

BSC 417 Geospatial Mapping Class

Spring 2018

**Instructor:** Dean Ransom, Jr., PhD  
am

**Room:** BESC 210 Computer Lab

**Time:** T-TR 9:30-10:45

**Office:** 212 STM,      **Office hours:** T 1:00-5:00PM

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**Phone:** 903-886-5938; **Fax:** 886-5988

**Required Resources**

**Text:** *Getting to know Arc GIS desktop. 2013, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (for ArcGIS 10.1).* Authors are Michael Law and Amy Collins. See last page of Syllabus for picture of correct text

**\*\*\*\*Do NOT buy the newest edition for 10.2/10.3.\*\*\*\***

**Course Coverage:** The twenty chapters in your book (17 with actual exercises) 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. The outside the book projects will provide some real world application in building a GIS map.

**Specific expected outcomes** will include 1) an understanding of spatial concepts, 2) the ability to build a spatial map, and 3) the ability to collect data or information from said map.

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:** New text books come with a software disc containing the exercise data to complete the exercises in the book, and a copy of the software (free 6 month use) for use on your home computer. Used books will likely **NOT** carry an active disc, so 'buyer beware'. For used book buyers, I have copies of the exercise data you can download to your required thumb drive. 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 the last 5 semesters there has been 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. Finally, I have been unable to load it on my personal machine at home, and thus I am of little help to you in that regard. All that is needed to complete this class exists in the computer lab.

**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 (*must* 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.

### Grading

**Attendance 5 pts/day for 20 days (randomly chosen) .....100 pts**

**Projects 2 @ 20 pts each.....40 pts**

**Chapter exercises 17 @20 points each..... 340 pts**

Your grade will be based upon your attendance, the completion of three outside the book exercises, and completion of exercises for each chapter in the book (n=17). This will amount to a total of 480 points. The grade determination will be based on total points earned divided by total points possible \* 100 %, where 90-100%=A, 80-89% =B, 70-79%=C, 60-69=D, <60%=F. ***Failing to attend class regularly relieves the instructor of his responsibility of providing you with the necessary class material, which for this class means the material for the two outside the book projects. Book chapter exercises and outside the book projects will be due at the stated time on the syllabus. After you have completed each book chapter, you will take a screen shot of the final map you produced for that chapter section, and paste it into a WORD document and send it to me by e-mail at [dean.ransom@tamuc.edu](mailto:dean.ransom@tamuc.edu). Late submissions will be graded down 10% / week.***

**Class Computers.** Computers in room 210 are there for your use both during class and throughout the day when there is no other class in there. Please do not enter the computer lab when other classes are in session. These computers did not come to BESC as new machines. They are overused, outdated, and generally not adequate for everything your book will ask you to do. In many cases, the machines simply will not run the program as it should for a particular exercise. In such cases, if I cannot trouble shoot the problem, then you will skip the exercise and move on to the next. There is a list of chapters where problems have been experienced in the preceding 5 semesters. You will not be penalized for such situations. But do not assume the computer won't allow you to do the exercise. Try first, then let me know and move on.

### **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.

## ***Nondiscrimination Notice***

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained

## **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf> ) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **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@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.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 Schedule<sup>1</sup>

Week	Activity	Assignment Due	Date
1	Syllabus, Intro, Chapter 3		
2	Chapter 4 & 6	Ch 3	
3	Chapter 7 & 8	Ch 4 & 6 summaries due	
4	<b>Project 1</b>	Ch 7 & 8 due	
5	Chapter 9 & 10	<b>Project 1 due</b>	
6	Chapter 10 & 11	Ch 9 & 10 due	
7	Chapter 12 & 13	Ch 11 & 12 due	
8	Chapter 14 & 15	Ch 13-14 due	
9	Spring Break		
10	<b>Project 2.</b>		
11	Chapter 16 & 17	Ch 15 due	
13	Chapter 16 & 17		
14	Chapter 18, 19, 20	CH16-17 due, finish up what's left	
15	Finish up	<u>Ch 18, 19, 20</u>	

<sup>1</sup> 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.



Includes exercise data on DVD.

for ArcGIS 10.1

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GETTING TO KNOW

# ArcGIS<sup>®</sup>

for DESKTOP

THIRD EDITION

Michael Law | Amy Collins