

GGY 215: The Digital Globe

Fall 2009

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- Schedule:** August 19 through December 2 (see the weekly schedule)
- Online Course:** This is a fully online course and as such does not require any specific day or time to meet as a group. However, assignments are due weekly so plan to attend online every week!
- Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Communicate with me via the email tool in Blackboard. I will be online and logged into Blackboard during these office hours so you can also use the chat function. If you would like to meet in person you can stop by my office during office hours. If these times do not work with your schedule then please suggest possible times and we'll figure it out.
- Course Objective:** This course is about exploring the world around us by learning how geographers use maps to analyze spatial patterns, investigate cultural landscapes, and quantify physical environments such as weather and landform processes. Geographers are travelers; we go to places to study them. Unfortunately, we can't take you all around the globe, so in this class we will do some virtual travelling by using a variety of software tools including an extensive set of web sites. So, this fully online course will take you around the world as you learn a variety of mapping and geographical analysis techniques.
- Learning Methods:** The course is laid out in "learning modules" that you will complete each week. The modules consist of readings from your text book, assignments using a variety of software tools, and quizzes. Given that each student in the course has their own demands on their time (e.g. other courses, jobs, etc.) we will not have any set schedule to meet online for discussions. However, there is a strict schedule to the course where you must complete a module each week. You can complete the modules early, but you must not miss a deadline for the module quiz or else the quiz will expire and you will get a 0 grade. You should also complete the modules in sequence (1, 2, 3, etc.) because the material builds throughout the semester. In addition to the Learning Modules there are two exams: a midterm and a final. The midterm covers material from the first 7 Learning Modules and the Final is comprehensive.
- Text:** Campbell, John, 2001, *Map Use & Analysis, Fourth Edition*. McGraw-Hill Higher Education, New York, NY.

Blackboard: On the main course content page you will find the: Learning Modules folder, the course syllabus, the schedule, a folder with links to the software you will need to download to do some of the exercises, and a link to the Blackboard web site if you need help with the course user interface. You will be given instructions in the assignments for downloading and using the additional software. It is highly recommended that you have a PC computer (not a Mac) since most software is written for this platform. In Blackboard, it is important that you do not block any pop-ups (turn off your pop-up blocker), that you do not use Internet Explorer 8 (I find Mozilla Firefox works well), and that you have a version of Java that works with the Blackboard software. When you first login to Blackboard you should check your browser to make sure it is set up correctly (there's a link in the upper right of the window).

Exams: Again, there are two exams (one midterm and a final) and they will be held at specific dates and times so check the course schedule which is on the main course content page.

Attendance: No attendance will be taken in this course since it is self-paced. However, you will only be successful in this course if you pay attention to the schedule, do your weekly assignments and quizzes, and study for the two exams.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined as: midterm – 20%, final exam (comprehensive) – 20%, and Module Quizzes – 60%. The grading scale is 94-100%=A, 90-93%=A-, 87-89%=B+, 84-86%=B, 80-83%=B-, 77-79%=C+, 74-76%=C, 70-73%=C-, 67-69%=D+, 64-66%=D, 60-63%=D-, and below 60%=F.

Academic Honor Code: UNCW “is committed to the proposition that the pursuit of truth requires the presence of honesty among all involved... According to UNCW’s Code of Student Life, “all students shall be responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that helps to enhance an environment of learning in which the rights, dignity, worth and freedom of each member of the academic community are respected” (page 4). The academic honor code also specifies that “no form of dishonesty among its faculty or students will be tolerated”. “It shall be the responsibility of every faculty member, student, administrator and staff member of the university community to uphold and maintain the academic standards and integrity of the university. Any member of the university community who has reasonable grounds to believe that an infraction of the Academic Honor Code has occurred has an obligation to report the alleged violation” Plagiarism, bribery, and cheating are not allowed and will lead to disciplinary action. It is the student’s responsibility to conform to the academic honor code at all times. Read pages 6 and 7 of the Code of Student Life in order to clearly understand the definitions of plagiarism, bribery and cheating.