Course code: DD2476	Course name: Search Engines and information Retrieval Systems	
Academic year: 2020-21	Period: 3 and 4	
Credits: *9*	Number of students: 105	Answer rate: 0.21
Examination rate: *0.84*	Learning activities: 6 pre-recorded video lectures, 2 guest lectures via Zoom, 6 coding help sessions via Zoom, 3*30h computer assignment presentations, 6 h project presentations	
Course modules and credits: Computer assignments 6hp, consisting of 3 programming assignments which are done individually. Group project: 3hp		
Teachers: Johan Boye		
Examiner: Johan Boye		
Course responsible: Johan Boye		

Changes from previous years

This year, the course was completely online due to the corona pandemic. I pre-recorded 6 video lectures during the course, which were released to the students as they were made. 2 guest lectures were given live via Zoom, by Bob Sturm and Hossein Azizpour respectively. To introduce more interactivity into the course, we created 6 coding help sessions which were administered by the TAs via Zoom. To get help, students could start their own Zoom room and place themselves in a queue via the "Stay-A-While" queueing system. The TAs then went from Zoom room to Zoom room, helping the students out. This turned out to work very well. All computer assignment presentations and project presentations were also made via Zoom.

A record 120 students signed up for the course this year, but only 105 actually registered, and 88 completed the course. In addition, 1 student completed the assignments but not the project, and another student completed the project but not the assignments.

Course questionnaire

Answers can be found here (link).

Strong points of the course
It seemed like the transition to completely online teaching went smoothly. The video lectures seemed to have been appreciated, probably because they were pre-recorded and edited, which made them concise. The students appreciate the practical, implementation-oriented design of the course. The Canvas discussion forum seems to work very well as a place of information exchange: students are asking questions, and Dmytro and I were answering them (in some cases, also other students were answering questions, which is very nice to see). The guest lectures were well attended. The throughput of the course is good.

Weak points of the course
For students aiming for a lower grade, the course is quite generous as concerns credits.

Changes for next year's edition
The course will be replaced next year by DD2477 with the same name ("Search Engines and information Retrieval Systems") and the same contents, but the credit assignment is lowered to 7.5 credits. This change is motivated by two factors:

- The 4.5 credits that will be given for the programming assignments better reflect the actual workload (now it is 6 credits).
- By this change, 1.5 credits are freed up, which are given to the Language Engineering course (DD2417) to better reflect the workload in that course. Many students take both of these courses.

Course responsible: Johan Boye