GSCS 6102 Graduate Seminar
School of Engineering and Computing Sciences
Fall 2016

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GSCS-6102-001
Class meeting time: Lecture: T 4:30-5:20 PM
Class location: CS 112 (unless otherwise announced)
Course Website: Accessed via Blackboard (Bb): https://bb9.tamucc.edu/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Michael J. Starek
Assistant Professor of Geospatial Engineering & GISc
School of Engineering and Computing Sciences
Director of the Geospatial Computing Lab and MANTIS
Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science
Office location: NRC 3407
Office hours: M,W 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM, T 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Telephone: 361.825.3978
Contact e-mail: Send via Bb messages using course website
Office e-mail: michael.starek@tamucc.edu, for urgent matters only; include “GSCS 6102” in subject line.
Appointments: Schedule by email, phone, or stop by my office.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
Advanced topic study and presentation by students, faculty, or visiting scientists. Meets one hour weekly. Must be taken three times by all GSCS PhD students.

Extended Course Description
This one credit course is meant to give students practice in reviewing relevant literature, technical writing, and speaking in front of an audience and to explore topics of their own choosing in detail. Students will research topics and organize presentations for faculty and other students. The topics may be any aspect of the geospatial and computing sciences and must be approved by the instructor in advance. Unless cleared with me, you may not give a presentation similar to one you have delivered in another class. To help students improve as speakers and writers, each student will receive feedback from the fellow students and the instructor. Peer evaluations on writing and presentations will be done in class and individual evaluations will be done with the instructor.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES
Prerequisites
None

Corequisites
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
None

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References
Journal articles and additional reading materials may be provided on occasion.

Supplies
None

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:

• Find and interpret peer-reviewed journal articles related to geospatial computing
• Identify a research topic and develop a background literature review
• Formulate a research plan including methodology and expected results
• After initial investigation, analyze the research plan and adjust to achieve outcomes
• Present the research results in a technical report format that is grammatically cohesive.
• Present the research results in an oral format that is professional in manner.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Presentations, Discussions.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

• Presentations / Writeups (20%): Students are expected to give a series of presentations during the semester on their topic and related readings. This will include a presentation for the research topic selection, presentations about prior research in the literature, weekly to bi-weekly presentations on research progress. Occasionally presentations may
be replaced or coupled with a short writeup on a research paper.

- **Project White Paper** (10%): Includes a writeup on the proposed topic, background literature review, proposed methodology and expected results.
- **Project Final Report and Presentation** (60%): There will be one research oriented project. Each student needs to select an ongoing research topic and work on it as a project. In the end, each student needs to submit a paper/technical report. Also, a final presentation will be required for evaluating the performance.
- **Attendance** (10%): Students are expected to attend the weekly seminar on time.
- **Grade Scale:** A (90-100%) B (80-89%) C (70-79%) D (60-69%) F (<60%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Average</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whitepaper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE is tentative and subject to change. The official schedule will be on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE (BY DAY OR WEEK)</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Selecting research topics</td>
<td>Presentation 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Selecting research topics</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Literature Survey</td>
<td>Presentation 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Literature Survey</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Develop research plan</td>
<td>Presentation 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Develop research plan</td>
<td>White Paper Due</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Presentation 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Presentation 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Presentation 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Presentation 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Research progress report</td>
<td>Presentation 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Final report dry run</td>
<td>Discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Last class: Final Report</td>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Exam week</td>
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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
Attendance is required since the student will be responsible for all materials that are covered in class. If you miss a class due to unavoidable circumstances, you should copy class notes from another student in the class. Attendance is mandatory for exams and the final exams. Repeated tardiness will not be tolerated.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
No late work allowed without prior permission of the instructor (very difficult to obtain)

Cell Phone Use
Cell phones must be TURNED OFF and not utilized during class.

Laptop Use
Turn off the personal laptop. During the lecture time, the laptop is not needed. A personal laptop is allowed only when the instructor gives the permission.

Food in Class
NOT permitted.

Participation
In-group and individual activities on a regular basis will count towards your final grade.

Others
All work submitted for grading must be the student's own work. Plagiarism will result in a score of 0 (zero) for the work or dismissal from the course and the Dean of Students office will be notified. No copying from another student's work, or past work, of any type is allowed. It is the student's duty to allow no one to copy his or her work. Anyone found cheating and/or copying, in the exams or assignments, in the instructor's opinion, may receive an automatic F for the course.

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 be 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/) 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.