POLI 310.01
Applications of Geographic Information Systems
Course Syllabus
Spring 2022

Professor: Dr. Douglas Rivet
Office: JC Long, Room 207
Office Hours: By appointment only
Lectures: MWF, 12:00pm – 12:50pm
Room 219, Bellsouth
Email: rivetdm@cofc.edu

Description: An exploration of geographic principles and applications using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and accompanied methodologies, concepts, and technical skills.

Prerequisite: None

Required Reading: Instructor given via Oaks

COURSE OBJECTIVE
This course leverages the power of applied geography using Geographic Information Systems. Skills in geographic thinking, data manipulation, spatial analysis, and basic database design will be developed and sharpened. Students will explore how locations for new businesses are chosen and how decisions on protecting wetlands can be measured. The course objective is not only to identify and solve real world concerns but to also examine the critical thinking skills required to develop the methodology.

COURSE MATERIALS
There is no single textbook that you are required to purchase for this course. Required readings will be carefully chosen to supplement topics to be discussed in class. They will be assigned at least one week in advance to the class in which they will be required and places on OAKS.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
• Create and understand how maps help describe and delineate human activity with the environment and each other. (Labs)
• Demonstrate how to create and manipulate data in the GIS environment. (In-Class Exercises)
• Demonstrate knowledge on the continuing progression of GIS data and consumption in digital mediums (Labs)
• Participate in peer discussion regarding the validity and efficacy of methodological choices. (Participation)
EVALUATION METHODS
Grades will be determined using the grading scale as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>59% or less</td>
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Evaluation of your performance during this course will be based on the following:

- Labs: 30%
- In-Class Exercise: 20%
- Projects: 45%
- Attendance & Participation: 5%

Additional details on grading will be included in the handouts for the assignments. Due dates are outlined on the Course Schedule. Attendance will be taken each week. Please note, to achieve marks for “Attendance and Participation” not only must you attend class you must also contribute to class discussions.

OFFICE HOURS AND COMMUNICATION
I am eager to help with any concerns you may have with the course and will be available after each lecture. My preference is for face-to-face communication, though I will happily respond to short questions through e-mail. When sending an e-mail please remember to put POLI 310 in the email header. Please do not expect an instant reply. I will do my best to answer promptly.

GENERAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Recording of Classes (via ZOOM)
Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

Online Courses with Exam Proctoring
This course will require the use of an exam proctoring service for the course exams. Students are responsible for registering, scheduling, and the cost of the service prior to each exam. Instructions and additional information on proctoring can be found at https://academicaffairs.cofc.edu/distance-education/online-proctoring/index.php.

Student Accommodations
Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged.
**Honor Code and Academic Integrity**

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration—working together without permission—is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor. Students can find the Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at [http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php](http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honorsystem/studenthandbook/index.php)

**Student Email**

Students are required to have a College of Charleston email account and to check it at least once per day. All notices regarding the course will be sent to the College of Charleston account.

**Faculty Email**

The professor uses rivetdm@cofc.edu and will check it at least once per day during the week. Immediate responses via email should not be expected but can generally be expected within a 24-hour period.
**Personal Technology**
While lecture is in progress please refrain from texting, emailing, or personal internet use. This class will require in class note taking and not all information used for exams will be available through the provided lecture slides.

**Center for Student Learning**
The Centre for Student Learning provides comprehensive academic support programs for College of Charleston students as they strive for excellence in learning, while promoting student leadership and development through peer education experiences.

The CSL, located on the first floor of the library, offers a wide variety of tutoring and other academic resources that support many courses offered at the College. Services include walk-in tutoring, by appointment tutoring, study strategies appointments, Peer Academic Coaching (PAC), and Supplemental Instruction (SI). All services are described and all lab schedules are posted on the CSL website http://csl.cofc.edu/, or call 843.953.5635 for information.

**You should be proactive here.** If you have had problems taking notes in the past, for example, then contact the CSL early in the semester. Likewise, time management, etcetera.

**Mental & Physical Wellbeing:**
At the college, we take every students’ mental and physical wellbeing seriously. If you find yourself experiencing physical illnesses, please reach out to student health services (843.953.5520). And if you find yourself experiencing any mental health challenges (for example, anxiety, depression, stressful life events, sleep deprivation, and/or loneliness/homesickness) please consider contacting either the Counseling Center (professional counselors at http://counseling.cofc.edu or 843.953.5640 3rd Robert Scott Small Building) or the Students 4 Support (certified volunteers through texting "4support" to 839863, visit http://counseling.cofc.edu/cct/index.php, or meet with them in person 3rd Floor Stern Center). These services are there for you to help you cope with difficulties you may be experiencing and to maintain optimal physical and mental health.

**Food & Housing Resources:**
Many CofC students report experiencing food and housing insecurity. If you are facing challenges in securing food (such as not being able to afford groceries or get sufficient food to eat every day) and housing (such as lacking a safe and stable place to live), please contact the Dean of Students for support (http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/about/salt.php). Also, you can go to http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/student-food-housing-insecurity/index.php to learn about food and housing assistance that is available to you. In addition, there are several resources on and off campus to help. You can visit the Cougar Pantry in the Stern Center (2nd floor), a student-run food pantry that provides dry-goods and hygiene products at no charge to any student in need. Please also consider reaching out to Professor Rivet if you are comfortable in doing so.
Statement on “Religious Accommodation for Students”
(Faculty/Administration Manual VIII.A.10)

The College of Charleston community is enriched by students of many faiths that have various religious observances, practices, and beliefs. We value student rights and freedoms, including the right of each student to adhere to individual systems of religion. The College prohibits discrimination against any student because of such student’s religious belief or any absence thereof.

The College acknowledges that religious practices differ from tradition to tradition and that the demands of religious observances in some traditions may cause conflicts with student schedules. In affirming this diversity, like many other colleges and universities, the College supports the concept of “reasonable accommodation for religious observance” in regard to class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and other academic work requirements, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship on the College. Faculty are required, as part of their responsibility to students and the College, to ascribe to this policy and to ensure its fair and full implementation.

The accommodation request imposes responsibilities and obligations on both the individual requesting the accommodation and the College. Faculty members are expected to reasonably accommodate individual religious practices. Examples of reasonable accommodations for student absences might include: rescheduling of an exam or giving a make-up exam for the student in question; altering the time of a student’s presentation; allowing extra-credit assignments to substitute for missed class work or arranging for an increased flexibility in assignment dates. Regardless of any accommodation that may be granted, students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives, requirements and prerequisites as defined by the instructor and by the College.

Inclement Weather, Pandemic or Substantial Interruption of Instruction
If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.