

GEOGRAPHY 607
GFC Hours (3-3)

Geography Information Systems: Basics and Beyond

Instructor: Dr. Shelley M. Alexander

Official Course Description:

This course provides MGIS students with an introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The main goal of the course is to provide students with a solid theoretical and applied foundation in GIS, in order to support future course work in the program. The topics covered in the course will begin with fundamentals; representing reality in the digital realm, georeferencing, data structures, software history and comparison, to advanced topics such as spatial interpolation, network analysis, decision support systems and dynamic GIS. The primary software utilized will be ArcGIS, with some exposure to other software (e.g. Idrisi and SPSS). This course is not about learning software exclusively – software is a vehicle for extending spatial theory and concepts into reality. Hands on applications through labs will be a major part of this course. The application area review and project is designed as an opportunity to explore the potential for GIS in your area of interest, and as a way of establishing ideas for future course projects.

Prerequisite:

Consent of the Department: MGIS students have priority and must register first.

Text(s)/Readings:

Geographic Information Systems and Science, 2nd Edition, by Longely, Goodchild, Maquire and Rhind.

Grading (Weighting):

Lab Assignments: 45%
Presentation: 15%
Final Project: 40%

State whether: There is no final examination for this course. It is essential to pass all elements/components to pass the course as a whole.

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 see Blackboard at:
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

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.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. 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: suypaca@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.