TENTATIVE SYLLABUS - GEOGRAPHY 215 online - UW-Milwaukee

GEOGRAPHY 215, Summer 2015 (07/20 – 08/15)

Introduction to Geographic Information Science
Lectures: D2l online

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces basic concepts and techniques of geographic information systems (GIS) to those who have no prior experience on GIS. It emphasizes the fundamental GIS concepts and terms, and the basic GIS techniques by using ArcGIS 10.1. It introduces the history of GIS, basic knowledge on maps, coordinate systems, data structures, basic GIS spatial analysis, and mapping with GIS. All class materials (lectures, exercises, and quizzes) will be available online through D2l. Each specific topic and exercise will be introduced by video with transcript. Discussion forums are hosted in D2l. Students are expected to learn through these online materials, and to interact with other students through online D2l discussion forums, that is, students are expected to ask questions and answer others’ questions via the D2l online forums.

REQUIRED TEXTS (RESERVED IN UWM LIBRARY)


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. EXERCISES. Following each topic, an exercise (10 in total) will be required as homework.
2. ONLINE QUIZZES. Following each topic, there will be an online quiz.
3. ONLINE EXAMINATIONS. Two online examinations will be offered through D2l.
4. CLASS PARTICIPATION. This requires students actively participate asking and answering questions for exercises and projects on the online discussion forums in D2l. An initial introduction post will also be required.
5. CLASS PROJECT. Every student will be required to complete a class project (mainly focus on a simple mapping task). Detail of the requirement will be posted in D2l.

WORKLOAD/TIME COMMITMENT, on average, a student is expected to spend the following amount of time (hrs) in this class: time in classroom (40), time spent online reading lecture and other materials (13), time in discussions online or in persons (8), time in laboratories (22), time taking exams (4), time in tutorials (44), time for completing assignments (22), and time for preparation and study (39).

GRADING AND EVALUATION

1. Quizzes (20%) The online quizzes account for 20% of the final grade. Students will be asked to complete them by their respective due dates.
2. Exercises (40%). There will be a number of exercises/tutorials for which the brief introductions will be provided. Homework will be assigned for grading. They totally account for 40% of the final grade.
3. Examinations (20%). There will be a mid-term and a final examination for this course (10% for midterm and 10% for final). Both will be offered online.

4. Class participation (10%). Introduction post to everybody in the class will be considered participation. Questions on exercises and quizzes can be posted in D2L online forums. Both asking and answering questions will be counted as class participation. Sharing how you learn and material you feel helpful would also be considered as class participation. Detail will be posted on D2L. Anything else that would help others’ learning will be considered.

5. Class project (10%). Each student will work on a class project that accounts for 10% of the final grade. The detail will be announced on D2L.

6. Grading Scale:
   - A = 90-100%, A- = 87-89.99%
   - B+ = 83-86.99%, B = 80-82.99%, B- = 77-79.99%
   - C+ = 73-76.99%, C = 70-72.99%, C- = 67-69.99%
   - D+ = 63-66.99%, D = 60-62.99%, D- = 57-59.99%
   - F = 0-56.99%

D2L

Announcements, lecture slides, lab instructions, and grades will be distributed through D2L. It is students’ responsibility to check your D2L account and UWM email account regularly.

SOFTWARE

ArcGIS™ version 10.1. A free 18-month trial version of the ArcGIS 10.1 will be provided with the lab book. You can install this software in your own computer to work on the exercises. You must register (free) with ESRI to activate the software. You can also download the data and software that are provided with the book from the publisher’s web site (ESRI).

COMPUTING HELP

If you have a computer or computing problem, you can always consider the UWM Help Desk (https://www4.uwm.edu/uits/help/help_desk/index.cfm) a potential help.
   Telephone: (414) 229-4040
   Email: GetTechHelp@uwm.edu
   Location: Bolton 225

This may include (but not limited to) the unusual problems in D2L, managing folders and files using Windows Explorer, transferring files using an FTP server, or installing software on your own personal computer.

POLICIES

Please be advised that Geography 215 abides by all the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee’s official policies on disabilities, religious observances, active military duty, incompletes, discriminatory conduct, academic misconduct, complaint procedures, and grade appeal procedures. For more information, please see the following link, http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf.

If you need any special accommodations due to disability or illness, please first seek help from the Student Resource Center at UWM. They will provide professional help and then inform me for any accommodations I should provide. I will do my best to accommodate. You can always contact me for any help you need to facilitate your learning.
The following are the tentative topics that will be covered in this four-week session (07/20-08/15). The specific time for each topic, quiz, and assignment will be announced after the class starts. This schedule is subject to change as we approach July 20.

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<td>Basic definitions, brief history of GIS</td>
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<td>How can the terrain be represented and analyzed?</td>
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<td>Issues and problems in the future GIS</td>
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