

GEOG 794
Professional GIS Project II
Spring 2009

Course Information

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture: Online

Thursdays 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Website: <http://elms.umd.edu>

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Online office hours: Wed 4:00 – 5:00pm

Course Overview and Objectives

This course is the second part the two culminating courses in profession project design for the Master's of Professional Studies in GIS. Implementing and reporting GIS projects is one of required skills for professional GIS practitioners. This course will introduce the components, procedures and methods of implementing, reporting and managing a GIS project. Students will implement the project proposal developed in Geog 793. The project will be a GIS application that can be tested, demonstrating the student's ability to manage and develop a GIS application project in real world situation.

Recommend Text Books

There is no required text for this course. However, following texts are recommended. Students can choose whichever text to read based on their needs.

Albert K.W. Yeung and G. Brent Hall, 2007, Spatial Database Systems: Design, Implementation and Project Management, Springer.

U.M. Shamsi, GIS Applications for Water, 2005, Wastewater, and Stormwater Systems, CRC Press.

Juliana Maantay and John Ziegler, 2006, GIS for the Urban Environment, ESRI Press.

Ellen K. Cromley and Sara L. McLafferty, 2002, GIS and Public Health, The Guilford Press.

Course Requirements and Grading

It is strongly encouraged to attend each class and actively participate in on and offline. By the second week of this course, students are required to provide project time tables describing their detail weekly plan. In order to enforce timely completion of the project, each student must provide weekly progress report as well. Final projects will be evaluated based on the quality of the project implementation including robustness, user friendliness, correctness, and completeness of the outcome.

Participation	5%
Project time table	5%
Weekly progress report	30%
Final project	60%

Makeup policy

Assignments must be turned in by the beginning of the class at which they are due. Online submission through Blackboard is strongly recommended. No late assignments will be accepted without prior arrangement. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the instructor immediately.

Academic honesty

The University of Maryland, College Park, has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit www.shc.umd.edu.

Online Learning

This is an online course with occasional in-person experiences. We will meet online at the announced time for a live audio/video lecture. The lecture will be archived for anyone who absolutely must miss the class, but I encourage you to login at the appointed time so that you can ask questions.

Our class will meet through Blackboard, the university's online learning system. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> to access the course. After you login, our course will be listed in the right column under My Courses. Click on the course link to access the course.

Short videos that illustrate how to use the online learning system are available on the course page. Click the Tutorials button on the left sidebar to access the tutorials.

Hardware and Software Requirements for this course

All students must have a UMD glue account to obtain permissions to access the software in the lab and on the Citrix server. If you have never worked in the Open Lab, contact me to get permission.

You may use either a PC or a Macintosh computer to access Blackboard. Whichever you choose, it must be equipped with the following hardware:

- Webcam
- Headset (including headphones and microphone)

You will also need the following plug-ins (be sure you have the latest versions):

- Real Media
- Flash Player

- Quicktime for PCs
- Quicktime with the Flip4Mac plugin (for Macs)
- FTP software: we recommend Secure FTP for PC and Fetch for Mac. Both of these are free downloads from <http://helpdesk.umd.edu> -- scroll down and choose Software Downloads. If you choose to use a different FTP software, it must be capable of SFTP (secure uploads).

Support for Online Learning

This method of taking classes is undoubtedly new to some of you, so we have a few tools to make life easier for you.

Email

Instructor will be always available for contact by email. Use the email link in the sidebar to send us emails at any time. Instructor will try to answer within 24 hours and probably much sooner.

Online office hours

Online office hours will be provided through Live Classroom each week. The times will be posted in the Announcements. Use the link in the sidebar to access office hours. If necessary, students can make an appointment to have offline face-to-face interaction with the instructor.

On campus office hours

We will post times when we will be available on campus for face-to-face office hours.

Lounge

We have created a place for you to visit with your classmates. This discussion board uses both text and voice. Share everything from discussions about the course material to what you did last weekend. I will look in from time to time but I probably won't respond to anything posted here.

Study Rooms

Several study rooms have been set up for you to form study groups with your classmates. We will not be monitoring these rooms. Remember that the Honor Code specifies that you are free to work together to discuss the assignments but that you must then separately produce an original and independent result.

Group Study and Discussions

Even though projects need to be done on an individual basis, students are encouraged to form discussion groups on and offline in order to promote live interactions between one another.

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics	Assignment Due
Mar 5	Overview and introduction to the project standards Group assignment	
Mar 12	Proposal reviews	Project time table
Mar 19	No class (Spring break)	
Mar 26	Steps for Implementation, part 1	Progress report
Apr 2	Steps for Implementation, part 2	Progress report
Apr 9	Result discussions, conclusion	Progress report
Apr 16	Writing a report: structure and guideline	Progress report
Apr 23	Writing a report: communication and presentation	Progress report
Apr 30	Maintaining and sustaining a GIS project	Progress report
May 7	Student project: final presentation	Progress report
May 14	Student project: final presentation	Final project