

BSC 417 Geospatial Mapping Class

Fall 2015

Instructor: Dean Ransom, Jr., PhD

Office: 212 STM, **hours:** M 8-9:30 am, 1:00-3:00 or by appointment

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Required Resources

Text: *Getting to know Arc GIS desktop. 2013, 3rd edition (for ArcGIS 10.1).*

This text is soft bound (paperback) and can be obtained from several sources, including the publisher ESRI Press. The University bookstore will carry it, albeit at a more expensive price. Find the best deal you can. **Note:** Your text book comes with a software disc containing the exercise data to complete the exercises in the book. This disc also contains a download code that allows access to the exercise data and a free 6 month use of the ArcGIS program for use on your personal computer. Used books will likely **NOT** carry an active disc, so 'buyer beware'. The ArcGIS software is loaded on the class computers which we will be using for this course. Should you want to download the program to your personal computer, keep in mind that last semester there was a lot of difficulty by students trying to do so; some were successful, many were not. Further, ArcGIS will NOT run on Mac's, unless your Mac has a windows operating system.

Memory Stick, Thumb drive, etc.: You will need an external storage device such as thumb drive to save your exercise data on, preferably one with substantial memory capacity. You will need to bring this drive to every class period. This thumb drive will also be used to store your map projects on to turn in to your instructor for grading purposes.

Course Coverage: The twenty chapters in your book will familiarize you with a variety of geospatial concepts. These will include geospatial data and data formats, symbology, and displaying data, map projections, working with data attributes to list a few. There will be 2-3 independent projects or exercises to give some real world application and hopefully provide some direct outside the book skill sets that will allow you to be build a GIS map.

Grading

Your grade will be based upon the completion of the exercises for each chapter in the form of a summary screen shot showing the work you have done for that exercise. This will amount to 40 points. Each independent project (2-3) will be worth 60 points. The grade determination will be based on total

points earned divided by total points possible * 100 %, with the usual grade breakdown for letter grades.

Obligatory Legal Statements:

Plagiarism is a criminal activity. You must cite all sources of information. Copying of material, whether parts of sentences, whole sentences, paragraphs, or entire articles, will result in a score of zero for your essay and can result in further disciplinary action.

Every student must compose their own, unique maps. Duplicate maps will not be tolerated. Duplication of any aspect of a map will be treated as plagiarism. All duplicate and/or plagiarized maps will receive a grade of zero. Collusion: Is intentionally aiding or attempting to aid another in an act of scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to, providing a paper or project to another student; providing an inappropriate level of assistance; communication answers to a classmate during an examination; removing tests or answers from a test site, and allowing a classmate to copy answers.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability required an accommodation, please contact: Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library, Room 132, Phone (903) 86-5150 or (903) 886-5835; Fax (903) 468-8148, studentdisabilityservices@tamu-commerce.edu.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See students guide handbook, policies and procedures, conduct.

Students who are disruptive to class activities will be dropped from the class and may face further disciplinary action.

Early Intervention for First Year Students—Early intervention for freshmen is designed to communicate the University's interest in their success and a willingness to participate fully to help students accomplish their academic objectives. The university through faculty advisors and mentors will assist students who may be experiencing difficulty to focus on improvement and course completion. This process will allow students to be knowledgeable about their academic progress early in the semester and will provide faculty and staff with useful data for assisting students and enhancing retention. Grade reports will be mailed by the end of the sixth week of the semester.

Tentative Fall 2015 Schedule¹

Week	Activity	Assignment Due	Notes
1 (31 AUG)	Syllabus, Intro, Chapters 1, 2		
2	Chapter 3 & 4		
3	Chapter 6 & 7	Ch 3 & 4 summaries due	
4	Project 1	Ch 6 & 7 due	
5	Chapter 8 & 9	Project 1, Ch 8 due	
6	Chapter 10 & 11	Ch 9 due	
7	Chapter 12 & 13	Ch 10 & 11 due	
8	Project 2	Ch 12 due	
9	Spring	Project 2 due, due	
10	Chapter 14 & 15	Ch 13	
11	Chapter 16 & 17	Ch 14 & 15 due	
13	Project 3	Ch 16 & 17 due	
14	Chapter 18,19,20	Finish up what's left	
15	Final exam week starts	Ch 18, 19, 20, Project 3 due	

¹ The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus as needed during the semester, with sufficient advanced notice to students so as to ensure a 'no surprises' classroom environment.