Course code: DD2477	Course name: Search Engines and information Retrieval Systems	
Academic year: 2021-22	Period: 3 and 4	
Credits: *7.5*	Number of students: 58	Answer rate: 0.40
Examination rate: *0.88*	Learning activities: 6 pre-recorded video lectures, 3 guest lectures via Zoom, 7 coding help sessions via Zoom, 3*30h computer assignment presentations, 6 h project presentations	
Course modules and credits: Computer assignments 4.5hp, 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

No big changes were made compared to last year's edition. Again, the course was completely online due to the corona pandemic, with pre-recorded video lectures, and 3 guest lectures that were given live via Zoom, by Bob Sturm, Hossein Azizpour and by Findwise AB respectively. To introduce more interactivity into the course, we had 7 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.

58 students registered for the course this year, of whom 51 completed the course. In addition, 1 student completed the assignments but not the project. 2 students from earlier course rounds also completed the course this year.

Course questionnaire

[Answers can be found here (link)](link).

Strong points of the course
The course continues to be very appreciated, judging by the course survey. The ratings of the students that answered the questionnaire was:

- "I worked with interesting issues": 6.9 / 7
- "The course was challenging in a stimulating way": 6.7 / 7
- "I could practice and receive feedback without being graded": 5.4 / 7
- "The assessment on the course was fair and honest": 6.7 / 7
- "I was able to learn by discussing and collaborating with others": 5.5 / 7
- "I was able to get support if I needed it": 5.8 / 7

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
I will probably add a new lecture (or part of a lecture) on neural-network-based methods in information retrieval.

Course responsible: Johan Boye