Feedback and comments compiled from course and activity feedback forms from the March-May 2024 Navigation course. The focus on this compilation is useful comments that either support the current course structure or suggest changes.

## Course Overall

* I enjoyed all the navigation exercises. So helpful! Made it all clear and it was fun
* From my perspective this doesn't work as an online course even with an email buddy. I really struggled and didn't finish. Doubt I will try again in this same format
* The online portions are welcome because they take a lot of the rote learning and let me work on it at my own pace, but they need updating. I didn't find the online meetings helpful at all. The field trip was useful, but needs to be scheduled more efficiently to let students work through the practices at their own pace without impacting the pace of other students (minimize either standing around waiting, or feeling pressured to hurry up).
* I haven't felt very connected/welcomed with any of the instructors for most of my activities with the mountaineers, but one exception to this experience has been Joe. I haven't seen him often, but he's been very positive, inclusive and genuine on each occasion. I much appreciated that effort.
* Everybody was very nice and helpful. I felt like I learned a lot and can now use a map and compass.
* Overall, the course just needs an update on the digital portions. The field trip is okay, but especially when there's a good instructor-to-student ratio, we don't need to spend half of our day idling.
* I was reluctant to take this course, but glad I did. Thank you
* I think there needs to be an in person meeting or field trip at the start of GPS segment to help those less savvy with tech. 3 of 5 of my mentors students didn’t seem to truly understand the nav exercise connected with digital learning. And it was obvious at the field trip some didn’t know how to drop a way point.
* All instructors need a mini-course in the use of "Coassemble". It seems as if I heard the same issues form several about the inconsistencies of the menus and reports.

## Online Map and Compass

* No instructor ratings included; this review refers explicitly to the online/self-guided portion of the class.
* You can't see the UTM line markers. It is challenging for senior eyes to see. The program is fine but not user friendly for people with vision issues. Fix that and you have an exceptional program. I had to use reading glasses, AND a magnifying glass to see the map I printed.
* Some Aspects of the virtual classroom are good others are quite challenging - whether the technical aspect or time required to get thru stuff one knows well.
* I found being a mentor a little confusing. Not the what I was to do, but keeping track of my students and grading assignments. It’s a very clunky system. Hard to navigate and filter. I never did get notifications. I think any physical supply required for the virtual class, I.e. Baring map and plotting tool should be included. 2 students had not orders prior to class and had to wait for their shipment. I had the same issue a few years ago. The course should begin with one in person class and hand out the maps and plotting tool. Also a good time to get folks acquainted to the online learning modules. Just a thought. Another option for the maps, and far less wasteful is to provide them as loaners. It’s so wasteful. 99% probably never used that map again. Except if the renew. The only challenge is drawing the UTM grid lines. But that could be any map, even smaller maps that could more easily be printed at home or a place like kninkos. I suspect the current map and compass system (using baring map that’s expensive and hard to source) is because it’s always been done that way.

## Online GPS

* On line. Good communication via email with Mike. My mentor did reach out to me.
* Self paced. I look forward to the field day.
* getting to know my in reach better.
* I'd be willing to spend a time in a classroom going slowly over how to use each item. For hands on learners, self directed computer learning is challenging. I have gaps in my understanding and maybe my older laptop does not translate lessons as easy as some.

## Field Activity

* If the weather is going to be 85 and the field where we working has no shade, then instructors need to take that into consideration. For instance, the 'long nav' was started in the peak heat of the day at 85 degrees, and was equivalent of climbing 26 flights of stairs. That involved a lot of just standing around waiting on your partner in no shade. They should think about this in the design of the activities.
* useful practice that was clearly thought through to exercise various edge cases; best class i’ve been to so far at the mountaineers.
* It took a lot of work to set up the stations and our group had 2 instructors to 7 students. Anna and Chris were excellent and really made sure you understood the in field use of the compass and map.
* I expected kind of a boring you-have-to-do-this field session but the exercises were super fun and engaging, even for someone with substantial map+compass prior experience. The instructors were also able to answer some super detailed/nuanced questions I had about different types of systems. Much appreciated!
* I struggled with the online course work and was not thrilled about the possibility of entire day struggling in the outdoors. But the field day was very practical, there was plenty of time for everyone to get their questions answered and needs met, and by the end of the day I felt a lot better about my abilities.
* The leader and assistant instructors were so very patient and helpful. They wanted you to succeed and truly understand and they took the time to explain any parts that were confusing. My individual feedback was greatly appreciated—I was stuck on a task: confused and frustrated with myself and getting snappy. My instructor recognized this and explained the task in different ways to help it click and walked me through multiple times. She also gently noted how I was responding to the situation so I could be aware of my breakdown style and communicate what I needed and that was SUCH an eye opener and I’m very grateful for it. She made a world of difference in how she reacted, and helped me learn how to better respond.