Instructor
Dr. Eric Nost | enost@uoguelph.ca
Room 126 HUTT (but moving to 344 HUTT)
Office hours: Wednesday 11a-12:30p, Thursday 2-3:30p, or by appointment

Teaching Assistants
TBA

Course Description
This course introduces the use of geographic information systems (GIS) to manipulate spatial information and create effective maps.

The first part of this course focuses on the digital representation of geographic features in vector as well as raster data formats. We will examine concepts of scale, generalization, map projections, coordinate systems, and geodetic datums.

The second part of the course focuses on the processing of georeferenced attribute data - such as census data - and its representation on a thematic map. Emphasis is placed on matching different types of data and scales of measurement with appropriate symbolization techniques, and on pre-processing the data when necessary. Guidelines for effective map design in digital environments are introduced. Throughout, we will consider the ethical dimensions of mapping practice - who gets to map, what should and should not be mapped, and how.

The lab exercises form an integral part of the course. By completing an instructional tutorial and a set of exercises, students are introduced to the capabilities of a geographic information system (ArcGIS) to organize, query, analyze, and cartographically display georeferenced data.

Course Organization
Three lectures per week
Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 9:30 - 10:20a | Room 117, MacKinnon

One two-hour lab per week (all in HUTT 231)
- Monday 1:30 - 03:20p
- Tuesday 9:30 - 11:20a
- Tuesday 11:30a - 1:20p
- Tuesday 1:30 - 3:20p
- Thursday 9:30 - 11:20a
- Thursday 1:30 - 3:20p

Course References


This course has an accompanying website accessible through CourseLink on the University of Guelph webpage. This site includes printable pdf copies of certain course materials including copies of the PowerPoint slides used in class. However, don’t expect the slides to cover all the material presented in class.

Evaluation
- Laboratory Assignments (5, equal weight) 50%
- Mid-Term Exam (October 26th, in-class) 20%
- Final Exam (TBA) 30%

Weekly Lecture Schedule, Topics, and Readings
It is strongly recommended that you come to lecture and lab having already completed the week’s assigned reading.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of...</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading and/or assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 7</td>
<td>Getting to know each other</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS, webmapping, and cartographic communication</td>
<td>Jensen Ch. 1, 10 (pgs. 279-285)</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>Encoding and generalizing spatial data: vectors</td>
<td>Jensen Ch. 5 □ LAB 1 ASSIGNED</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Encoding and generalizing spatial data: rasters</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Measuring Earth: map scale, datums, coordinate systems, and projections</td>
<td>Jensen Ch. 2, 3 □ LAB 1 DUE; LAB 2 ASSIGNED</td>
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<td>Week of...</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading and/or assignment</td>
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| October 8  | Ordering and processing spatial data | • Jensen Ch. 4, 8 (pgs. 240 – 244)  
• Dent Ch. 4, 5 (6th or 5th ed.) |
| October 15 | Symbolizing data: areas, points, and lines | • Jensen Ch. 10 (pgs. 296-312)  
• Dent Ch. 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 (6th ed.) or 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 (5th ed.)  
• LAB 2 DUE; LAB 3 ASSIGNED |
| October 22 | Symbolization and review | • October 26: Mid-Term Exam |
| October 29 | Scripting, acquiring data, and spatial analysis | • Jensen Ch. 6 (pg. 149-180)  
• LAB 3 DUE; LAB 4 ASSIGNED |
| November 5 | Spatial analysis | |
| November 12 | Effective (web)map design | • Dent Ch. 12 (6th) or 13 (5th)  
• LAB 4 DUE; LAB 5 ASSIGNED |
| November 19 | Effective (web)map design | • Dent Ch. 13, 14, 15 (6th) or Ch. 14, 15, 16 (5th) |
| November 26 | Effective (web)map design and course review | • LAB 5 DUE |
| TBA        |      | • Final Exam |

**Laboratory Assignments**

Lab. #1: Introduction to ArcGIS  
Handout – Sept. 17; due – Oct. 1

Lab. #2: Map Projections and Referencing Systems  
Handout – Oct. 1; due – Oct. 15

Lab. #3: Data Classification and Choropleth Mapping  
Handout – Oct. 15; due – Oct. 29

Lab. #4: Spatial Analysis  
Handout – Oct. 29; due – Nov. 12

Lab. #5: Graphic Design and Thematic Mapping (for the Web)  
Handout – Nov. 12; due – Nov. 26

Labs are due at the beginning of your regular lab session during the week indicated above.

The laboratory material constitutes an integral part of this course and attendance at one lab session per week is mandatory. Material covered in lab will be tested on the mid-term and final exams.
Late assignments will only be accepted without penalty with prior approval of either the instructor or the teaching assistant. Otherwise, there will be a penalty of 10% of the assignment’s value per day (including weekend days) for late assignments.

There is a $20.00 lab fee associated with this course. This covers the cost of a lab manual, handouts and colour printing in Room 231 Hutt. Students must provide their own USB memory sticks to back up their computer files. Lost files are not a valid reason for handing in a late assignment.

This course has several graduate teaching assistants to instruct labs and provide individual support during office hours. A list of assistants, including their contact information and office hours, will be posted in Room 231 Hutt. You must consistently attend the same lab section, but may consult with any of the TAs during office hours.

What you can expect from me
- To help you not only understand but get excited about the material, learning as much as possible about mapping! We’re all coming from different disciplinary perspectives and starting points, meaning that it is everyone’s responsibility, but especially mine, to work to provide a respectful and engaging learning environment. I’m here to work with you from where you are and build up your understanding of the course content.
- To provide prompt feedback on assignments.
- To give you a sense of the flow of the semester – when the assignment load will be heavier, so that you can prepare appropriately.
- To assist in developing your critical analysis and presentation skills, through our assignments. These are skills that will be useful to you in both your chosen profession and as a citizen.
- To advise you on future coursework, jobs, grad school, and/or volunteering opportunities.

What I expect of you
- To treat each other with respect. Our classroom is a safe space for all students, regardless of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, political orientation, nationality, ability or disability. Every person is welcome here.
- To communicate with me about what you expect from the course, what you need, and your challenges.
- To put your best possible effort into this class.

A brief Q&A
Q: How do I contact you?
A: Email is best. I will check it frequently during weekdays until 6pm, and occasionally in the evenings and weekends. I will respond to your requests and questions as soon as I
can. Please do not count on an immediate response, especially for important last minute questions regarding assignments.

Q: I’m confused about the material—what should I do?
A: First off, don’t feel embarrassed—few scholars, whether undergraduates or tenured professors, understand everything completely the first time! Please bring your questions to class and/or lab! If you are confused, it’s likely that your classmates are, too. If you bring me questions, it helps me evaluate how best to help you learn the material. If you are still confused, please come to my office hours. I am glad to help!

Q: I have to miss lecture or an exam/lab for a family/personal/medical emergency. What should I do?
A: As soon as possible, get in touch— with me (Eric) concerning exams, or with your lab TA if it concerns an assignment. In addition to alerting me ahead of time (if possible) and finding out what you need to do, I recommend getting notes from a classmate. I will make lecture slides available on CourseLink, but there is often key material that is not spelled out in powerpoints. So get notes AND review the lecture slides.

Q: I’m not happy about my exam/lab grade. Will you change it?
A: For regrades, I reserve the right to either increase OR decrease your grade depending on what I find in regrading. For a regrade, wait 24 hours, then schedule a meeting with me and email a written description of why you deserve a better grade.
University of Guelph Policy Statements

E-mail Communication
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement
When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.

Drop Date
The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is November 2nd, 2018. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments
Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/

Academic Misconduct
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University’s policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.
An example of academic misconduct that might occur in this course is to copy an answer, on an exam or lab exercise, from another student. Each student must create their own digital files for computer-based exercises.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources**

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.