FALL, 2013

GISC 3300 GEOSPATIAL MATHEMATICAL TECHNIQUES 3 Semester Hours
Prereqisites: MATH 2413

Lecture times and location: 11:00 am - 12:15 pm MW CS 103

Instructor: Dr. Peter Kuntu-Mensah
Office hours: 4:00-5:30 pm MW, and by appointment
Office: CBI 105 Phone: 825-3419
e-mail: peter.kuntu-mensah@.tamucc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Characteristics of geographic information; overview of relevant sections of numbers, algebra and geometry; plane and spherical trigonometry; matrices, determinants and vectors; curves and surfaces; coordinate transformations; overview of basic statistics; best-fit solutions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand basic concepts of geographic information
2. Understand how algebra and geometry are applied to GIS
3. Understand the basic principles of plane and spherical trigonometry
4. Understand the basic concepts of coordinate transformations
5. Understand basic statistics as applied to GIS problems

REQUIRED TEXT

“Introduction to mathematical techniques used in GIS” by Peter Dale. CRC Press, 2005

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, ETC.

See attached sheets on "General Course Instructions"

GRADE

The final grade for this course will be made up from the graded marks as follows:

1. Homework assignments 30% of grade
2. Mid-semester exams 35% of grade test dates will be announced!
3. Final Comprehensive Exam 30% of grade
4. Class attendance 5% of grade

ONLY THE TEXTBOOK AND A CALCULATOR WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE MIDTERMS AND THE EXAMS

CHANGES MAY BE MADE BY THE INSTRUCTOR WITH PRIOR NOTICE GIVEN IN CLASS

Each mid semester exam will be based on ALL the course material covered up to the end of the class meeting prior to the exam
SYLLABUS

1. Characteristics of geographic information
2. Numbers and numerical analysis
3. Algebra – treating numbers as symbols
4. The geometry of common shapes
5. Plane and spherical trigonometry
6. Differential and integral calculus
7. Matrices, determinants and vectors
8. Curves and surfaces
9. Transformations
10. Basic statistics
11. Best fit solutions
12. Special geospatial applied statistics

13. 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.

14. ACADEMIC ADVISING: The College of Science and Technology requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor (Francie Jordan. Office: FC 168. Phone: 825-5797. Zip+4: 5806. URL: http://www.sci.tamucc.edu/camsadvising/. Email: francie.jordan@tamucc.edu) as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair.

15. 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.
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.

**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. Keep copious notes of all that is going on in all the meetings related to your course. Make a note of what the instructor is stressing. At the end of each lecture you should be able to answer two questions: **What did I learn from this lecture?** and **What was not clear to me?** At the beginning of each lecture, if the instructor does not ask for questions, you need to ask if there is something you did not understand from the last lecture. Review, consolidate, annotate and organize your lecture/lab notes on a regular basis, at least once a week. 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!
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. The student is responsible for all materials/topics covered in class, in handouts, in assignments, in labs, and in outings or field trips. The instructor is NOT responsible for informing absent students exactly what was covered in previous classes, meetings, etc.

**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 60% of the adjusted score. Students missing more than three unexcused absences can lose 10% of the final grade. 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. Labs will be returned to students, after they have been graded, at a class meeting. Students who miss this meeting will be able to collect graded work in the marked box outside the instructor’s office.

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 and bound (staples are adequate). Students’ written work will be judged on written communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving ability.

15. Students are expected to be present at all meetings (lectures, labs, etc.) of the class. Students are expected to be present at the date and time assigned for all tests, exams, quizzes, etc. There are NO provisions for making up missed exams except in cases where prior arrangements have been made and agreed to by the instructor. 5% of the final grade will be related to attendance at meetings. Missing more than 3 (three) meetings without prior instructor approval will eliminate this part of the final grade.

16. During the assigned lab session, ONLY assigned labs are to be done. All other work must be done in other rooms.

17. All students must keep their university e-mail addresses. This will be the means of communication between the instructor and the class.

18. All cellular phones and other similar devices MUST BE TURNED OFF during lectures, labs and other class meetings including during examinations.

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