

Modelling and Simulation of Urban Systems

Code: 104543
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503743 Management of Smart and Sustainable Cities	OB	3	1

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: catalan (cat)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Xavier Pons Fernández

Prerequisites

Having completed a first course in geographic information systems is practically essential, as well as having basic knowledge in the bases for geoinformation.

Many of the bibliography of the subject is in the English language, so the student should be able to at least read in that language.

Objectives and Contextualisation

After a first course in Geographic Information Systems (GIS or SIG), in which solid knowledge based on the conceptual and methodological foundations of the discipline and an important practical skill has been achieved, this subject constitutes an approach applied in the context of the management, analysis, representation, etc., of the geographic information from the environment of a GIS applied to the modeling and simulation of urban systems. The subject, however, also aims to expand knowledge in its own field, so the objectives are both of a theoretical nature, as corresponds to a second level in which we must consolidate, deepen or expand knowledge, such as of practical nature, in this case no longer in the form of the small examples of a first course, but as application cases derived from the needs in research, geographic information, interpretation of data and analysis and modeling of urban networks, in some cases, with application to real systems.

The course does not intend to train in a specific software, but understand the logic of geographic information systems and modeling, the basic operations and the common and more specific applied tools of some softwares is an important goal. The student will have to learn the necessary concepts, understand what strategies it is convenient to plan and decide which operations to apply in each case to obtain the desired results.

The very maturity of the use case will allow you to find what functionalities you need from the software in each situation and choose or adapt to the possibilities that you will find at each moment and place of the future development of your activity.

One of the objectives of the course will also be to know own dynamics and practical cases of modeling of urban systems and networks (such as road networks, public transport networks, urban freight transport distribution or minimum transport routes) and to know cases applied to elements of inventory and control of assets with GIS tools.

Among the objectives set out in the course are:

- Expand knowledge on formats and data sources useful for the realization of geographical studies of all kinds; Attention will be paid to both de facto and de jure standards. The theoretical discourse will be dressed with a series of examples both from the most conceptual point of view (punctual data of irregular geographical distribution, zonal data, etc., in different formats and origins, with special attention to those provided through Internet) and thematic (demographic data, public transport, inventory of assets, etc). In this context, knowledge about the meaning, interest and use of metadata standards, on spatial data infrastructures and remote sensing will be expanded, briefly introducing some new data exchange and consumption formats, paying special attention to the advantages and inconveniences that can generate end users.
- Identify and use different sources of information data, as well as its operating principles, access policies and standards.
- Reinforce the practice of digitization and topological vector structuring as one of the basic sources of data incorporation into a GIS. This objective will be achieved in many applied cases and will be completed with the reworking of materials in classical operations such as the grouping of polygons by thematic criteria, etc.
- Know some applications and methods of generation of the most common types of digital models and their practical application in dynamics and urban environments.
- Expand and reinforce some knowledge in basic GIS operations, such as changes in spatial resolution and cartographic projection or reference system (ED50 to ETRS89, for example), raster / vector conversions, etc., and imports / exports between some formats.
- Expand and reinforce the knowledge of the GIS analysis tools in the context of the real applications raised in the course, analyzing and presenting some use cases on the modeling of urban and territorial dynamics such as public transport networks, control of assets on public roads, etc.
- Know how to integrate previous knowledge so that the student is able to take geographic information and, autonomously, integrate it into a GIS to analyze it. The compilation of regional information on various aspects, human and physical, and its correct structuring and documentation prior to the application of modeling or simulations is a summary objective of the course.
- Learn to present their own works and small projects related to the search of data and result publication, evaluate critically their own work, taking care of the style and presentation formats.

Competences

- Analyse and model urban and regional dynamics using methodological instruments for qualitative and quantitative analysis.
- Carry out projects related to the management, equality and sustainability of cities applying elements of technological innovation such as ICT.
- Design platforms of management, integration of public and government services applying technologies and systems of sensorization, acquisition, processing and communication of data.
- Generate innovative and competitive proposals in professional activity.
- Identify and use different sources, models and data bases of information generated by urban activity, as well as their principles of operation, access policies and standards.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop data-management platforms: user-generated servers and mapped browsers.
2. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of different alternatives for obtaining the position of entities and people in an urban environment.
3. Generate innovative and competitive proposals in professional activity.
4. Identify and locate sources and databases to solve urban modelling and management problems in cities.
5. Recognise and use the appropriate spatial analysis tools to analyse urban dynamics.
6. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
7. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.

Content

The various aspects to be developed in the subject are:

1. Formats, standards and data sources
2. Digitizing and advanced topological structuring
3. Generation and use of terrain models and spatial interpolation
4. GIS analysis operations
5. Preparation of data for modeling and simulation in urban systems
6. Application in practical cases

The application in practical cases will be developed throughout the course, in an integrated way in the various subjects covered in the course.

Methodology

Type: Autonomous

Study of theoretical material

Class practices done independently by the students

Type: Directed

Theoretical classes / Material provided and reading guides

Teacher-guided class practices / Provided practice development guides

Problems sessions

Type: Supervised

Personalized attention to the student (appointments, tutorials)

The contents of the subject will be developed through the following activities:

- Oral presentations and facilitation of materials and reading guides by the teacher.
- Reading of chapters of books or articles (individual activity of students complementary to classroom work).

- Teacher-guided class practices
- Practices and presentations carried out autonomously by the students on proposals from the teacher.

Specific software will be used for the accomplishment of the subject .

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Problems sessions	10	0.4	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
Teacher-guided class practices / Provided practice development guides	11	0.44	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
Theoretical classes / Material provided and reading guides	24	0.96	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
Type: Supervised			
Personalized attention to the student (appointments, tutorials)	5	0.2	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
Type: Autonomous			
Class practices done independently by the students	70	2.8	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
Study of theoretical material	25	1	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5

Assessment

Activities

Title	Weight (128 caràcters)	Hours
1 Initial half course theory exam	20 %	1
2 Second half course theory exam	30 %	2
3 Final course practical test in computer lab	20 %	2
4 Assignments delivered along the course	30 %	0

The evaluation activities are:

1 / Theoretical exams (50% of the grade) taken at mid-course and at the end of the course, and practical test with a computer (20% of the grade) at the end of the course. These exams are face-to-face and may include activities such as those developed in the classroom practices in the theoretical and activities of the style developed in the laboratory practices in the second. The dates of these exams are made public at the beginning of the course. To be able to submit to re-evaluation it is mandatory to have completed at least one of the partial exams.

2 / Exercises delivered throughout the course (30% of the grade). To be able to submit to re-evaluation, it is mandatory to have delivered at least 75% of the evaluable exercises. The evaluable exercises not delivered will do the same with the other exercises, with a score of 0. The evaluable exercises cannot be reevaluated.

The pass is obtained with a 5. It will be considered "Not Evaluable" that student who has not submitted to any of the two theoretical tests, nor in the re-evaluation test, nor has delivered more than 50% of evaluable exercises. The minimum grade to average between the practical and theoretical parts of the exams is a 4. This minimum average of 4 is considering the average between the two theoretical partial exams and the practical exam with computer, respectively. Only exams will be passed (and therefore only practices will be done) if the average grade of the exam (theoretical and practical, with the corresponding weight) is 5.

There will be a recovery test for those people who have been evaluated continuously, but do not reach the approved. In order to attend the recovery it will be necessary to have given 75% of the individual exercises and to have made at least a partial exam. It can be recovered only partly theoretical and classroom practices, only practice or both; and only the first or second part of the course, according to whether the part or parts are suspended. The grade of the exam of the recovery will substitute the partial notes that it agrees (theoretical first part, theoretical second part and / or practical final) for the calculation of the final note, although the note of the recovered examination is inferior to the previous one. The student who presents to recovery can have a final grade higher than 5. The evaluable exercises cannot be recovered.

The copying or plagiarism of material, both in the case of works and in the case of examinations, constitute a crime that will be sanctioned with a zero to the activity. In the case of recidivism, the entire subject will be suspended. Let's remember that a "copy" is considered a work that reproduces all or most of the work of one or more partners. "Plagiarism" is the fact of presenting all or part of an author's text as its own, without citing the sources, whether in paper or in digital format. See UAB documentation on "plagiarism" at: http://wuster.uab.es/web_argumenta_obert/unit_20/sot_2_01.html.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
1 Initial half course theory exam	20 %	1	0.04	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
2 Second half course theory exam	30 %	2	0.08	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
3 Final course practical test in computer lab	20 %	2	0.08	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5
4 Assignments delivered along the course	30 %	0	0	2, 1, 3, 4, 7, 6, 5

Bibliography

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