This course is directly related to the major of both group members. Both of us are working in the area related to spatial databases. The course introduces to us the background about the intersection between spatial databases and GIS. This helps both of us to better understand the concepts of GIS systems in addition to the interaction between the two fields. In addition, interaction with students from GIS departments in this course helped us in getting more experience from their side and their point of view of this world.

One of the beneficial topics discussed during the course is modeling geospatial information. Previously we were familiar with general modeling techniques that are discussed in general database courses. For this kind of specific modeling (object-based and field-based) of spatial information, it was new and interesting to know about. Another very interesting and useful discussion was about different representations of geographical data. This introduced a very useful and comprehensive comparison between raster and vector representations. The discussion also relates the representations to the modeling schemes discussed earlier. In addition, discussing algorithms and how they are related to each representation helps to fully understand the differences as well as applications.

Web labs were a good experience. They were simple and fun to develop. In addition, they provided new information about useful APIs for spatial applications. For example, it was the first time we used HTML to track the spatial trajectory of a moving object. Also, we consider what we learned in the Oracle Spatial labs as an important skill for anyone working in this area.

For the next offering, we suggest to replace one of the homework assignments with an in-class quiz or two. This encourages the students read the book chapters regularly and not focus on ones that are related to their work only or ones that are assigned for mid-term presentations. In addition, I would suggest dividing the mid-term presentation into two parts. One of these parts should present the progress in course projects so that the students take early feedback from their classmates which would be helpful in the second half of the semester. One comment on web labs was the sculpture labs. We neither created public Google Earth data that is published nor took simple picture to show the functionality. It was also a good idea to have different pictures for landmarks around the campus, but it was more useful to publish it publicly in a VGI application instead of keeping them as local copies.