Faculty of Social Sciences

SGER43, GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences, 15 credits

GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus is an old version, approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 2011-11-17 and was valid from 2012-01-01 , spring semester 2012.

General Information

The course is offered as an interdisciplinary single subject course in human geography, geographical information systems, on the master's level.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies	*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Human Geography	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

Below are the learning outcomes for the course.

Knowledge and understanding

- The course aims to provide an introduction to the rapidly growing field of GIS, for students and staff interested in applying it within their research or work. It is strongly interdisciplinary in scope, and thus is appropriate for students from a diverse set of backgrounds. This would include students with undergraduate degrees in the social and human sciences, economics, sustainability and development studies as well as a range of other disciplinary as well as

professional backgrounds. By offering students considerable flexibility in their choice of framing and design of their projects, the course seeks to accommodate individual research interests and needs.

Competence and skills

Upon completion of the course, participants should:

- show an ability to engage at a general level with the key theoretical and practical discourses around the use of GIS for application in social science as well as in other major research and planning projects.
- show an understanding of GIS incorporating proficiency in data collection, data management, data and geographical analysis and presentation of geographic information.
- show an understanding of GIS to deal with its analytical functions.
- show an ability to recognise the potential of GIS in other areas of scientific enquiry.
- independently search information on the course themes, critically analyze the information and effectively communicate findings.
- show an ability to generate knowledge and skills for careers in academia, public and private sector, and other commercial and professional fields where an understanding of modern GIS-software is an advantage.

Course content

The course introduces students to some key conceptual debates and developments in GIS. The course aims to provide an introduction to some of the most important theories and practises of GIS. During the course the students will be made aware of the potential uses of GIS, as well as its application within various fields of study. An introduction to the principles of GIS as well as the main state-of-the-art issues will be covered in the theoretical lectures.

Course design

Teaching is carried out through a mixture of lectures, seminars, and readings, other small group teaching methods and supervision. Compulsory participation applies to seminars. Students are expected to study the course literature side by side with teaching and practical laboratory work.

In combination with the lectures, a series of practical workshop sessions and laboratory work will introduce students to the leading GIS software packages available. This will provide an understanding of the software packages and management of geographical information as well as the functionality of GIS towards a specific field of research – developing some of the skills necessary for individual application.

Assessment

The course is assessed through exercises, presentations, seminar participation and written or oral examination. Re-examination will be provided 4-6 weeks after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be offered at a later date. Examination will be given during the academic year only.

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 grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A and the lowest passing grade is E. 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.

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

The course builds on previous studies in social sciences. To be qualified the student must have at least 150 credits, including a Bachelor thesis in a discipline in social sciences, economics and management, social science-oriented disciplines in humanities, or another corresponding educational background.

A high level of proficiency in the English language is necessary. (IELTS with a minimum of 6.0 (none of the sections under 5.0), or TOEFL with a minimum of 550 p (computer-based test 213 p).)

Subcourses in SGER43, GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences

Applies from V12

1101 GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A