Geospatial Systems I – GISC 1470.001/.201/.202
Department of Computing Sciences
Fall 2019

A. COURSE INFORMATION

Course number/section: GISC 1470.001/.201/.202
Class meeting time: Lecture (001): TR 12:30 – 01:45 PM
Labs
201: R 02:00 – 04:45 PM
202: T 09:30 AM – 12:15 PM
Class location: Lecture (001): OCNR 116
Labs (201 & 202): CI 229
Course Website: http://bb9.tamucc.edu

B. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Hongzhi Song
Office location: CBI 108
Office hours: M 3:30 – 4:30 PM;
R 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
W 3:30 – 5:30 PM;
or by appointment
Telephone: 361-825-3198
e-mail: hongzhi.song@tamucc.edu
Appointments: By request. Contact via email to schedule an appointment.

C. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Catalog Course Description
Introduction to Geographic Information Systems. Acquisition and conversion of data for

D. PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES

Prerequisites
None

E. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S), READINGS AND SUPPLIES

Required Textbook(s)
Bolstad, Paul. GIS Fundamentals, A First Text on Geographic Information Systems. 5th
Edition.

Suggested Supplies
Data Storage Mechanism - Thumb drive or external hard drive or Cloud Storage for Lab Data

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 concepts of geographic information systems and science
2. Be familiar with the concepts of geography
3. Be familiar with the software used to execute geospatial reasoning and analysis
4. Be familiar with basic cartographic principles
5. Be familiar with areas of application of geographic information systems

G. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

Lectures & labs.

H. MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Student learning outcomes will be assessed through following activities. All reports and the presentation will be graded on: grammar, neatness, professionalism, and clarity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>% of FINAL GRADE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratory Assignments</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance, Quizzes and Participation</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>10</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 (Subject to Change)

The following is a rough outline and is subject to change. See the course website for the most up to date information.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Data Models</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Data Models</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Map Projections</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Coordinate Systems</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Application Paper</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>GPS</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Aerial and Satellite Imagery</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Digital Data</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Attribute Data and Tables</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Basic Spatial Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Exam (TBD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis, Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Final Exam</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**
- Students are expected to be in attendance, punctual, and prepared for class.

**Late Work and Make-up Exams**
- A 10% penalty per day will be applied to late assignments up to one week after they are due date/time. This means that assignments handed in late on the due date or the next calendar day get a 10% point deduction, for 2 days late this gives a 20% penalty, and so on. Assignments will **NOT** be accepted if handed in more than one week (7x24 hours) after the due date/time. If you know in advance that you will be late for an assignment, let the instructor know in advance (via email with an official document), and it will be decided by the instructor whether an exception can be made on a case-by-case basis. Make-up Exams and assignments are not permitted except for official documentation, exceptional reasons.
Extra Credit
• Extra Credit questions/problems are possible and if there is any, it will be given in some of the tests and homework.

Cell Phone Use
• Please refrain from the use of electronic devices during class, as it is distracting to not only you, but also to your instructor and peers. Silence your phones and put them away so you are not tempted to stray off task.

Laptop Use
• Laptops will be permitted for particular activities as deemed appropriate.

Food in Class
• No food is allowed during labs.

Missed Exam
• If you have a conflict with an exam date, please let me know as soon as you know about the conflict.

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 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.

• **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, do not wait last minute to do the work. You may NOT submit assignments by email. 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 emailed assignment to be submitted until you have received a reply confirming that I have received the 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.

Prior Learning and Lecture Slides:

The professor will assume that prior to class you have made an earnest effort to understand the material. This will allow you to be prepared to engage the material in more detail or address misunderstandings in class. The slides in class are primarily for visual learners who need to both hear words and see text as they are learning. They are not meant for students to copy as a substitute for prior studying and learning. As such, students should not frantically try to write down everything from the lecture slides. Lecture is simply another time and place to encounter the material again since repeat exposure helps with memory and understanding. As such, your in-class lecture notes do not need to be extremely lengthy. Additionally, please pay attention to what is not on the slides, that is, the extra examples and vocabulary the professor mentions that are related to the slides.

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/](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.