

HORT 4095/6095
GPS/GIS Applications for Landscape Managers
Syllabus

Instructor: David Berle, Assistant Professor

Office Phone: 542-0771 **E-mail:** dberle@uga.edu

Office Hours: Monday- Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Office:** Room 1317, Plant Sciences Bldg.

Prerequisites: This course is open to juniors, seniors and graduate students in any major.

Class meeting Time: Thursday 12:30 – 4:45 **Hours Credit:** 3

Text(s): None, handouts will be provided through the course WebCT site

Materials Required: Access to a PC computer capable of running Windows XP is very helpful in this course. Students will be provided with software for use on their individual computers.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) To learn Global Position Systems and Geographic Information systems (GPS/GIS) applications and techniques for environmental inventory and research.
- 2) To understand the mechanics of GPS/GIS, including software, hardware and available resources.
- 3) To gain ‘real-world’ experience while serving the local community through service-learning projects.
- 4) To develop professional skills, including time and project management

Course Organization: Students are expected to spend considerable time outside the regular class period. Typically, the class will meet in the classroom for the first several weeks, and then work in the field for much of the remainder of the semester. Homework will consist of on-line tutorials and take-home exercises. At the core of this course is the process of learning the latest techniques and methodology in GPS/GIS data collection and analysis, while participating in projects beneficial to the community- i.e. service-learning. Students will work in teams of 2-4 on several community inventory projects under direction of the instructor.

Testing: Two GPS/GIS terminology quizzes will be given prior to field work. All students must pass this test to be eligible to continue in the course.

Research Briefs: Each student will be expected to write several brief reports. One report will contribute to an on-going student training manual for GPS/GIS and two additional reports on topics related to class projects

Final project: Chosen by the student, a final project will be undertaken individually, or in smaller groups. Projects are selected on the basis of need and requests by community organizations, therefore the expected outcomes are determined by the “client” and specific project.

Graduate Student Requirements: A higher standard will be applied throughout the course to all graduate work. In addition, the final project for graduate students will require a proposal, review of current work related to the project, and a detail summary report.

Attendance: Attendance is required and will constitute a portion of the final grade as indicated below. Students are responsible for any work missed on date of absences, regardless of whether the absence is excused or not. Students are also required to attend a final presentation during the normal final exam period.

Grading: This course follows a non-traditional format; however students will be graded the following:

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| 1) Terminology Quizzes: | 20% |
| 2) Class participation (and self evaluation): | 10% |
| 3) Research Briefs (3) | 30% |
| 4) Inventory Projects | 40% |

Honor Code: All academic work must meet the standards contained in [A Culture of Honesty](#) . Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. For more information refer to the following website: <http://www.uga.edu/~ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf>.