

GEOM 2007B – Introduction to Geographic Information Systems

SECTION B - Winter 2013

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies

Carleton University

Instructor: Scott Mitchell, B359 Loeb Building Phone: 613-520-2600 extension 2695
Email: Scott_Mitchell@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1330-1430, and any time my door is open

Teaching Assistants: Laura Dingle Robertson
Email: Laura_DingleRobertson@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays 930-1130, Loeb A200

Course electronic resources: We will use cuLearn as the primary gateway to course information. Go to <http://culearn.carleton.ca> and login using your student computing account.

Course calendar: Lecture/lab workshop: Thursdays 1135-1425 Loeb A200 (overflow A237)

Course description: This course introduces geographic information systems (GIS) as a set of tools for the management, analysis, and presentation of spatial information. You will learn both conceptual and practical aspects of working with a GIS, and how to compile and work with spatial databases. You are expected to gain an understanding of both the strengths and weaknesses of the systems presented in solving geographic research problems.

This course requires no prior knowledge of GIS itself, but some background in associated concepts in geomatics is assumed, which you should have learned in GEOM2004. Permission from the instructor is required to take this course if you have not taken GEOM2004.

Readings: Readings will be made available on cuLearn.

Evaluation: There will be 3 assignments of equal weight through the term (plus lab orientation exercises which will not be marked), an online test, and a final project. The grade weighting will be:

Lab assignments (3):	30%
Term test:	30%
Final project:	40%

Technical problems occasionally cause delays. Every effort will be made to prevent this from the lab systems perspective. **It is your responsibility to reduce your exposure to potential problems by reading and listening to all instructions thoroughly and carefully, and taking care to avoid risky practices.** You must practice careful file management (saving files in the proper directories, deleting all unwanted files, naming files thoughtfully, and keeping track of where everything is) at all times.

This course depends on a progression of practical exercises, with skills building upon each other across assignments. **Late labs will not be accepted**, except in extreme cases with legitimate, documented reasons. If you are not finished by the due date, it is best to turn in what you have at that time to get partial credit – it is very important that you do not get behind as new work is assigned.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will not be tolerated. If you submit someone else's work (ideas or material) as your own, that is plagiarism. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly

referenced. This includes more than just verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others as one's own – it can also include near-verbatim copying, or even the use of someone else's ideas, from other students, books, the Internet, or anywhere else. All plagiarism offences will be reported to the Faculty Dean's office.

You will often be working collaboratively to prepare for an assignment and possibly even to collect data, but **you must ALWAYS submit individual course work**. This means that **every assignment must be written and submitted individually**, demonstrating your **personal understanding and interpretation of the assignment content**.

Term Test

Late in the term (weeks 9 to 10) there will be a test, conducted in cuLearn, with a combination of questions on course content and a practical component.

Final Projects

During the second half of term, you will be working on individual final projects, producing interactive electronic map-based presentations. Examples of past projects will be discussed in class. Normally the project will focus on the Ottawa area, with a theme of your choice. You will submit all the files needed for a working map project, as well as a written report.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>