

**GEOGRAPHY 357  
H(3-3) Area III**

**Geographic Information Systems I**

**Instructor: Greg McDermid**  
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\*Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, during office house, or by appointment.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to revision. All changes will be announced on Blackboard.  
*Last revised January 14, 2008.*

**Official Course Description:** The technical and theoretical foundations of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Explorations of data types and structures (raster, vector, object based), data input and manipulation, analytical basics, and visualization techniques will be carried out in lecture and laboratory. Case studies of GIS analysis form the basis of assignments.

**Prerequisite:** Geography 231 or both 333 and 339 or consent of the department.

**Text(s)/Readings:**

*Required Texts:*

P. A. Longley, M. F. Goodchild, D. J. Maguire, D. W. Rhind, 2005: Geographic Information Systems and Science, 2nd Edition. Wiley.

*Recommended Text:*

Northey, M. and D. B. Knight, 2007: Making Sense, A Student's Guide to Research and Writing in Geography and Environmental Sciences, Third Edition. Oxford University Press.

*Note:* Readings from other sources may be assigned. Notifications of these will be posted on Blackboard.

**Grading (Weighting):**

Item	Weighting
Lab 1	7%
Lab 2	8%
Lab 3	8%
Lab 4	8%
Lab 5	9%
Lab 6	9%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note:* The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar. It is not necessary to pass each course component in order to pass the course.

The only acceptable reasons for missing an examination or assignment in this class, as listed in the Deferral of Final Examinations section of the University of Calgary Calendar ([http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2007/how/How\\_HF.htm](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2007/how/How_HF.htm)), are illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction. If you miss an assignment or examination, and you provide me with the appropriate documentation, you will have one opportunity to make arrangements for the missed work. Without appropriate documentation, you will receive a zero for that portion of your grade.

**Grading System:**

96-100	A+	77-80	B	59-61	C-
90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor, please see Blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>**

### **Additional Information:**

**Plagiarism:** Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the 2007-2008 University of Calgary Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct.

([http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2007/how/How\\_LB.htm](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2007/how/How_LB.htm))

**FOIP:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

**Academic Accommodation:** Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than 14 days after the first day of class. It is the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

**Safewalk:** The University of Calgary provides a safewalk service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

**Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation:** SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca).