Egenvurdering / Self assessment ved / at Infomedia #94

Semester / Teaching Semester 2023 Spring

Emnekode og navn / Course code and title MIX114 Web Development

Navn på emneansvarlig / Name of course Miroslav Bachinski coordinator

Hvordan foregikk undervisningen? / Content and teaching

The course consists of three modules: the first module on Graphic design, the second module on Web development in HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, and the third module on collaborative project development. The teaching consists of weekly lectures and seminars, voluntary and mandatory homework, and projects. The assessment is performed for each module in take-home exams or projects.

Hva fungerte og hva fungerte ikke? / What worked well, and what didn't?

The course was significantly restructured in comparison with the previous years. The order of modules has been changed to be more logical, and the materials have been adapted not to overwhelm the students with a lot of new content but rather to focus on learning the main concepts and principles and how to apply them in unknown situations. In general, the course was successful, and the students claimed that they learned a lot within the course. They delivered great projects in all modules. Considering their low starting level, most students delivered better work than was initially expected.

What went not so well: Sometimes, the lectures and seminars were out of sync. Specifically, we started with HTML and CSS in the seminars already during the graphic design module to give students more time to learn programming. At the same time, the lectures were focused on graphic design without even touching HTML and CSS.

The second problem was finding a suitable teacher for the graphic design module. Most designers from the industry did not want or did not have time to teach, while it was impossible to find a teacher from the other department. The third problem was a low level of previous basic programming skills, so instead of learning only the programming language, the students had to learn also basic programming concepts.

The seminars were 6 or 7 hours, and it was difficult to concentrate both for students and for TA for such a long time.

Hva vil du forbedre? / How do you plan to improve the course?

Next semester I will further adapt the course structure and be more explicit about starting with HTML and CSS from the graphic design module. We will reduce the emphasis on graphic design and increase programming, considering that the students have experience in graphic design from the previous semester and consider some parts of the lectures redundant. I will split the large seminar into two shorter seminars per week. More time will be spent on programming in JavaScript, specifically learning basic programming concepts such as code modularity, "reuse", and basic software architecture. More time will be spent on work with learning collaborative programming tools, such as git. More time will be spent learning how to use generative language models, such as chat gpt to support programming and project development.