Bauhaus-Universität Weimar

Weimar, 29 June 2016

Seminar Survey SoSe 2016
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Urban Planning

Dear participant in the Online-Seminar "Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Urban Planning":

Piloting new ways of learning and teaching for in our international master course "Urban Resilience" this seminar has been created to be completely studied on the basis of online-cource participation. Based on the intensive use of our moodle platform the seminar included different online-materials and didactic tools such as video-lectures and -tutorials and tasks like exercises and quizzes to get started and hopefully also become interested in using GIS.

Tested in summer semester 2016 as a new approach in further developing teaching and learning methods the seminar is piloted with students from the "European Urban Studies" and "Advanced Urbanism" master programmes and Erasmus exchange students of the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism. This approach allows to apply far-distance learning/teaching as a course option. This may also enable students to participate from far distance without being in Weimar continuously. Additionally, the project involved international collaborators or Model Project Partners as guest lecturers from our summerschool course "Cultural Landscapes & Urban Resilience".

We would like to thank all participants to take part in this course, the support coming from the project Professional.Bauhaus within the project "Offene Hochschulen" at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and also the Thuringian Ministry of Economics, Science and Digital Society (Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft und Digitale Gesellschaft) which funded this pilot project for e-learning.

Before closing the course, we ask you to carefully read through the following questions as we are really much appreciating your answers on this questionnaire to get an adequate feed-back on this pilot-project. Everyone will be able to get the results at the end. It takes around 20 to 30 minutes to reply to the survey. The survey is programmed in such a way that it only provides anonymous results! In case you have doubts or questions about that, please contact Philippe.Schmidt@uni-weimar.de directly to get more details.

Thank you very much for your answers!
Philippe Schmidt

with the project team Nija-Maria Linke, Carsten Pieper,
Steffi Zander, Frauke Kämmerer, Maria Fröhlich
and the gis experts Mohammed Abdel Aziz and Conrad Philipp

Seminar Survey "Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Urban Planning" (Summer Semester 2016)

1   **(1.) Value for the discipline and the study field** that has been taught

Response	Average	Total
very suitable	43%	6
suitable	57%	8
Total	100%	14/14

2   **Please explain** in a few words (350 characters max.):

Response
It has many positive aspects and could be useful in research related assignments.
-
It was a good way to approach to the use of the program and the way to teach was clear and very useful
The units were very well explained, the video rich of contents and the tutorial for the exercises very detailed. Sometime, I missed a help that could come only from a discussion face to face, but generally talking my feedback is very positive.
Because it give me instruments for analyze social data in the space, understanding how the different components works toghether in the territory
I consider Gis essential for my future work and this course was my first contact with this kind of software.
the topic were practical and straightly related to the case which we can use GIS.
It was very interesting to learn about Heat Island Analysis and Participatory Process by Using GIS Analysis.
diversse example could be appropriate in many different fields
very useful tool to create maps out of important data. Also asked on labor market so nice to have...

Response

I think the course is suitable with the Urban plannining studies, as it permits to add statistics and data maps usefull for a better understanding of the field of construction.

I can use my GIS knowledge for my master thesis

It has been really helpful as it will provide me with skills and tools to analyse and approach territorial information on my own PhD research.

All the exercises were oriented with respect to Urban Studies discipline which was very useful for me to experiment and apply my knowledge analytically as a student from European Urban Studies course.

3

(2.) "Online-Learning" as an alternative study format
You have applied for the full-time study programme "European Urban Studies" or "Advanced Urbanism" or are in any other programme (e.g. within ERASMUS exchange) that requires your presence (residency) during study-time in Weimar.

A) Could you basically also imagine a learning format that offers mostly far-distance learning and only few presence phases ("blended learning")?

Response	Average	Total
yes	14%	2
perhaps	64%	9
no	21%	3
Total	100%	14/14

4

Reasons/comments:

Response

both has there own pros and cons.

-

Its very easy follow a program without presential classes, you can organize your time as you want, but on the other hand, some kind of subjects need presential classes to explain and follow the topic, otherwise it will be so hard.

I don't know if this is applyable to every sort of subject, I guess that some of them require a costant debate with teacher and colleagues

It depends on the topic because I think that for some diciplines or calsses human contact is basic for discussion, and a forum is not replacing that dinamic

Response

Now we have the technology to really do this kind of courses, so I'm sure we are going to see more of them in the next future.

Pretty flexible timewise

All online studies are very convenient it one has no time to participate usual classes because of the busyness or other reasons, there is just one lack - absence of real teacher what make us wanting us for teachers or professors responses to deal with issues.

interaction student-student and student teaches gives more motivation and more responsibility

For me contact to students and learning from each other and discussing issues is very important part of studying. Online courses are suitable for technical courses but should be linked to meetings to discuss and exchange and solve questions together.

I prefer the interaction with the professors.

I like to be flexible

(I'm not in any of those programmes, but rather in a PhD one).

As a student of European Urban studies, I will have an option to take this online course during my 3rd semester Model project where my presence cannot be personally made for courses in Weimar.

5   **B)** How would you evaluate to replicate the model of this course, enabling external partners or experts to be involved as "**visiting lecturers**" online or by video-contributions?

Response	Average	Total
very valuable	43%	6
valuable	43%	6
partly valuable	14%	2
Total	100%	14/14

6   **C)** How would you evaluate such a course as a study option that enables students to participate from a far distance, and spend a lesser part of their **time in Weimar**?

Response	Average	Total
very useful	43%	6
useful	43%	6

Response	Average	Total
partly useful	14%	2
Total	100%	14/14

7 **D)** What would you suggest as a good **ratio to combine online media and life presence** (in percent)?

Response	Average	Total
Online media: 100 % / Life presence: 0 %	7%	1
Online media: 90 % / Life presence: 10 %	7%	1
Online media: 80 % / Life presence: 20 %	20%	3
Online media: 70 % / Life presence: 30 %	33%	5
Online media: 60 % / Life presence: 40 %	7%	1
Online media: 50 % / Life presence: 50 %	20%	3
Online media: 30 % / Life presence: 70 %	7%	1

8 **(3.) Current studies**

A) In how far does the **reputation of the "Bauhaus-Universität Weimar"** play a role in your decision to study at this university?

Response	Average	Total
important	57%	8
partly important	43%	6
Total	100%	14/14

9 **B)** In how far does the **study location Weimar** physically play a role for your choice?

Response	Average	Total
important	43%	6
partly important	29%	4
not important	29%	4

Response	Average	Total
Total	100%	14/14

10   **C)** In how far does the **name of 'Bauhaus'** play a role for your choice to study here?

Response	Average	Total
important	57%	8
partly important	36%	5
not important at all	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

11   **(4.) Course and technology**

A) What did you appreciate most in the course?
(3 indications max.)

Response
videos
-
Dedication and fast answer in the moodle platform were what I most appreciate
detailed tutorial, locations examples from different geographic areas
The possibilty of working in my house with my own time and the material given itelf, I think it is very complete.
That is online so you can make your own schedule to follow the course.
the vedio shows the clear instruction and it makes the time for studying flexible
Comprehensibility of content, convenience of time, quantity of content
diversity of examples
very interesting insights to practical use of GIS worldwide. Nice exercices to apply GIS. Well explaining videos.
the deadlines, the tutorials and the quiz.The organization of the course.
to watch to tutorials again and again

Response

The possibility to do it online; the easy access to contents and information; the good predisposition of the teaching team to help and explain.

Well structured course with external visiting lecturers from real time practice taking part. Opportunity to discuss in a forum and get valuable feedback's. Access to tutorials at any point of time to revise back our skills on GIS.

12   **B)** Was this related to the **use of technology / didactic online media** in the form of the course ?

Response	Average	Total
yes	50%	7
perhaps / partly	43%	6
no	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

13   Please give reasons and specify:

Response

because you can save time and work where ever you are and whenever its suitable.

-

As a subject what the main target is learn the use of a informatic program, it was so important the communication between teacher and students to solve some problems

the online tutorials were a necessary part for the success of the course

Hime working possibility is totally related because you decide when and for how long are you going to work in the topic.

It´s online.

We can repeat the course as many times as we want.

Content was comprehensive, no scheduled online meeting make it convenient

online media made all visible understandable

the international concept of the course can be provided from big distances using online tools.

Response

not really, it was a compulsory elective

its better to be able to watch the videos again and again

Sure, related to the availability of contents online.

Real time use of GIS software with information on where the data can be accessed was very helpful.

14   **C)** How would you evaluate or describe the **student-teacher relation while using these technologies**?

Response

it worked quite well.

-

It worked really well

a little bit distant because on the online format of the course, but still efficent

I think it was very good because the use of e-mail allows us to have a lfuid relationship, where proffesors where always answering our doubts.

Good enough

The discussion platform was quite useful.

Distanciation of teacher-student relation make less control and more freedom to submit the course homeworks

helpful

the relation is small and little important.

Detached

it doesn't matter in an online course

It was a good relationship, but sometimes the replies took a little while to come (specially if the teachers were not in Weimar or on weekends).

With respect to having an option to discuss in a forum, this part of communication with the teachers practically worked, ending up with good materials added in the forum discussion and arising also to other different discussions related to GIS.

15   **D)** What would you recommend for further improvement?

Response

tell how to create files for cities which have no data.

-

Some presence tutorial to solve problems that appear each week

to introduce some consultations face to face on request of the students

Control better that the material given to work at home is complete and totally coherent with the theorical class, wich sometimes was not like that.

Nothing

Maybe we can take a personal consultation .

Nothing to change

follow the schedule

one hour the week in which participants can meet together with theacher to discuss questions and theoretical issues

A face to face class during per month.

-

Maybe to get more people involved, in order to evaluate students' doubts and needs when the rest of the teaching team is not available.

Final units with exercises more oriented to students experimenting the examples with other contexts rather than following the video.

16 **E)** How do you evaluate the application of **techniques and didactic means** used **a)** in this seminar (a) ?

Response	Average	Total
excellent	14%	2
very good	50%	7
good	21%	3
sufficient	14%	2
Total	100%	14/14

17 And how do you evaluate them **b)** in general?

Response	Average	Total
very useful	21%	3
useful	79%	11
Total	100%	14/14

18 Please select in how far the **usability to use (listen and look) the video tutorials and** then **apply** by yourself is given in this course.

Response	Average	Total
complicated	7%	1
working adequately	57%	8
working very well	36%	5
Total	100%	14/14
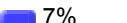
19 What has been working well and was especially helpful in the **video tutorials**?

Response
To bw able to revise it.
-
See all the process in the tutorials is very useful, and you can stop the video when you want to follow easily
The tutorials in general explained every tiny step to obtain the results. The lectures were very precise
That they were very clear and that they get more complicated and complex every class, but just after you were already knowing how to use them.
Everything
The step to know how to use the tools in GIS.
Quality of the video
explanations were very clear

Response

looking 'over the shoulder' of people applying the software

The tutotrials were the best part of the course, because in case of not undertanding , you could look timeless the video untill you get the knowledge.

step by step explenations

Step-by-step explanations and clear language.

All the exercises were structured so that we could develop and relate our skills with other software's with respect to GIS as a tool to answer our research questions more efficiently.

20   And what not?

Response

when confused and not finding any answers.

-

All worked really well

Sometime the folder weren't the same as the ones used in the tutorials and this generated confusion. I was convinced that I was doing something wrong.

The fact that if you have a doubt you can´t keep advancing with the exercise until some Professor answer an e-mail, so in some ocations that can be a little bit a waste of time

Maybe the lecture about El Cairo was too long.

Some time the tasks weren't released at the same time. We have to log in to check if there is something new related to accomplish .

Quality of provided learning files (shift of some shapes, mix of layers and files, etc)

tasks with downloads did not always match tutorials

missing the part of preparing the data/files that I need to create the maps in some parts.

The fact that we had only one face to face meeting.

-

Sometimes, some information seemed to be missing, maybe because we are using a test version of the software, or sometimes there were missing layers and exercises could not be carried out properly.

There were at times the videos uploaded were not visible or had errors accessing it on moodle.

21   **Methods and tasks**

In how far do you think, **analytic systems and tools like GIS** should be taught within a study course in urban design and planning-related education?

Response	Average	Total
partly necessary	36%	5
very necessary	64%	9
Total	100%	14/14

22   How would you **evaluate the use of GIS** for your professional purposes?

Response	Average	Total
very valuable	64%	9
valuable	29%	4
partly valuable	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

23   Could you imagine to use **GIS** for future projects?

Response	Average	Total
Yes	100%	14
Total	100%	14/14

24   Should your study course include **more of these offers to use supportive tools in the future**, like learning and applying **Space Syntax** (for spatial analysis) software or learning to apply statistical analysis like **SPSS** (*Statistical Package for the Social Science*)?

Response	Average	Total
Yes	93%	13
No	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

25   If you wished to learn and apply such **tools and methods**, - which one(s) would you suggest?

> **Response**
>
> spss
>
> -
>
> All of them are useful, depending on your target in each prodject
>
> Space Syntax
>
> May be statistical analysis tools and a GIS expert level
>
> I'm not familiar enough with them to make a suggestion.
>
> GIS,Adobe PS, AI,ID; 3DMax
>
> Space Syntax
>
> all listed above, maybe also 3d-modeling software, used in Germany, like Revit
>
> should be possible to choose between all of the tools
>
> Space Synthax
>
> both of them
>
> I guess anything related to layering and rendering spatial data is useful.
>
> GIS and SPSS are very useful software that can be used in a brioader research.

26   How do you evaluate the **level of learning requirements** that were required along the course?

Response	Average	Total
easy	14%	2
appropriate or well-balanced	79%	11
difficult	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

27   Which **further examples** of cases in **gis application** in urban planning and devlopment would have been interesting for you to be treated or presented in the course?

> **Response**

Response

How to create files for different cities.

To have a more complete panorama I would suggest the use of very different kind of urban structure

Could be also housing policies location and urban expansion processes

I would like to have more units with examples of what the Esri software is capable of.

the biological sensitive analysis

Land division and zoning development.

how to coordinate one project by different specialists in GIS

it was all in all well balanced between different scales (country, federal states, studies insight cities and neighborhoods)

How to create a data file from the very beginning.

-

Cases were information on rural areas and territorial scale, as well as landscape, is analysed.

28 What would your **personal expectations** or wishes have been **regarding learning requirements** or the level of learning requirements? You can give suggestions here.

Response

atleast to be able to apply it somewhere.

-

I wanted to learn a new tool to use in my future project and investigation.

To learn how to use GIS at the basic level, in order to go deep in the software also on my own

It was more that what I was expecting because it was very completed in terms of concepts. I think the cours ewas very good to unsderstand why to use this tool and not just how to do it,

Just learning

Add more practical example like the one in Cairo

Response

No suggestions

everythind was appropriate and adequate

check your knowledge is didactically not usable. The insights have been very interesting it is not necessary to force the students to 'remember' details such as in the Kairo unit.

I am satisfied. I didn't expect to become expert in this programme.

-

Non in particular.

Test your knowledge task could have been more oriented with respect to GIS software tools rather than questions with respect to sample projects.

29 How would you describe the **balance between theory and practical application** in this course?

Response	Average	Total
well balanced	79%	11
more theory would be good	14%	2
more practical applications would be good	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

30 What would you say is more adequate for such a course regarding the (time) **rhythm of units** with lectures, tutorials and tasks?

Response	Average	Total
as applied in this course	14%	2
one-weekly	50%	7
two-weekly	21%	3
no special preference	14%	2
Total	100%	14/14

31

How would you rate the **combination of lectures, tutorials and tasks** as applied in the concept of this online-course (1= very good / 10= very bad)?
(multiple answers possible)

Response	Average	Total
1 (very good)	29%	4
2	36%	5
3	14%	2
4	7%	1
7	14%	2
Total	100%	14/14
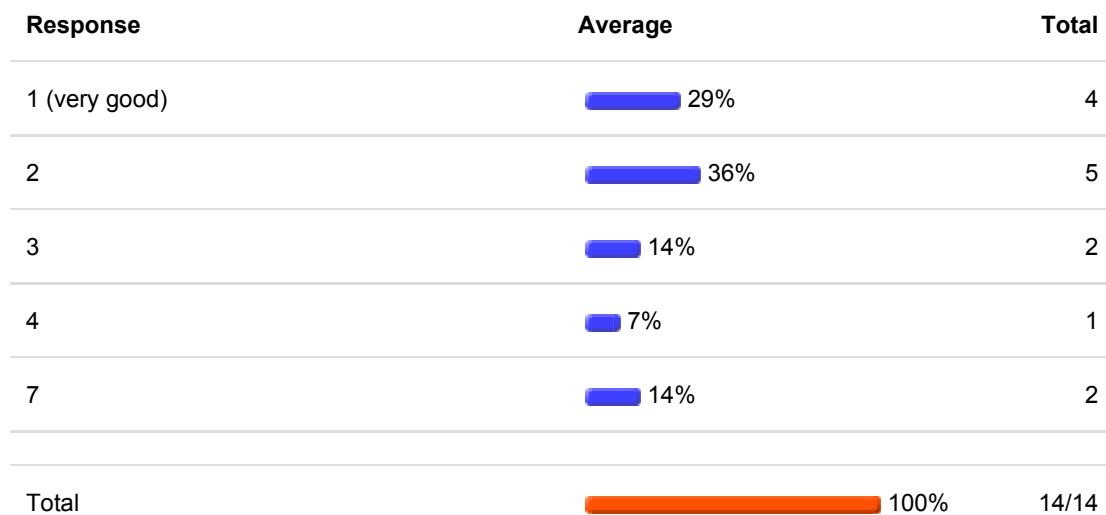
32 What has been **highlights of the course**, what not?
What did you appreciate most or what drove your attention most, what not?
Give your feedback here.

Response

The different ways of analysing your research. And possibilty to revuse the course whenever needed.

I appreciated the opportunity to understand also how GIS was used by the visitor teachers.

Highlights have been the Egypt class and the heating Islands class because in both cases we were working on an existing problematic and able to see how much more knowledge can you generate when using GIS.

The highlight for me has been using Gis for the first time in my life. I appreciate this initiation, but I feel it´s quite limited. Now it´s up to me going on adquiring more skills related to it.

In general, I think it's a better way for learning to teach how to do things instead of giving them done as in the Unit 4.

i appreciate the most is that the flexible time to learn and I can repeat over and over again.

Participatory process, but not enough developed with practical appliance of skills in GIS ArcMap exercises

Response

I appreciate the quality of tutorials, but there were difficulties to make the same ourselves

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openess of some units

preparing data for different map layouts -> telling different stories with the same numbers...

urban heat unit was very interesting but the excercise was bad prepared. It was not completely clear how to prepare the data, it was not challanging and boring to prepare exactly the same maps like in the tutorial.

The enormous data that it is possible to get by a map, that give you a better understanding of the place that you will probably have to plan.

Highlights: useful tutorials and interesting examples.

To improve: more attention for students (specially when deadlines for tasks were approaching).

Well structured course with external visiting lecturers from real time practice taking part.

Opportunity to discuss in a forum and get valuable feedback's.

Access to tutorials at any point of time to revise back our skills on GIS.

Test your knowledge task could have been more oriented with respect to GIS software tools rather than questions with respect to sample projects.

33 Would you do this course again?

Response	Average	Total
Yes	71%	10
No	7%	1
Don't know	21%	3
Total	100%	14/14

34 Would you recommend this course (to others)?

Response	Average	Total
Yes	93%	13

Response	Average	Total
No answer	7%	1
Total	100%	14/14

35 **F)** Have you participated in online-seminars before?

Response	Average	Total
Yes	14%	2
No	86%	12
Total	100%	14/14

36 Please tell us, what kind of online-seminar(s) you participated in:

Response

I made two online courses related to "social and participative projects construction" and another one in "cualitative metholodogy for social approach". Both were very useful.

SPSS in Participatory Process

37 What kind of **online-learning tools** and methods did you use there?
Have they been useful and adequate to your learning progress?

Response

The methogolody was basicaly read the texts given every two weeks and every two Fridays we were having a forum in whcih we had to live our thought about the text, prooving we had read. Also discudd there and asking questions. After 4 or 6 online classes we have been asked to make a final work based on the texts, and for that the deadline was two month after.

Statistics Package IBM.

They were adequate, but I didn't use them so far.

38 How would you describe your **experience being taught through using the "moodle" platform** in our course? the experience was....(please select)

Response	Average	Total

Response	Average	Total
excellent	7%	1
good	71%	10
adequate	21%	3
Total	100%	14/14

39   Did you or do you use **other online-platforms** for learning and which one(s) did/do you use?

Response
no
-
yes, i used moodle before.
no
No, any.
No
No
No
no
e-learning
no
none
Just Moodle.
No

40   If you used another platform before: please evaluate the **experience you had with the other online learning platform in comparison to** the experience you now had with **moodle** in this course)

Response	Average	Total
good	14%	2

Response	Average	Total
I didn't use any other platofrm before	86%	12
Total	100%	14/14

41 **5) Student information**

I am a student enrolled in (select):

Response	Average	Total
Advanced Urbanism	7%	1
European Urban Studies	36%	5
other	57%	8
Total	100%	14/14
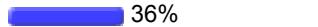
42 I am

Response	Average	Total
female	57%	8
male	43%	6
Total	100%	14/14

43 My home country is.... (this is used for statistical purpose, if you do not wish to give that information, you can skip this question)

Response
Spain
Argentina
Tajikistan
Germany
Democratic Republic of Congo
Germany

Response

Argentina.

India

44   **6)** Thank you very much for participating in the course and for taking part in the survey! We would be happy to get your **further comments or suggestions** in this last field of the survey.

Response

The course wasa very good experience and I can tell that the Professor and the Thuthors are really interested in make a good course. That for me is very importnat becuase they transmit to the students the possitive feeling about the topic and it is possible to feel them involved and caring eventhough the online system

Thanks for the course.

thank you

Would be nice to have more units to have the openess of exercices in every unit. Participants should be able to create and prepare data themselves (fe using the given online contents in Arc GIS...). Check your knowledge is not necessary from my point of view. The time can be used better in excercises and theoretical inputs.

Perhaps it is useful to give hints or inputs about map layout and design. Participants had a very different knowledge about this and it seemed a bit unefficiant, trying to give this knowledge through the comments on submissions.

-

I wish the teaching team continues to work with its good predisposition and horizontal-work approach.