Geospatial Analytical Methods   GSEN 5390 W01  
School of Engineering and Computing Science  
Fall 2016

A. COURSE INFORMATION
Course number/section:  GSEN5390 W01  
Class meeting time:  Online  
Course Website:  https://bb9.tamucc.edu/

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Instructor:  Dr. Lucy Huang  
Office location:  CBI 109  
Office hours:  TR 1:00 – 2:30 PM  W 10 - 12 PM  
Telephone:  361-825-2646  
e-mail:  Lucy.Huang@tamucc.edu  
Appointments:  Email the instructor for making an appointment

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will focus on geospatial analytical methods particularly multivariate statistics and applications of the statistical procedures to research geospatial problems. Research on geospatial problems often requires the application of multivariate statistical methods to produce new insight. Various existing statistic software is available to conduct multivariate statistical analysis, however, the interpretation of the results rely on solid understanding of statistic principles and theories.

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES
Prerequisites
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES
Required Textbook(s)

Optional Textbook(s) or Other References

Required Software
ESRI’s ArcGIS 10.1 or higher; Microsoft Excel
Required Software & Hardware for Online Students

- Windows Operating System (XP/Vista/7).
- ArcGIS 10.1 or higher with 3D Analyst and Spatial Analyst extensions. This is provided in lab on campus. If attending online, software will be provided as a download.
- Adobe PDF viewer. (e.g. Adobe Acrobat Reader).
- Video player able to play MPEG-4 video (Quicktime, VLC, Windows Media Player).
- Web browser with Java Virtual Machine installed.
- Speakers or headphones connected to computer are required for online students.
- Microphone or headset connected to computer.
- High-speed internet access required.

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). Understand the principle and use of statistics for spatial analysis
2). Master various multivariate statistic methods for analyzing geospatial data
3). Apply multivariate statistical methods to solve research problems in geospatial applications

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Note to Online Students

- You are responsible for checking emails (your islander account) daily for announcements, lectures, labs, exams and other assignments.
- Lectures will be posted on Class BlackBoard immediately after the in-class meeting. It is your responsibility to read the lectures in a timely fashion so you stay up with the course.
- Laboratory and other assignments will also be posted on BlackBoard and will be completed on your home computer and must be submitted digitally to the BlackBoard online on time by the due date.
- You are responsible for installing the required software in a timely fashion and keeping your home computer and internet access in working order.
H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BlackBoard Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article Review</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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The following grading scale applies:
A  >90
B  80 and <90
C  70 and <80
D  60 and <70
F  <60

Assignments
There are tentatively seven (7) assignments. The assignments will be posted on BlackBoard every other week, normally on Mondays. Some of the assignments may include labs and use ArcGIS or other GIS software.

Term Project
Each student is required to develop a project by the end of the semester. The project will allow students to solve a specific statistic-related geospatial question based on what they have learned from this course. Students are encouraged to use the data in their own fields. Each student must: 1) submit a one-page double spaced project proposal; and 2) complete a term paper to report the methodology and your findings.

The project proposal must include the objective(s) of the project, GIS data, and proposed spatial statistic methods that will be used for the project.

The length of the final report is 10-15 pages, 12 pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, 1" margins, and 8.5" by 11" paper space. The final report should follow the format of formal journal articles including at least, Abstract, Introduction, Data/Methods, Results/Discussion, Conclusions, and References.

BlackBoard Discussion
A weekly discussion topic will be posted on BlackBoard at the beginning of each week normally on Mondays, and due on the following Sunday. The BlackBoard Discussion takes 10% of the total grade.
Each student is expected to read four (4) statistic analysis articles that deal with geospatial data and develop a review for each article. The articles should be peer-reviewed publications, published in journal literature (prefer) or conferences. Each article review should be typed in **TWO pages** (double spaced). Each review will be given a maximum of 10 points. The review should include at least the following five components:

1. Introduce the topic of the article by summarizing the issue or problem discussed in the article
2. Summarize the main research presented in the article, including, for example, data/methods, results, conclusions
3. General evaluation/critique – your opinions of how well (or poorly) the authors did this study, such as what are the contributions of this study? What are the overall strengths? What might be missing? What are some next steps for this study?
4. The full bibliographic reference of the article.

**Format of the Full Bibliographic Reference**

*Articles in Journals*


*Conference proceedings*


*Journals that cover GIS*

Cartography and Geographic Information Systems
Computers and Geosciences
Computers, Environment and Urban Systems
Journal of Geographical Systems
Geoinformatica
International Journal of Geographical Information Science
Transactions in GIS
Environment and Planning B
International Journal of Health Geographics

*Interlibraryloan provided by our library is a good resource to request articles from other libraries.*
I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE *(Subject to modifications)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Due (on Fridays*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug. 25 – Sept. 2</td>
<td>Introduction to statistical methods for geography Descriptive statistics</td>
<td>Ch 1 2</td>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>Sept. 5 – 16</td>
<td>Probability and discrete probability distributions Continuous probability distributions and probability models</td>
<td>Ch 3,4</td>
<td>Assignment 2 Article Review 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Sept. 18 – 30</td>
<td>Inferential statistics: confidence intervals, hypothesis testing and sampling</td>
<td>Ch 5</td>
<td>Assignment 3 Article Review 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Oct. 3 – 14</td>
<td>Analysis of variance</td>
<td>Ch 6</td>
<td>Assignment 4 Article Review 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Oct. 17 – 28</td>
<td>Correlation and spatial autocorrelation</td>
<td>Ch 7</td>
<td>Assignment 5 Project Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-11</td>
<td>Oct. 31 – Nov. 11</td>
<td>Regression analysis</td>
<td>Ch 8,9,11</td>
<td>Assignment 6 Article Review 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13</td>
<td>Nov. 14 – 25</td>
<td>Spatial Patterns Data Reduction</td>
<td>Ch 10,12</td>
<td>Assignment 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-15</td>
<td>Nov. 28- Dec. 6</td>
<td>Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>Project report (due to Dec. 8)</td>
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</table>

*An assignment will be posted on BlackBoard every other week, normally on Mondays. Each assignment will have a due date clearly written under the title of the assignment. Assignments are normally due on Fridays. For example, Assignment 1 is due on Friday, Sept. 2.*

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

**Late Work**
All assignments have a specific due date and it must be completed on time. Check the Section “Course Outline” for the due date for each assignment. Any assignment that is turned in after the due date is considered late. Submission of a late assignment is accepted, but with a penalty of 10% of the grade per day (including weekends). *Late assignments will only be accepted up to ONE WEEK after they are due. Exceptions are possible only with prior permission and for exceptional cause (with written documentation). Please work well ahead of the deadlines!*

**Extra Credit**
There is no provision for “extra credit”. No final grades will be given via the telephone, e-mail, etc.
Cell Phone Use
All cellular phones and other similar devices MUST BE TURNED OFF during lectures, labs and other class meetings

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 labs/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 lab/assignment to be submitted until you have received a reply confirming that I have received the paper/assignment.

Communication about Life Events
It is the 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.

Others
- Unless explicitly noted otherwise, the work in this course is to be done independently.
- Grades can be appealed up to two weeks after they have been posted; no appeals will be considered after that time.

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](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](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/

- **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.