GEOG*3480 GIS and Spatial Analysis

COURSE DESCRIPTION – Fall 2018 (Provisional)

Instructor: Dr. Wanhong Yang  
Office: Hutt Rm. 352  
Email: wayang@uoguelph.ca  
Phone: 519-824-4120 ext. 53090  
Office hours: Monday 10:30 am - 12:00 noon and Wednesdays 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Prerequisite: 10.00 credits, including GEOG*2480

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on the use of raster and vector-based geographic information systems to analyze spatial data. Topics include map digitizing, data query and overlay, spatial interpolation, multi-criteria evaluation, least cost pathway determination and digital elevation models. This course requires some familiarity with numerical methods and computer operations.

LECTURE TOPICS

• Overview of GIS concepts and capabilities
• Vector data model and vector data analysis
• Spatial and attribute data queries, manipulation and management
• Data input and output; map digitizing
• Raster data model and raster data analysis
• Applications and implementation of GIS
• Error assessment and data quality issues

Please note individual readings to support lecture materials will be assigned at the start of each lecture and will be posted in the lecture slides. Also, the topics and topic order provided above are tentative and may change with the progression of the course. Please check with the lecture slides on the CourseLink site for a more accurate listing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

• Understand the foundational theories of GIS including the unique character of spatial data.
• Analyze geospatial data using GIS software.
• Understand spatial analysis techniques and practices.
• Practice communicating concepts through formal written and visual forms.
• Knowledge in how GIS can help decision making.
COURSE ORGANIZATION

There will be two lectures per week on Monday 12:30 – 1:20 PM and Wednesday 12:30 – 1:20 PM. In addition, each student must attend one three-hour lab per week.

TEXT AND OTHER RESOURCES

The main recommended text for this class is:

*An Introduction to Geographical Information Systems* by Ian Heywood, Sarah Cornelius and Steve Carver. 2011 (4th edition). Note: the 3rd edition is fine too, if you can get a used one. *(Required)*


IMPORT DATES

Monday September 10th — First class (PLEASE NOTE: first lab starts on September 10th !!! Please be prepared!!)

Wednesday October 17th — Mid-term examination (in class; worth 10%)

To be determined — Final examination (worth 40%)

METHOD OF EVALUATION

The lab material constitutes an integral part of this course, since this is where students receive hands on work with GIS, and must apply the techniques they have learned. Labs must be handed in to the teaching assistant at the beginning of lab section in the week they are due, with a late penalty of 10% of the total assignment grade per day. Lab material will be covered on both the mid-term and final exams.

**Grade Distribution**

- Lab Assignments: 50%
- Mid Term Exam: 10%
- Final Exam: 40%

The mid-term exam will be held **Wednesday October 17th, 2018** during class. The schedule for final exam is to be determined. **The final exam is cumulative and will cover all lecture topics during the term.**

OFFICE HOURS

If you are having difficulties with the lab, please see one of the course TAs during the lab time. **There is no office hours for TAs.** If you didn't get the chance to talk to the TA, please feel free to visit me during my office hours (stated above) or e-mail me.
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.

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

Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day (not including weekends). After the assignment has been handed back to the class no grade can be assigned on late work.

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.

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.
LABORATORY EXERCISES

The labs are designed to familiarize you with basic GIS operations, and to teach you problem solving skills. You are going to solve a variety of problems using ArcGIS. By completing the labs, you will gain practical experience in using the program to create and edit datasets, manipulate and analyze data, and generate maps that communicate spatial information effectively. At the same time, you will lay the foundation for learning any other GIS software.

Your Teaching Assistant (TA) will make an arrangement with you regarding handing in the labs. Your TA will be available to help you during the scheduled lab times and during his or her office hours. TAs are not required to be available outside of these times! If your TA helps you outside of scheduled times, then he or she is doing you a favour.

All of the labs require that you submit your own work. It's okay to learn the program with a classmate, or to ask other people for help when you run into trouble. (In fact, you should do the tutorials with a classmate.) However, the labs that you submit must be the product of your own effort.

Depending on your experience, you will have to learn ArcGIS and a range of new skills in order to complete these labs. This is a real challenge -- even for someone who is familiar with computers. From previous experience, when students had difficulty completing the labs, problems often occurred because of unfamiliarity with the computer and its operating system. You need to be a competent computer user, or be willing to upgrade your skills in the first weeks of the course. Losing 10 hours of work because you didn’t copy your files properly is no fun!

Once you have completed the tutorials and know the programs, you should be able to complete the labs in 4 to 6 hours each. However, it may take you much longer if you combine learning the program with doing the labs. Therefore, until you are comfortable using the computer and the software, you should plan to spend a lot of time learning the basics.

Lab attendance is mandatory and attendance will be recorded by the GTA each week. GTAs will not respond to the e-mail questions of students who fail to regularly attend a lab section.

LABORATORY ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

The following table summarizes the topics, start and due dates of the 5 labs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Start week</th>
<th>Due week</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab 1 (2 weeks)</td>
<td>Spatial Queries and Data Manipulation</td>
<td>Sept. 10th</td>
<td>Sept. 24th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab 2 (2 weeks)</td>
<td>Vector Query and Overlay Analysis</td>
<td>Sept. 24th</td>
<td>Oct. 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab 3 (2 weeks)</td>
<td>Network Analysis</td>
<td>Oct. 8th</td>
<td>Oct. 22nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab 4 (3 weeks)</td>
<td>Digitizing Vector &amp; Raster Conversion Interpolation</td>
<td>Oct. 22nd</td>
<td>Nov. 12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab 5 (3 weeks)</td>
<td>Multi-Criteria Evaluation (MCE) and Least-cost Pathway (LCP)</td>
<td>Nov. 12th</td>
<td>Nov. 26th</td>
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Note, lab due dates are subject to change in the event of unforeseen scheduling conflicts. Please confirm the exact due dates and times with your GTA well in advance. These should be provided during the GTA introduction of each new lab assignment. Changes to this schedule will be posted on CourseLink if required.

LABORATORY TIMES

You have been assigned to one of the four lab periods. All labs take place in the Hutt Building, Room 231. Your TA will be available to help you during your lab period. The computer facilities in Room 231 will be available outside these times on a first-come, first-served basis during scheduled free times. A schedule will be posted on the door of Room 231.

You must attend your assigned lab period. If you missed your assigned lab period for a valid reason, attend another session and inform the TA that you normally are in another lab (identify time and TA). You may not change your lab period without the permission of the instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0101</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>07:00PM – 09:50PM</td>
<td>Hutt 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0102</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>07:00PM – 09:50PM</td>
<td>Hutt 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0103</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>07:00PM – 09:50PM</td>
<td>Hutt 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0104</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>07:00PM – 09:50PM</td>
<td>Hutt 231</td>
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LABORATORY FEE

There is a $30.00 lab fee associated with this course, which include $10 for the ArcGIS tutorial, $10 for the Spatial Analyst tutorial, and $10 printing credits. If you already have a copy of the ArcGIS tutorial lab manual, you may optionally not pay for the lab fee associated with this manual. Similarly, if you recognize that you will not be using departmental printing services throughout the semester, you don’t need to pay for this fee. However, printing credits cannot be added to your account at a later time. Please pay the appropriate lab fee during your first lab session. Students must provide their own USB memory sticks to backup lab data.
ACCESSIBILITY

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day. More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

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. **An example of academic misconduct that might occur in this course is a student copying an answer or using a map/image from another student. Students must create their own digital files for computer-based exercises.** 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.

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.