

Course Title: IAML - INFR11182 and INFR10069

Response to student feedback in 2020/21 course survey

We have taken note of the feedback from students in this course survey and have the following comments in response.

- There were some requests for office hours. Instead of explicit office hours, we provide twice weekly live Q&A sessions where students can ask questions, this means that all students can benefit from the questions, as opposed to a one-to-one interaction. Students also have the opportunity to ask questions on Piazza – these can be visible to the entire class or only the course organisers. The suggestion is noted, but we believe that it would be inferior to the current offering. As a result, for 21/22 we will continue with the same format.
- A request was made for there to be small tests to keep the students familiar with the content during the semester. Quizzes are already provided on Learn that serve this purpose.
- There was a concern raised that the total amount of coursework was too demanding. In 21/22 we will only have one assessed coursework, worth 30% of the final grade, as opposed to the two that we had in 20/21.
- One student asked for tutorials to be recorded. We acknowledge the basis of the request, but believe that this may discourage other students from asking questions and actively participating in the tutorials. As a result, we do not intend to record tutorials or labs in 21/22.
- Regarding the comments on the math pre-requisites for IAML, they are clearly listed on the IAML DRPS page. Students are strongly encouraged to ensure that they are sufficiently familiar with the required fundamentals before taking the course -- as is the case with any course.
- The ban on public discussion of the coursework content on Piazza is intended to ensure that what a student submits is their own work. IAML's courseworks are not an exercise in the group or pairs solving problems, they are an individual student's work. This prohibition is also used in some other courses. Group problem solving is available in the tutorials. However, it is important to note that, if needed, students are allowed to ask questions related to the coursework directly to the course organisers on Piazza. These questions were not visible to the entire class. Any issues that were raised, that required additional clarification, were then communicated to the entire class. We believe that this is the fairest way to provide feedback to the entire class, as it does not require students to keep track of numerous discussions on Piazza.
- Some students requested additional feedback for the courseworks. In the case of both courseworks, for each question, there was individual feedback provided in Gradescope.

In 21/22 we will also provide some high level feedback related to the courseworks in a live class session.

- A comment was made that one of the datasets for the second coursework was too large. This has been noted, and we will ensure that all the datasets used in 21/22 are appropriately sized. Thanks for the suggestion.
- Finally, we note that some of the comments are contradictory across individuals, e.g. some liked the flipped classroom, some do not. The flipped classroom will continue in 21/22.

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