Summary of Course Evaluation for SGO1910 – Introduction to GIS, Autumn 2024

The evaluation of SGO1910 provides valuable insights into the course's strengths and areas for improvement. The feedback highlights an overall positive reception, particularly regarding seminar teaching and the engagement of instructors, while also identifying aspects to refine for future iterations.

The seminars were a clear strength, with an impressive average rating of 5.0. Students praised the helpful teaching assistants and the well-designed assignments. Suggestions for improvement included more active guidance during seminars, better introductions to the tasks, and stronger links to the lecture content. These adjustments could further enhance the seminar experience.

The lectures received good feedback, with 79% of students rating them 4, 5, or 6, and an average score of 4.2. Many appreciated the preparation and enthusiasm of the lecturers, especially when complex topics were explained in detail. However, some noted that the pace was often too fast, and the structure occasionally hard to follow. For future semesters, we might reduce the number of lectures or enhance the focus on practical examples and tighter integration with seminars.

The students found the curriculum relevant but extensive. While 51.7% agreed it works reasonably well with room for improvement, 41.4% were satisfied. A recurring concern was the challenge of connecting the curriculum directly to lectures and seminars, which made it difficult for students to prioritize their reading. Moving forward, we will consider reducing the scope of the curriculum for autumn 2025 to better align with the students' workload. Students found the assessment methods relevant but demanding. The group project was highlighted as a practical and engaging way to apply skills, though some expressed concerns about the weight given to the theoretical exam, which may not fully reflect the practical nature of the course. There is a call for a take-home exam as an alternative to better support critical reflection and application of knowledge.

The overall scope of the course—comprising 10 lectures, 11 seminars, a group project, and a written exam—was perceived by some as extensive for an introductory-level course. For autumn 2025, we will explore options to streamline the course, either by reducing the number of activities or by adjusting the assessment structure to achieve a more balanced workload. SGO1910 is a highly engaging and valuable course, with strong seminar teaching and relevant assessments as its standout features. However, it is worth considering reducing the scope of the course, with more focus given to the practical nature of the course, by for instance increasing seminar activities and reducing theoretical lectures.