

Kursanalys/course evaluation GEON05 Glacial sedimentology HT1, 2022

Summary

As borne out by the students' evaluation (100% return of the questionnaire, n=3), this Master's course is by now well-oiled, and the structure continues to be improved through minor adjustments.

As per last year's planned changes, I increased the time for individual study (catching up on lectures, reading, data analysis) and decreased the amount of formal lectures to further encourage a mode of active learning. The most enjoyable component this year was the post-pandemic return of a dedicated field component at an active glacier (Storglaciären, northern Sweden, with a stay at Tarfala Research Station) that will remain a fixed element of this course in the future as the trial worked perfectly and the site is better-suited didactically than the site we had visited prior to the covid-19 pandemic. The course was, for reasons unknown, chosen by only three students this year (after 18 participants in the previous year), which nonetheless provided a very close-knit learning environment that seems to have worked well for everyone concerned.

Reflections on comments received through the evaluation process

While everyone seems very happy with the way the course ran (especially the Tarfala and Ven fieldtrips, the exercises and the structure of the course), a few critical points were mentioned that provide useful food for thought for me.

The main point made was that time allocation to write the Ven report proved tight and a suggestion was made to improve communicating the 'move' from gathering the data in the field through to data analysis, plotting and report writing. It was felt this could have been made explicit by encouraging writing early on, and the time allocated was felt to be insufficient to present a report one could be proud of.

This has been a returning point flagged up in comments, and one that has already been addressed through: giving one more day for the write-up; removing one extra site on Ven from the report (thereby focusing all efforts on one site); and encouraging (I remember at least two instances of explicitly stating this) an early start on both data analyses and write-up. These points are also made on the respective course's Canvas pages. I will endeavour to make these points even more explicitly next time.

While the fieldtrips themselves were mentioned as highlights, there were a few administrative glitches beyond my control that will be ironed out next year (problems with the SJ booking system meant there were no beds on the night train up to Kiruna, which will definitely not happen again; the youth hostel we used to stay at on Ven had closed down, and the kitchen facilities of the alternative that had been recommended proved a little experimental, so we will find an alternative from next year onwards).

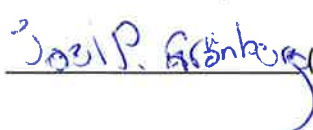
One student also commented on the problem of extracting/displaying images from a Powerpoint file of the lectures. This was the unfortunate result of three lectures being uploaded as pptx instead of pdfs, a first in five years of running the course.

To synthesise, I will make sure the issues flagged up in the evaluation will be ironed out by next year. There will also be further exercises that were highlighted as very positive features to make the course more applied.

Discussed and agreed: 2022-12-07.



(course convener)



(student representative)