

Time: TR 2:00pm – 4:45pm
Location: 308 Tanner Lab

Instructor: Alison Smith Bramlet
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Office: 408 Caldwell Hall
Office Hours: Open Door policy or by appointment
Class Folder: \\CED-CALDWELL\Class\EDES6270-Bramlet

DESCRIPTION

This class will introduce fundamental concepts of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and explore essential mapping skills utilizing GIS and other computer programs as they apply to the field of environmental design.

OBJECTIVES

Knowledge:

- Understand the concepts and terminology of GIS and the capabilities of the ArcGIS software
- Introduce a variety of GIS data sources, learn how to obtain data and develop data management techniques
- Develop a basic proficiency in GIS for data creation, manipulation, analysis and map design/layout and production
- Become familiar with the interaction and integration of GIS and other select software programs

Skills:

- Utilize various resources to obtain data for map creation
- Manipulate spatial data and perform analysis which can be used in a variety of planning and design settings
- Produce quality map layouts that clearly illustrate data and analysis performed

Values:

- Through the introduction and use of GIS and other select software programs, each student should have the ability to make connections between planning and design projects and the capabilities of GIS, and apply the variety of GIS concepts and topics covered in this course.
- Students will be introduced to and develop techniques and methods for an overall GIS workflow which they can develop further, enhance and apply to future projects.

METHOD

This class utilizes lectures, hands-on demonstrations of GIS processes, in-class lab exercises as well as research, readings, tutorial assignments and projects to broaden knowledge and skills for everyone in the class. Students are expected to take notes and satisfactorily complete all assignments and projects. Lab time is provided for students to work on assignments and projects and to receive assistance.

Students are encouraged to work together/in small groups in the computer lab, outside of class time. Students who take advantage of this opportunity will benefit from the interaction with classmates. Students are also encouraged to contact the instructor as often as necessary.

MATERIALS

Lab account, printing abilities, laptop with ArcGIS software installed (disk provided to each student the first day of class), flash or external drives to save/back-up work and data. An external hard drive with ample storage space is recommended for this class.

Please note: It is your responsibility to manage, save and back-up your class files properly. Loss of data due to accidental computer crash or improper file management can never be an appropriate excuse for late submission or deadline extension. Always back-up your files on your personal devices.

READINGS

Required Text:

Getting to Know ArcGIS Desktop, Second Edition, Updated for ArcGIS 10 (ISBN 978-1-58948-260-9).

This book has been ordered at the UGA Bookstore and is available online. If ordering online, make sure to purchase the Second Edition, Updated for ArcGIS 10.

Supplementary Readings:

Additional readings will be posted on eLC/provided as handouts or on reserve in the Owens Library.

GRADING

15% = Assignments/Tutorials

20% = In-Class Labs

25% = Midterm Project

40% = Final Project

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading is based on the University System Percentage as follows:

- A** (4.0) = 93%-100% **Excellent:** Work which demonstrates superior graphic ability with logical and analytical communication quality. Changes or revisions would be minimal.
- A-** (3.7) = 89%-92%
- B+** (3.3) = 86%-88%
- B** (3.0) = 83%-85% **Good:** Work representing a good understanding of the theory and concepts involved in the project but should be slightly reworked to improve communication clarity and technical accuracy.
- B-** (2.7) = 80%-82%
- C+** (2.3) = 77%-79%
- C** (2.0) = 73%-76% **Fair:** Work which indicates a satisfactory understanding and execution of the major project requirements. Moderate revisions would be necessary to fully communicate the solution in graphics and text.
- C-** (1.7) = 70%-72%
- D** (1.0) = 60%-69% **Poor:** Work which exhibit significant technical problems and the project solution is poor or inconsistent. Substantial revisions would be necessary to meet project requirements.
- F** (0.0) = 0%-59% **Unacceptable:** Work which is incomplete and shows a failure to implement or comprehend the subject matter.

Students who fall behind in class work are STRONGLY encouraged to withdraw from the class. A grade of incomplete will only be given in extenuating circumstances.

CLASS STANDARDS

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken during every class. Students are expected to attend all lab classes and are responsible for all material covered during class meeting times. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet. Failure to sign in will count as an unexcused absence. In addition, habitual tardiness (arriving 15 minutes after class commence) will lower your grade at instructor's discretion.

More than 3 unexcused absences will reduce your final grade by one letter grade. More than 5 unexcused absences will result in automatic withdrawal. Excused absences include a written, signed excuse from a Physician, an excuse from the Dean of the College, or a field trip for another course if this instructor is notified at least one week in advance. Any student with a prolonged illness or absence is strongly urged to withdraw from the course and to re-enroll in a subsequent semester. Any other absence must be cleared with the professor prior to the day in question. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what happened. Classes cannot be made up if the student is absent.

Due Dates, Deadlines and Presentations:

Assignments must be submitted on the stated due date, time, and place. *All assignments must be submitted as a digital file and hard copy.* Any project turned in late, up to 24 hours, is automatically marked down a full letter grade. Any exception must have prior written approval from the CED Director no less than 24 hours before project is due. Work missed due to illness is required to be submitted no later than one week from the student's return to class. An acceptable medical illness excuse is a typed, letterhead, dated, with phone, address, and Doctor's letter explaining that the student was unable to complete the project due to sickness.

Computer lab rules and etiquette:

During class time, the following are **not permitted**:

- Use of tobacco of any form
- Playing I-pods or using online music streaming sites
- Browsing/surfing the Internet not related to class.
- Cell phones. Please turn off and place cell phones out of site during class time.

Special Circumstances:

Other situations will be dealt with on a case by case basis between the student and the instructor outside of class time. Arrangements will be made in writing and signed by both parties. Please do not discuss late work or absences during class time.

Documentation of Student Work:

Students are required to keep all work completed during a semester until the end of the term in order to review progress and aid discussion if necessary. Students are encouraged to photograph or otherwise document all projects, throughout the semester, each semester, for portfolio use. UGA-CED policy states that student work is the intellectual property of the College. The University and the College reserve the right to keep student work.

Academic Honesty:

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic career. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance of what constitutes dishonesty is not an acceptable defense. UGA's academic honesty policy and procedures can be accessed at: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty/>