SRJC - Applied Technology 54A - An Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

Note: This course satisfies a requirement for the GIS Certificate offered by the Applied Technology Department

Recommended: A working knowledge of the IBM compatible computer system is advised.

Please consult the **Schedule of Classes** to identify important deadlines on the College Calendar, such as adding or dropping classes and applying for the Credit/No Credit option.

Textbook

You will be required to sign up for the web-based course ***Learning ArcGIS 9*** from the ESRI Virtual Campus. This tool includes course notes and lab exercises. I will also provide a lecture note outline for each class section, topics for further exploration, and a list of recommended readings.

Schedule of Topics

The semester is broken down into eight learning modules:

- Getting started with ArcGIS
- Creating map symbology
- Referencing data to real locations
- Organizing geographic data
- Creating and editing data
- Getting started with GIS analysis
- Working with geo-processing
- Designing maps with ArcGIS

Readings, weekly assignments and other information will be posted on the class web site prior to each class meeting. You should expect to complete 2-3 hours of homework for every hour of class/lab (e.g., 4-6 hours per week).

Course Objectives:

Introduction to GIS fulfills a core requirement for SRJC's GIS Certificate. You will probably discover that it takes a bit of time to learn not only the GIS terminology, but also the software jargon and quirks of working with computers. Be patient. In time, you will become not only proficient with GIS, but also learn to approach problems from a spatial context.

Course Requirements:

The basic requirement for this course is that you arrive on time to each class meeting and are prepared to stay for the entire session. You are responsible for all material discussed in lecture and lab. Write down questions you have about the material while reading and studying and bring them up for clarification in class.

Course Requirements (continued):

Access to a computer and the Internet is an important component of this class. You will have 2 or more hours of class time each week to complete your labs. If you run out of time in the lab, please feel free to use the lab during open lab hours at the Petaluma Computing Labs.

Note: If you decide to drop the class, please follow the procedures outlined in the current Schedule of Classes. If you miss more than one class in a row (i.e., an unexcused absence) and do not officially drop the course at the Admissions and Records office, you will likely earn an "F" letter grade.

Assignments and Examinations:

Assignments are announced in class and posted on the class web site. Check back frequently for updates.

You will complete eight (8) lab assignments worth 25 points each. The lab assignments consist of completing a step-by-step exercise, creating a layout, and successfully completing a module quiz with a score of 15 or higher. Please submit your completed quiz (scored by the Virtual Campus), a copy of the module certificate, and your map layout (as directed).

You will also be expected to complete a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam is worth 100 points. The format for the exams is short answer and essay, and may include a lab component.

Finally, you will complete a special project toward the end of the semester. This project will involve a literature review of the use of GIS in your particular field of interest, writing a short summary paper, and giving a 5-8 minute presentation to the class of what you learned.

Grade Policy and Consultation:

A numerical score (number earned/total possible) is assigned to all work you submit. A letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester based on the point distribution described below.

Work Distribution	Point Distribution	Percentage	Grade
Exams (2)	250 – 50%	90 - 100%	A
Module Assignments (8)	200 – 40%	80 - 89	B
Special Project (1)	50 – 10%	70 - 79	C
		60 - 69	D
Total:	**500 - 100%**	≤ 59	F

You may make an appointment to meet with me up to 1 hour before class begins if you need to meet with me outside of class. The best place to reach me off-campus is via E-mail (tpudoff@santarosa.edu) or at my business office phone number (707) 565-1941.