COURSE NAME:  GISC 5300.002: Bases of Geographic Information Systems - 3 sem. hrs.
GISC 5300.W01: Bases of Geographic Information Systems - 3 sem. hrs.
ESCI 5490.004: Advanced Topics: Foundations of Geographic Information Systems - 3 sem. hrs.

INSTRUCTOR:  Mr. Richard Smith
Office: CBI 113, Phone: (361) 825-2750
Email: Richard.Smith@tamucc.edu

CONSULTATION:  9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Tuesday,
                 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM Thursday or by appointment.
                 Available during these times on Skype as richardsmith-gsen
Virtual Office Hours: http://vyou.com/RickSmith

LECTURE TIMES:  Wednesday 6:00PM – 9:00PM
                 Lecture is recorded and posted on IOL immediately after lecture ends

LECTURE LOCATION: CI 229 and on the Island Online (IOL) using Blackboard 8
                  http://iol.tamucc.edu

COURSE WEBSITE:  The Island Online (IOL) at: http://iol.tamucc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Basic principles and concepts of GIS via fundamental geographic and cartographic concepts.
Understanding and use of GIS software to analyze data and produce maps. May not apply for credit toward the GSEN-MS degree.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
1. Understand the principle concepts of geographic information systems and science
2. Be familiar with the concepts of geography
3. Be familiar with the software used to execute geospatial reasoning and analysis
4. Be familiar with basic cartographic principles
5. Be familiar with areas of application of geographic information systems

REQUIRED TEXTS:
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Course requirements include the following:
  1. Attend/watch lectures and participation in class discussions.
  2. Completion of assignments by scheduled due dates.
  3. Completion of application papers by scheduled due dates.
  4. Completion of exams by scheduled due dates.

EVALUATION:
  1. Exam 1: 15%
  2. Exam 2: 18%
  3. Exam 3: 22%
  4. GIS Application Papers: 10%
  5. Assignments: 35%
    TOTAL: 100%

GRADE COMPUTATION:
  A  ≥90
  B  ≥80 and <90
  C  ≥70 and <80
  D  ≥65 and <70
  F  <65

DUE DATES:
All assignments must be completed on time. Submission of an assignment after the due date is accepted, but with a penalty of 30% of the grade for the first 24 hours late, and 10% each additional 24 hours.
# COURSE OUTLINE:

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS</td>
<td>Chapters 1 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Internet Mapping</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Data Models</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>GIS Data &amp; Metadata</td>
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<td>Map Projections and Coordinate Systems</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Projections &amp; Transformations</td>
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<td>Maps, Data Entry, Editing and Output</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Digitizing</td>
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<td>GPS</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>GPS</td>
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<td>Aerial and Satellite Images</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Digital Data</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>GIS Data Clearinghouse</td>
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<td>Attribute Data and Tables</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Data creation/editing</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Basic Spatial Analysis</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Basic Spatial Analysis</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis</td>
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<td>Terrain Analysis</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>3D Terrains</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Spatial Estimation</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>Surface Interpolation</td>
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<td>Spatial Modeling</td>
<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Suitable Site Determination</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Data Standards/Quality and Legal Aspects</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td><strong>Exam 3 - Covers Entire Course</strong></td>
<td>50% - Weeks 11-15, 50% - Entire Course</td>
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**Note:** This course outline is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the Instructor may be necessary. The assignments that are given are related to Student Learning Outcomes stated above.
GIS APPLICATION PAPERS:
All students must review five application areas of GIS. The application reviews can be prepared from published literature, WWW, and other media. At least three of the reviews must come from peer-reviewed journals or trade publications. Each application review will consist of a one-page summary and critique of the published article and must adhere to the following requirements:

Format:
1. 1” margins, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 12pt.
2. Title
3. Name, course, assignment type and number in the upper margin.

Title:
Provide a descriptive title explaining the content of the application you are reviewing. (centered, top of page)

Paragraph One:
Introductory paragraph describing the problem being addressed (1/3 page maximum)

Paragraph Two:
Central paragraph describing the GIS solution to the problem; including description of software, hardware, data, data models, algorithms, models as appropriate. “What did they do to solve the problem?”

Paragraph Three:
Conclusion paragraph documenting your evaluation of GIS as the tool to solve the problem; is the correct data, software, hardware, data model...correct. Why or why not?

Reference:
Source of information in lower margin.

Potential sources for articles:
Cartography and Geographic Information Science
GeoInformatica
International Journal of Geographical Information Science
International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research
Transactions in GIS
Computers and Geosciences
Auto-Carto
Computers, Environment, and Urban Systems
Journal of Geographic Information and Decision Analysis
Journal of Geographical Systems

You can access these journals by clicking the “Find Articles” button on the library website: http://rattler.tamucc.edu or by visiting the library on campus.
ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising: The College of Science and Technology requires that graduate students meet with their Graduate Advisor for assistance with initial course selection as soon as the students are accepted to a graduate program. By the end of the first year of graduate studies graduate students should meet with their Graduate Committees to set up a degree plan. Graduate students are also encouraged to contact the appropriate College Academic Advisor regarding any questions or problems with their program of study. The College of Science and Technology Academic Advising Center is located in Faculty Center 178, and can be reached at 825-6094.

Academic Honesty
Cheating and plagiarism will automatically earn zero (0) points for the assignment or exam. All academic work must meet the standards contained in the 2009-2010 Graduate Catalog, pages 28-29, sections titled "Academic Integritiy" and "Academic Honesty" available at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/catalog10/graduate/policies.pdf and Undergraduate Catalog, pages 40-41, sections titled "Academic Integritiy" and "Academic Honesty" available at http://catalog.tamucc.edu/catalog10/undergraduate/policies.pdf

Each student is responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing academic work.

Grade Appeal Process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR COURSES AND LABS
IN THE GSEN PROGRAM
CULTURE, REGULATIONS, MODES OF OPERATION AND PROCEDURES

These guidelines are designed to inform scholars of their responsibilities and of the course requirements in order to make this course a positive experience. The instructor is always available for consultation and discussion with students on any aspect of a course and of these general guidelines.

This course will be conducted mainly via the internet and/or e-mail. So the definition of “meetings” given below refers to the first set of meetings during the first week of the semester AND any other time that you spend studying and working on labs/projects etc.

CLASS CULTURE

1. Consider yourself as a scholar rather than a student. The term “student” may imply some passivity, whereas the term “scholar” implies active participation, understanding and searching. We will use these terms interchangeably with the meaning of “scholar” implied. Osmosis does not work in a learning environment!
2. Further, define yourself as a “thinking explorer”. You are responsible for your education; an instructor can only be a guide and a facilitator. An instructor cannot learn for you. If you come across something that really interests you, explore it further.
3. Your experience at this University should not consist of passing a series of courses to earn a degree. Your experience should rather be a series of activities that will give you an education.
4. Concentrate on “learning to learn”. You will have to be a life-long learner to survive in your chosen career.
5. There is no such thing as a stupid question; there is such a thing as a stupid answer. So ask questions, the instructor is taking all the risks! Ask questions of your instructor and of your fellow scholars. Many times questions are more important than answers.
6. The Internet is a tremendous resource and also a great danger. When you find information on the Internet, you have no idea if it is correct. View such information with caution. But, use the Internet to explore topics that interest you. Do not only prepare for the exam in a course – learn as much as you can on the topics introduced to you by the course material. You are responsible for the extent of your education! READ MINDFULLY !!!!
7. In addition to details of the syllabus given in class, the syllabus for the course includes all the chapters of the required textbook/s unless indicated otherwise by the instructor.
PROCEDURES & REGULATIONS

8. The final letter grade for the class will be based on the raw composite numerical score obtained from the weighted average of the tests, quizzes, exams, labs, etc. as indicated by the instructor. The raw composite numerical score may be adjusted (curved) based on the highest score, the statistical profile of the scores and other academic standards or other considerations. Generally the letter grade of A is 90% and over of the adjusted score, a B is between 80% and 89% (inclusive) of the adjusted score, a C is between 70% and 79% (inclusive) of the adjusted score, a D is below 70% of the adjusted score and an F is below 65% of the adjusted score. An incomplete (I) will only be given in very unusual circumstances. The University regulations on incomplete grades state: “An incomplete notation may be given to a student who is passing but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control other than the lack of time”. Students are expected to take ALL tests, quizzes, exams, etc., and to complete and hand in all labs and other assignments. There is no provision for “extra credit”. No final grades will be given via the telephone, e-mail, etc.

9. All University rules, regulations and expected student conduct apply to this course. Students are held responsible for the information given in the current Catalog and Student Handbook.

10. All labs, assignments, etc. must be handed in on the assigned due date. Scholars having problems must notify the instructor well before the due date. Marks will be deducted for poor and sloppily presented work.

11. Labs, etc. handed in after the due date may be subject to a penalty of loss of marks. Labs, etc. handed in after the graded labs, etc. have been returned to students will get zero marks but must be handed in to the instructor.

12. Scholars are asked to take special note of the penalties, which the University attaches to Academic Dishonesty. Consult the Student Handbook.

13. All work handed in to the instructor must be the student’s own work. Extracts, excerpts, etc. from the work of others must be suitably noted, acknowledged and properly referenced. Any Group Work will be judged in the same way. That is, it is the work of the group and the extracts, excerpts, etc. of others must be acknowledged.

14. All written and graphical work handed in must be presented neatly printed. Student’s written work will be judged on written communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving ability.

15. There are NO provisions for making up missed exams except in cases where prior arrangements have been made and agreed to by the instructor.

16. Students must keep their given university e-mail address (i.e. firstname.lastname@islander.tamucc.edu). This will be the means of the instructor communicating with students.

17. All work submitted to the instructor (via e-mail or other means) must be clearly marked with the student’s name and the name and number of the course – this is especially important when work is submitted as an attachment to an e-mail.

18. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the above with due notice to the students. These changes will be announced to the class (see 16 above) and each student is responsible for keeping herself/himself informed of such changes.