Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
GIS 110 (19205A) Monday 7:00-9:50pm
GEOG 110 (19205D) 8/24/2009-12/20/2009

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Read the information about textbooks and software. If you have any questions, do not buy the textbook and software before the first class.

This course is designed to introduce the novice to the fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and to provide hands-on training with one of the most widely used GIS software packages (ArcGIS Desktop). The goal of this class is to develop the student's ability to formulate geographic questions, design step-by-step analyses using GIS, evaluate the processes and results, and present a professional cartographic product.

Class Format. This is a fun and lively class. The format is a combination of discussion, lecture, and hands-on learning. GIS topics and theory will be discussed during the first part of the class. Exercises and lab assignments completed during class time provide hands-on software experience. Additional reading assignments may complement the textbook.

Prerequisites. You need to be familiar with the basic vocabulary and file manipulations of a windows environment.

Required supplies: ArcGIS software. Before buying the software – make sure your computer meets the hardware and software requirements.
You need access to a computer (outside of class) with ArcGIS Desktop software. Ideally, this means you will load the software onto your personal computer. Your options:

- Saddleback provides students with a free, one-year education license after the start of the classes. The class will use software version 9.3. If you are already working with 9.2 at home or work, you may continue to do so but you will need to make some modifications throughout the semester. I strongly suggest you work with version 9.3 (or 9.3.1).
- The textbook comes with a 180-day student license – and tutorials.
- The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) has two computers loaded with ArcGIS software, but the LAP has restricted hours. It is not open on weekends. Make sure your schedule matches theirs.
- Make sure your computer meets the hardware and software requirements. Visit software developer's website (ESRI): http://www.esri.com/software/arcgis/arcview/system_requirements.html

Minimum Requirements

Platform	PC-Intel
Operating System	Windows Vista (Ultimate, Enterprise, Business, Home Premium), Windows 2000, or Windows XP (Home Edition and Professional)
Memory	1 GB RAM
Processor	1.6 GHz

Required supplies: Textbook
Getting to Know ArcGIS Desktop. 2nd edition updated for ArcGIS 9. by T. Ormsby, et al., Redlands, CA: ESRI Press. 2008. ISBN: 9781589482104. The textbook comes with a 180-day trial version of the software and tutorials.

- For hardware and operating system requirements visit the ESRI PRESS web site (www.esri.com/esripress) and browse to the link for this textbook.
- I encourage you to visit this ESRI education website with FAQs: http://www.esri.com/industries/university/education/student-eval93_faqs.html
- Make sure the textbook comes with new, unopened software – version 9.3. The software can only be installed on ONE computer and ONE time.
- It is possible to work with 9.3 in class and 9.2 at home but it is more difficult. Do NOT buy a textbook with software versions earlier than 9.2.
- If you use the free software provided by Saddleback, you may purchase a used copy of the textbook. This will save you money but you won't have access to all the textbook tutorials.

Required supplies: Thumb drive
You need an electronic data storage device – a flash drive or thumb drive. All work done in class will be erased from the classroom computers when you log out. You need some way to save your files.

Lab assignments. There will be a lab assignment each class. Most lab assignments will be completed during class time. Students are encouraged to work with each other on lab assignments. (Each lab is worth 5 points, your best ten count toward the final score = 50 points).

Exams. There will be a midterm and final exam. These exams are comprehensive and are designed to assess general understanding of the material and familiarity with the software. Check your schedule – make sure you are able to attend the final exam class.

Exams are independent evaluations, not group work. The exam format is problem solving and short answers. Each exam is worth 10 points.

Presentations. Students will design and fulfill a final project including data acquisition, data manipulation and analysis, evaluation and presentation. (15 points)

You must do the assignments and take the exams during the scheduled timed to receive credit. **No make up exams will be given** except in a case of an emergency verified by a doctor's note, etc.

Grades

Lab Assignments	50 points
Midterm Exam	10 points
Final Exam	10 points
Class Presentation	15 points
Total	85 points

Student email. I will communicate with the class through Saddleback email. Make sure you can access your Saddleback email account. You may forward Saddleback email to another address if you prefer. It is the student's responsibility to make sure your accounts are working properly.

Blackboard – used to post class materials and grades, and to encourage student interaction.

Classroom Guidelines.
Any form of cheating, including copying another person's work (plagiarism) is not acceptable. Participating in such activities may result in a failing grade for the assignment or the class.

Arrive on time and stay to the end of class. Repeated tardiness or leaving early may affect your grade.

If you drop the class, please follow procedures set by Saddleback. It is the student's responsibility to complete all necessary paperwork.

No food or drink is allowed in the classroom.