Faculty of Social Sciences

SGEG16, GIS in Social Sciences - Basic Level, 7.5 credits

GIS för samhällsvetenskap - grundnivå, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was last revised on 2016-09-06 by the board of the Department of Human Geography. The revised syllabus applies from 2017-01-16, spring semester 2017.

General Information

The course is offered as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies	*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*
Human Geography	G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

To pass the examination, students must be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate basic knowledge in central theoretical conceptualization and practical application of GIS, especially within social science,
- demonstrate a basic understanding of GIS: including proficient data collection, data management, data analysis and visualisation of geographical information,
- demonstrate a basic understanding of the analytical functions of GIS,

Competence and skills

- demonstrate GIS skills by performing basic spatial analysis and visualisation,
- demonstrate an ability to apply GIS in practical assignments,
- demonstrate an ability to independently search for GIS-related data and information within the themes of the course,

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an ability to critically examine spatial information and analytical techniques for spatially oriented problems,
- demonstrate an ability to see the potential of GIS within different research contexts.

Course content

The course aims to provide an introduction to the rapidly growing field of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for social science students.

Some of the most important theories and practices of GIS, within social sciences are presented. The course also addresses some key conceptual debates and developments in GIS. Practical tasks include exercises in a computer lab environment, and common analytical methods and tools within GIS are introduced. During the course students will be made aware of the potential uses of GIS as well as its application within various fields of study.

Course design

Teaching is carried out through a mixture of lectures, laboratory sessions, seminars, small group teaching methods and supervision. In combination with lectures, a series of practical laboratory sessions will introduce students to GIS software. This will provide an understanding of the management of geographical information as well as the functionality of GIS regarding specific fields of study – developing the skills necessary for individual application. Students are expected to study the course literature in parallel to teaching and practical laboratory work.

Unless there are valid reasons to the contrary, compulsory participation is required in seminars. Students who have been unable to participate due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take compulsory components. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through four written take-home exams and an oral seminar presentation.

Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.
The grade for a non-passing result is Fail. The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The oral seminar presentation is exempted from the grading scale above. The grades awarded for this component is Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass, the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail, the student must have shown unacceptable results.

The calculation of the course grade is determined by student's performance on the written take-home exams, where all exams are weighted equally. The calculation is based on a mathematical formula in which the letter grades are translated into the following figures: A=5.0; B=4.0; C=3.5; D=3.0 and E=2.5. an average is then calculated. Figures are rounded down, with the exception of the grade of A for which the figure of 4.5 and over is rounded up to A.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: Social Studies 1b/1a1 + 1a2

Further information

The course cannot be included in a degree together with the course SGEG13 GIS in Social Sciences – Basic Level, 7,5 credits.

Subcourses in SGEG16, GIS in Social Sciences - Basic Level

Applies from V12

1101 GIS in Social Sciences, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A