Geo 320.001
GIS for the Social Sciences

Locations of Nacogdoches Fire Stations

Debris Path of Space Shuttle Columbia

SPRING 2016
Geo 320.001 GIS for Social Sciences  
CRN 5637

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Class Meeting Time  
4:00 – 6:30 R

Office Hours

M 2:00 – 3:30, W 9:00 – 10:30  
R 10:30 – 11:30 and 1:30 – 3:00

Required Text:

Making Spatial Decisions USINGGIS:  
A WorkBook. ESRI Press, Redlands, CA
Geo 320.001 GIS for the Social Sciences
SPRING 2016

The course is designed as an academic opportunity:

A. for geography majors, minors and students interested in geospatial technology opportunities in the Social Science;
B. to enhance portfolios using an maturing technology in many career paths;
C. to complement natural resource and environmental science majors; and
D. to provide an introduction to students of various disciplines interested in exploring geography concepts

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

A. identify and discuss key geographic elements of geospatial technologies, in particular Geographic Information Systems (GIS);
B. become familiar with basic GIS concepts and functionality of GIS software;
C. interpret maps and graphs generated from
D. make informed decisions using maps to address issues involving Social Science situations; and
E. be able to discuss, construct and evaluation map components and quality.

MY EXPECTATIONS FROM STUDENTS

A. keep up with the reading assignments;
B. demonstrate your ability to use GIS software; and
C. Participate in class discussions and activities to gain critical thinking experience keeping in mind:
   1. if you can explain an idea to others, you know the subject; and
   2. verbalization and visualization are major communication forms in modern society that you will need to be able to use to be successful in your chosen career.

GENERAL EVALUATIONS COMMENTS

A. Attendance will be taken – more than 4 absences will have a downward effect on course grade;
B. complete all classroom exercises and labs on specified dates (late work will lose 20% of value each day late plus any points missed on exercise); and
C. take exams at designated times
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>January Introduction to GIS for the Social Sciences</td>
<td>XI - XXI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>February Hazardous Emergency Decisions</td>
<td>2 – 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Hazardous Emergency Decisions</td>
<td>2 – 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Demographic Decisions</td>
<td>28 – 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>March EXAM # 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>EASTER BREAK</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>March Law Enforcement Decisions</td>
<td>62 – 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>April Urban planning Decisions</td>
<td>126 – 148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Urban planning Decisions</td>
<td>126 – 148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>May FINAL – 4:00 – 6:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>05</td>
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<td>EXAM # 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>May Final – 4:00 – 6:30</td>
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<td>EXAM # 2</td>
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# GEO 320.001 GIS for the Social Sciences SPRING 2016

## EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points Assigned</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAMS</td>
<td>2 X 100</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>A = 750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LABS</td>
<td>2 X 50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>B = 640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROJECT WORK</td>
<td>4 X 50*</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>C = 550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIVIDUAL PROJECT</td>
<td>1 X 150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>D = 490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVIEWS</td>
<td>2 X 25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>F = Lower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOB INTERVIEW</td>
<td>1 X 50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>than 490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUizzes</td>
<td>5 X 20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>850</strong></td>
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*Up to TWO (2) extra projects will be accepted to enhance your point total.
The GIS Tutorial will count as TWO (2) extra projects for beginning GIS students.

Withhold policy: A withheld grade only will be assigned only upon consultation and agreement of the student and faculty member prior to the last week of the class before finals based on situations that fit within university policy.

A student has one academic year to complete the requirements of the class to receive a completed course grade. If a student does not complete necessary work to meet class requirements, the WH will automatically roll to an F by university policy.
GEO 320.001 GIS for the Social Sciences SPRING 2016

CLASS ROOM PROTOCOLS

Attendance

Attendance and class participation are expected throughout the semester. Exams are to be taken during scheduled times. Make-up exams will be given to students with a valid university excuse (consult student handbook for guidelines).

Remember that seats are for seating and not to be used as foot rests. In addition, cell phones and other electronic media devices are not to be used during class periods.

Students exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance will be reported to the academic alert program.

Academic Integrity

It is the instructor’s hope that academic dishonesty will not be a problem in this class. SFA does, however, have an Academic Integrity policy. You may read the policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/upp/pap/academic_affairs/CHEATING_AND_PLAGIARISM.html. Based on that, plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (DS), Human Services, Room 325 (468-3004) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, DS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all Instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate or appropriate in the classroom.

Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

FOOD AND DRINK ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CLASSROOM OR LABORATORY UNDER UNIVERSITY POLICY.