



## COURSE ANALYSIS

- summary and reflections of the course leader

Course code: DD2477	Course name: Search Engines and information Retrieval Systems	
Academic year: 2022-23	Period: 3 and 4	
Credits: 7.5	Number of students: 68	Answer rate: 0.36
Examination rate:  0.88	Learning activities: 1 lecture in class 6 pre-recorded video lectures, 1 guest lecture in class 8 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

This year, the first lecture and a guest lecture by Bob Sturm, and the final project presentations were given in class, whereas 5 lectures were pre-recorded video lectures. We also had 8 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" queuing system. The TAs then went from Zoom room to Zoom room, helping the students out, a system that seems to work very well. All computer assignment presentations were made via Zoom.

This year, I added a video lecture on neural network approaches in information retrieval.

77 students registered for the course this year, of whom 68 completed the course. In addition, 1 student completed the assignments but not the project.

### Course questionnaire

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



## **COURSE ANALYSIS**

*- summary and reflections of the course leader*

### **Strong points of the course**

The course continues to be appreciated, judging by the course survey, although I noted that the scores were somewhat lower this year than last year. The ratings of the students who answered the questionnaire were:

- “I worked with interesting issues”: 6.3 / 7
- “The course was challenging in a stimulating way”: 5.8 / 7
- “I could practice and receive feedback without being graded”: 5.1 / 7
- “The assessment on the course was fair and honest”: 6.5 / 7
- “I was able to learn by discussing and collaborating with others”: 4.7 / 7
- “I was able to get support if I needed it”: 5.6 / 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 lecture was 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. This year, I had a big problem finding teaching assistants, which might have led to the slight drop in the scores seen in the course questionnaire.

### **Changes for next year’s edition**

I will have some more guest lectures (aiming at 3). I might add a tutorial on ElasticSearch if I have the time.

**Course responsible:** Johan Boye \_\_\_\_\_