



Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

GIS 110 (12530A)

Monday 7:00-9:50pm

GEOG 110 (12530D)

8/23/2010-12/13/2010

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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.
- 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):

Minimum Requirements

Processor	1.6 GHz or higher Intel Core Duo, Pentium 4 or Xeon
Operating System	Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7
Memory	1 GB RAM
Space	~ 1.2 GB of free space
Also:	Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher

The software does not run on MACs

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.

- Make sure the textbook comes with new, unopened software – version 9.3 or higher. The software can only be installed on ONE computer and only ONE time.
- 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.

Lab assignments. There will be a lab assignment each class. Some lab assignments will be completed during class time; some while require additional work after class. 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)

Quizzes. There will be 5 very short pop quizzes. Each quiz counts as one point. If you miss a quiz you cannot make it up.

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

<u>Grades</u>	Quizzes	5 points
	Lab Assignments	50 points
	Midterm Exam	10 points
	Final Exam	10 points
	<u>Class Presentation</u>	<u>15 points</u>
	Total	90 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.