

GGY 426: Environmental Geographic Information Systems (4 credits)
GGY 526: Environmental Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)
Prerequisite: GGY 328 (Introduction to GIS) or Consent of Instructor

Fall 2009

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I prefer to be contacted by email

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-1:50 (DL 114)
Labs 426/526-200: Monday and Wednesday 2:00-3:50 (DL 125)
Labs 426/526-201: Monday and Wednesday 4:00-5:50 (DL 125)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-4:00. I prefer to meet with students to discuss class issues during the designated office hours because this time is dedicated for this purpose. I work across campus and elsewhere so it is best that you use the office hours first and if that isn't convenient please contact me via email and we'll schedule an appointment.

Course Description: The goals of this course are for students to read and discuss environmental applications of GIS and to develop a GIS project that incorporates several common environmental spatial analysis techniques. Therefore, the course consists of two parts: a theoretical component covered during the lecture periods and readings from the course text book and an applied component where you develop a GIS project, analyze spatial and aspatial data, and professionally present the project by developing a poster and final report. The theoretical component of the course may consist of a combination of lectures, student presentations, and group discussions of the assigned readings. Each of you will be assigned a reading where you will present the main points of the reading to the class. Your responsibilities for the lecture component of the course are to:

- 1) Read the assigned chapters from the course text book and any other additional readings I assign
- 2) Be prepared for class
- 3) Participate in the classroom discussions

Lab Assignments: You will be working on a semester-long project that I will design for you. Each week you will complete one component for the project. Throughout the semester I will assign lab exercises that are intended to increase your awareness of some of the capabilities of GIS and will enable you to complete various aspects of your semester-long project. You must complete these assignments by the specified date and time. No assignments will be accepted after the due date and time. Your responsibilities for the lab component of the course are to:

- 1) Complete the lab assignments on time,
- 2) Learn the material and techniques contained in the assignments,
- 3) Keep excellent data management and organization,
- 4) Keep a lab notebook with detailed descriptions of the techniques and file names and locations (data management record).

Spatial Analysis Lab (DL 125): The lab is open during regular office hours (8 to 5, Monday through Friday). For security reasons the door to the lab is locked when no one is using the facility. If you find the door locked, please go to the Geography and Geology dept. office to ask one of the staff personnel to unlock the door for you. During after-hours you can get access to the facility by calling the campus police (962-2222) who will have a list of all students registered in the course. Make sure you have your student ID with you!

Any misuse of the computer equipment, materials, or infrastructure will result in expulsion from the course. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Text: Bartlett, Darius and Jennifer Smith, 2005. GIS for Coastal Zone Management. CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida.

Attendance: Attendance is required. If you miss two periods (lecture or lab) or are late more than three times for either lecture or lab I will ask you to take a Time Management online course. If you do not complete this short course you will lose a letter grade from your total grade in the course (e.g. an A will become a B). If you complete the Time Management course and still either miss class or are late then you will still drop a letter grade. You can't learn the course material if you are not present, it is disruptive to others and unprofessional if you show up late. So, please plan accordingly so we can get through the material on time and without interruption.

Method of Evaluation: Your final grade will be determined from:

- 1) class participation –10%
- 2) lab assignments – 50%
- 3) final project (report and poster) - 25%
- 4) take home final exam (due Monday, December 7th at 2 pm)- 15%

Academic Honor Code: Plagiarism, bribery, and cheating are not allowed and may lead to disciplinary action. See Code of Student Life:
<http://www.uncw.edu/stuaaff/doso/documents/Code.Of.Student.Life.pdf> for specific information.

Violence and Harassment: UNCW practices a zero tolerance policy for any kind of violent or harassing behavior. If you are experiencing an emergency of this type contact the police at 911 or UNCW CARE at 962-2273. Resources for individuals concerned with a violent or harassing situation can be located at <http://www.uncw.edu/wsrc/crisis.html>.

Personal Electronics: No cell phones, PDAs, MP3 players or other media devices will be allowed in the lecture hall or the Spatial Analysis Lab. Please turn off your cell phones prior to class. Laptops may be used in the lecture hall, but I don't recommend using a laptop since it is distracting and will not help you engage with your peers and participate in the class discussions. If you must use a laptop please sit behind others to avoid being distracting. During the designated lab time you must use the computers only for course work. You will be asked to leave the facility if you use the computers for non course related activities (e.g. web surfing, games, chatting, etc.). These activities are disruptive since many people in the room can see your computer monitor.