COSC 6102 Graduate Seminar  
Department of Computing Sciences  
Spring 2017

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GSCS 6102  
Class meeting time: Friday 2:00PM - 2:50PM  
Class location: BH-202  
Course Website: blackboard

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Scott A. King  
Office location: CI 341  
Office hours: Tue 1:00PM-3:30PM, Wed 9:00AM-11:30AM  
Telephone: 361 825-5877  
e-mail: Scott.King@TAMUCC.edu  
Appointments: Send me an email with possible times.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
Advances 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
Students will find research articles related to their topics, occasionally articles will be provided by the instructor

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
- Read and annotate research articles
- Identify a research topic and develop a background literature review
- Formulate a research plan including methodology and expected results
- Present research results in a technical report format that is grammatically cohesive.
- Present research results in an oral format that is professional in manner.

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES
This class will include open discussions on a given paper, where all students are expected to read the material in advance. There will also be presentations by students with other students discussing the work and giving feedback. Student will search for research materials primarily using the internet, but also the library. Students will read many articles at various levels of scrutiny.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
The major components of your grade are as follows

- Research Project (50%) – Students will work on a research project throughout the semester and will give presentation(s), a bibliography, a white paper, and a final paper.
- Bibliographies (10%) – Students will create annotated bibliographies on topics throughout the semester.
- Presentations (30%) – Students will give several presentations throughout the semester.
- Attendance (10%) – Students are expected to make all class times, be on-time and participate.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Project</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliographies</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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Grade Scale: A (90-100%) B (80-89%) C (70-79%) D (60-69%) F (<60%).

I. COURSE CONTENT/SCHEDULE

<table>
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<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>How to read a paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>Selecting Research Topics</td>
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<td>5-6</td>
<td>Literature Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Presentation Tips</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Submitting Articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Progress Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Presentation Dry Runs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam 8 Dec 1:45-4:15</td>
<td>Final Presentations</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 shown are directly related to the Student Learning Outcomes described in Section F.

J. COURSE POLICIES

Attendance/Tardiness
You are expected to be to all class periods.

Late Work and Make-up Exams
Work will be marked off at 10%/day for 3 days. Make-up exams only in the case of missing class for an appropriate reason, and only if arrangements made in advance.

Extra Credit
None

Cell Phone Use
Cell phones need to be turned off or on vibrate.

Laptop Use
Laptops may be used and necessary for working on your assignments. They should only be used for course work.

Food in Class
No food or drink is allowed in the lab.

Missed Exam
You must make arrangements before missing an exam.

Participation
You are expected to do you reading and cover course materials before class and be prepared to discuss the current topic. You are also expected to be active in the discussion.

Others
All writing is to be your own work. Proper citations are required. Failure to cite will be considered plagiarism.

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)
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. 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/

- **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.