
- account for the principles of digital image handling and image processing within remote sensing,
- describe important fields of application for satellite remote sensing in research, society and private activities, and
• illustrate and suggest use remote sensing in different climate areas and for various types of ecosystem and land use, and understand and account for limitations with the current technology.

Skills and abilities

The student is expected to:
• independently analyse digital remote sensing data with existing image handling software packages,
• independent and in groups plan and carry out a field survey connected to an application of remote sensing,
• based on literature choose right data and method for applying remote sensing in applications that concern soil, vegetation, water and human use of these resources,
• integrate remote sensing data with other data in geographic information systems.
• actively contribute to discussions and present the results from remote sensing analyses in writing, orally and as maps for specialists and laymen, and
• collect knowledge in the field of remote sensing in a more or less independent way.

Assessment skills and approach

The student is expected to:
• compile, evaluate and discuss choice of data and analytical method to solve a given problem by the use of remote sensing
• review, evaluate and discuss the reliability of analyses that are based on remote sensing data critically.

Course content

The aim of the course is to communicate advanced knowledge and skills within digital satellite remote sensing for studies of the environment and human influence on it. The course consists of two sub-parts of 7.5 credits each:
1. remote sensing theory and image processing
The sub-part treats basic physical principles, terminology for remote sensing and an overview of existing satellites and sensors. Further, data processing, basic image processing methods within remote sensing including radiometric and geometric correction, image enhancement, image classification methods and image transformations and integration of field data and thematic map production are dealt with.
2. Applications within environment, society and research
The sub-part treats the use of satellite remote sensing in important application fields e.g. environmental problems, agriculture, forestry, urban applications, water management or using satellite data in different time- and room resolution, using models in remote sensing, analysis of data from different climate areas and
applications within society and research.

Course design
The teaching consists of lectures, laboratory sessions, field exercises, seminars, group work and project work. Participation in laboratory sessions, field exercises, seminars, group work and project work and thereby integrated other teaching is compulsory.

Assessment
Examination is done by a written exam at the end of the course and through evaluation of submitted work. Students who have not passed the ordinary examination are offered a re-examinations shortly after. 
*Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.*

Grades
Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction. 
The grades in the course are pass with credit, passed and failed.
To pass the entire course, approved examination and passed results of written assignments are required as well as completed project presentations and participation in all compulsory parts.

Entry requirements
For admission to the course, 90 credits science studies are required.

Further information
The course may not be included in a higher education qualification together with NGE609 Remote sensing and biogeosphere systems, 10 credits or GIS417 Digital Remote sensing and GIS 7.5 credits, GISN09 Digital remote sensing and GIS, 10 credits, NGE619 remote sensing - digital methods 5 credits, NGEN09 Remote sensing - digital methods 7.5 credits.
Subcourses in NGEN08, Physical Geography: Satellite Remote Sensing

Applies from V08

0701  Satellite Remote Sensing, 15,0 hp
       Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction