GSEN 5390 – Open Source GIS
Geospatial Surveying Engineering Program
Fall 2015

A. **COURSE INFORMATION**

   Course number/section: GSEN 5390.001/W01
   Class meeting time: MW 2:30PM-3:45PM
   Class location: CBI 104
   Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

   Instructor: Dr. Richard Smith, GISP
   Office location: CBI 106
   Office hours: MW 9:00AM-10:30AM
   Telephone: 361-825-2750
   e-mail: Richard.Smith@tamucc.edu
   Appointments: Email or call to make an appointment.

C. **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

   Catalog Course Description
   A survey of free and open source geospatial software (FOSS4G) for desktop and server. Topics covered include free software concepts, FOSS4G desktop and server software, and FOSS4G community engagement.

D. **PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES**

   Prerequisites
   GSEN 5300 or equivalent GIS skills. Intermediate computer operation skills with ability to troubleshoot installation problems.

E. **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES**

   Required Textbook(s)
   None.

   Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
Supplies
• Computer with Windows, Mac OS X, or Linux operating system. You must have administrator/root rights on the computer.
• Various FOSS4G software packages. Download links will be provided.
• Adobe PDF viewer. (e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader).
• Video player able to play MPEG-4 video (Quicktime, VLC, Windows Media Player).
• Speakers/headphones.
• *Online students*: Microphone and webcam.
• *Online students*: Consistent, weekly access to high-speed internet.

F. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT
Assessment is a process used by instructors to help improve learning. Assessment is essential for effective learning because it provides feedback to both students and instructors. A critical step in this process is making clear the course’s student learning outcomes that describe what students are expected to learn to be successful in the course. The student learning outcomes for this course are listed below. By collecting data and sharing it with students on how well they are accomplishing these learning outcomes students can more efficiently and effectively focus their learning efforts. This information can also help instructors identify challenging areas for students and adjust their teaching approach to facilitate learning.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Engage with the FOSS4G community through message boards, wikis, bug trackers, and other outlets as appropriate.
2. Evaluate the free software model versus the proprietary software model as it applies to GIS and surveying.
3. Demonstrate mastery of at least one FOSS4G desktop or server software package.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
All lectures will be presented live in the classroom and recorded for posting online. In-person students will attend live lectures while online students will watch lecture on their own time.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
Student learning outcomes will be assessed through one examination and a number of lab assignments. Labs will be graded based on: completeness, correctness, and documentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software Assignments</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Getting to know FOSS and FOSS4G</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Getting to know FOSS and FOSS4G community</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>QGIS</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment - QGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>QGIS</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment - QGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>QGIS</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment - QGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>QGIS</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment - QGIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>GRASS GIS</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment – GRASS GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>GRASS GIS</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment – GRASS GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Survey of other FOSS4G software</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Survey of other FOSS4G software Evaluation of FOSS4G vs Proprietary</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
<td>Software Assignment Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>Work on Final Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td><strong>Final Project Presentations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Changes in this course schedule may be necessary and will be announced to the class by the Instructor. The assignments and exams shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
Students are expected to attend regular class and lab meetings. Online students are expected to regularly log in to the course website, watch lectures, and submit assignments.

Late Work
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.
Extra Credit
No extra credit options are available for this course. No exceptions.

Food in Class
Do not eat food during class or lab. Food is forbidden in computer labs.

Email
Consider email as official correspondence warranting professional language. Professional emails include elements such as a short descriptive subject line, salutation, complete inquiry in the body of the message, your full name, and course and section number. Unprofessional emails will result in a non-response and request for proper correspondence.

Technological Excuses
Hard drive crashes and other computer woes will not be accepted as excuses for late submission. Students should, given the complexity of the tasks they will pursue, be sure that they maintain adequate backup copies of all aspects of their work. Additionally, plan ahead so that you will have time to use the on-campus computers and printers if necessary. You may NOT submit papers/assignments by e-mail. If for some reason you feel you have to do this, you must ask for, and receive, permission ahead of time; furthermore, you may not consider an e-mailed paper/assignment to be submitted until you have received a reply confirming that I have received the paper/assignment.

Communication about Life Events
It is your (student’s) responsibility to keep up with the course instruction, assignments, and examinations. Should a life event interrupt your ability to meet these responsibilities, you must inform the instructor about this as soon as possible and within a reasonable amount of time so that a course of action can be determined. Communicating with the instructor about these life events in an unreasonable time frame is not acceptable and will not change the outcome of missed work nor will it be a valid reason to receive an ‘Incomplete’ designation for the course.

Originality of Work
Every assignment for this class must be your own work. You may ask for clarification and assistance but you may not copy or use anyone else’s work for any reason in this course, unless explicitly stated in a lab assignment.

Note to Online Students
Lecture recordings will be made available online immediately after the in-class meeting. It is your responsibility to watch the recordings in every week so you stay up with the course. Laboratory assignments will be completed on your home computer and must be submitted digitally to the Island Online on a weekly basis. You are responsible for installing and testing the GIS software and keeping your home computer in good working order.
K. COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

- **Academic Integrity (University)**
  University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

- **Classroom/Professional Behavior**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

- **Statement of Civility**
  Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

- **Deadline for Dropping a Course with a Grade of W (University)**
  The grade of W will be assigned to any student officially dropping a course. Please consult with the instructor before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, visit the Office of the University Registrar for the Course Drop Form that must submitted. No student is eligible to receive a W without completing the official drop process by this deadline. Please consult the Academic Calendar ([http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/](http://www.tamucc.edu/academics/calendar/)) for the last day to drop a course.

- **Grade Appeals (College of Science and Engineering)**
  As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules website at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html, and the College of Science and Engineering Grade Appeals webpage at http://sci.tamucc.edu/students/GradeAppeal.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the chair or director of the appropriate department or school, the Office of the College of Science and Engineering Dean, or the Office of the Provost.

- **Disability Services**
  The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call (361) 825-5816 or visit Disability Services in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

  If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

  [http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/] (http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)

- **Statement of Academic Continuity**
  In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

L. **OTHER INFORMATION**

- **Academic Advising**
  The College of Science & Engineering requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor 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. Meetings are by appointment only; advisors do not take walk-ins. Please call or stop by the Advising Center to check availability and schedule an appointment. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Center for Instruction 350 or can be reached at (361) 825-3928.

GENERAL DISCLAIMER
I reserve the right to modify the information, schedule, assignments, deadlines, and course policies in this syllabus if and when necessary. I will announce such changes in a timely manner during regularly scheduled lecture periods.