

GEOGRAPHY 599.28 H(Block)
Environmental Decision Systems
(Extended Title: Decision Support Systems and Environmental Planning)

SPRING SESSION: Block Course (May 1-5, 2006)

Timetable:

SCHEDULE: formal lectures and workshops/lab sessions each day.

Lec 01	MTWRF	09:00	180	ES 443
Lab 01	MTWRF	09:00	180	ES 407

Instructor: Professor Bryan H. Massam, Ph.D., FRSC

Inquiries to Paulina Medori 220-4838; e-mail: medori@ucalgary.ca

Course Content: The course will examine critically the use of DSS for tackling environmental planning problems. Six DSS will be used:

- 1 Multi Attribute Trade-off System (MATS)
- 2 Decision Matrix Method (DMM)
- 3 Pairwise Comparison Method (PCM)
- 4 Aspiration Interaction-level Method (AIM)
- 5 TopDec
- 6 Definite

The basic theory of each DSS will be elaborated. Each student will be expected to run each DSS with sample data. Selected environmental planning problems will be identified and the ways that DSS can assist in the reduction of chances of making mistakes will be explained. The concept of planning mistakes will be discussed. The attributes of a useful/successful DSS will be identified and the ways that DSS can be incorporated into a regulatory planning process to improve accountability will be stressed. The course will include a discussion on data requirements for each DSS.

References: Copies of articles/manuals/flow charts/chapters will be compiled into a reading kit.

Prerequisite: Previous courses in geography and/or environmental studies at 2nd year level, OR permission of the instructor/Department. The course will involve running six computer-based decision support systems (DSS). No previous experience with computing is required. The first four DSS run on an MS-DOS platform and the fifth and sixth on Windows. Access to these operating systems is available in the ES407 NT Lab.

Grading:

Project:	55%
Tests: two @ 15% each	30%
Final examination:	15%

The final examination will **not** be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. It is **not** essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

Grading Scheme

The official grading scheme of the university will be used (Course Information Section in the University Calendar):

A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject
A-	3.70	↑
B+	3.30	↑
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance
B-	2.70	↑
C+	2.30	↑
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance – basic understanding of the subject
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	Minimal Pass-marginal performance
F	0	Fail - - poor performance

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.