Faculty of Social Sciences

SGER50, GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences, 7.5 credits

GIS: Geografiska Informationssystem för samhällsvetenskap, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Human Geography on 2015-06-02 to be valid from 2016-01-18, spring semester 2016.

General Information

The course is taught as a compulsory course in the second term of the Master's Programme in Human Geography (120 credits) and is also offered as a freestanding course.

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

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- basic knowledge on the key theoretical and practical discourses and concepts around the use of GIS for application in social science, as well as in other major research,
- a basic understanding of GIS incorporating proficiency in data management, data and geographical analysis and presentation of geographic information,
- a basic understanding of GIS and its analytical functions,

Competence and skills

- the ability to perform basic spatial analysis and visualization using GIS,
- the ability to apply GIS software in practice,
- the ability to independently search for GIS-related data and information on the course themes,

Judgement and approach

- the ability to recognize the potential of GIS in other areas of scientific enquiry,
- the ability to critically examine maps and analytical techniques for spatially oriented problems,
- the ability to critically analyse and evaluate geographical information and its sources and effectively communicate findings.

Course content

The course aims to provide an introduction to the rapidly growing field of GIS, for students interested in applying it within their research or work. The course introduces students to some key conceptual debates and developments in GIS, and it provides an introduction to the most important theories and practises of GIS. During the course the students will learn about the potential applications of GIS within various fields of study. An introduction to the principles of GIS as well as relevant research issues will be covered in the theoretical lectures.

Course design

Teaching is carried out through a mixture of lectures, practical laboratory work, guest lectures and seminars. Attendance at guest lectures and seminars is compulsory unless there are special grounds. An alternative form or date for compulsory components is offered to students who are not able to complete a compulsory component owing to circumstances beyond their control, e.g. accident, sudden illness or similar. This also applies to students who have missed teaching because of activities as a student representative.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three written indivudual assignments, as well as an oral and a written seminar assignment. Three opportunities for examination are offered in conjunction with the course: a first examination and two re-examinations. Within a year of the end of the course, two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered. 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 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

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 good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

Further information

The course can not be included in a degree together with SGER43, GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences, 15 credits.

Subcourses in SGER50, GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences

Applies from V16

1501 GIS: Geographical Information System for the Social Sciences, 7,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A