

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Instructor:

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Lab Instructor:

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Student consultation hours as posted on respective office doors.

Course Description and Objectives:

The course is intended to provide you with some experience of how to represent various types of spatial data in the form of visual displays which more readily communicate information than raw data. In addition you will be given grounding in GIS principles and techniques to spatial data analysis that can lead to further study in this useful field. At the end of this course you will be more sensitive to the value of a cartographically sound map and will have been initiated into the world of GIS.

Specific Objectives:

- introduction to raster and vector-based GIS;
- develop a working knowledge of ArcGIS software;
- review of design criteria for effective cartographic output;
- learn the underlying principles of GIS database construction; and
- learn to diagnose and manage errors associated with GIS.

Course Grading:

• Lab exercises	35%
• Lab exam (last week of classes during lab time)	10%
• Midterm #1 (Mon., Sept. 30)	15%
• Midterm #2 (Wed., Oct. 28)	15%
• Midterm #3 (Fri., Nov. 25)	20%
• Case Study Report (due Monday, Dec. 2)	5%
	100%

The lab exercises are to be submitted electronically to Mr. Freeburn and/or the Teaching Assistant (gis3251@lakeheadu.ca) in accordance with the instructions provided at the first lab period. Overdue labs will be penalized by 10% per academic day or part thereof.

Course Organization:

<i>Lectures:</i>	Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:20 (in AT-2019)
<i>Lab (section F1):</i>	Wednesdays 2:30 - 5:20, in AT-3009
<i>Lab (section F2):</i>	Thursdays 8:30 - 11:20, in AT-3009

There will be two 50-minute lectures each week, portions of which will be preparation for the 3-hour laboratory period. Students must be registered in one of the two lab sections. Lab sessions will focus on practical exercises to learn specific operations available in GIS software and to clarify lecture concepts. A complete schedule of planned topics is found below. The content from lab sessions will be tested in the four exams (3 mid-terms and lab test).

No formal division of the class into groups will be made for labs or assignments, though it is acknowledged you will likely work together at times. Individual (and unique) submissions are expected for each lab exercise and assignment. I expect you to read and understand the University's policy on plagiarism.

Course Resources:

- **(required text):** Chang, K., 2014. *Introduction to Geographic Information Systems*, 7th Edition (New York, NY: McGraw-Hill), 425 pages with companion CD
- **(required):** USB device for data storage and for submission of assignments

These items are available in the bookstore. Readings from the required text are to be assigned throughout the term.

Accessing Lakehead's Computer Labs:

Access to LU's computer labs and course datasets (including those for this course) is gained with your LU-issued e-mail log in ID and password. Be sure to **select "AD" (Active Directory)** for choosing the location to log on to. Data and additional instructions for lab exercises will be located in the Geog 3251 'course folder' that is found in the K:/ sub-directory. When working with datasets and creating new data, **save all files to either a USB device or on the N:/ sub-directory** or as advised by the Lab Instructor. Files saved to the Desktop will be lost in the event of a computer re-boot or crash. Save files frequently with ArcGIS and similar software.

Instructor Expectations:

You are expected to be present in lectures since much of the material is directly relevant to the lab exercises, assignments and tests. Attendance at labs will be recorded and will be reviewed when assigning final course grades. All lab exercises are to be drafted according to instructions received from the Lab Instructor.

GEOG 3251 COURSE SCHEDULE (*subject to changes*)

Week of:	Monday (lecture)	Wednesday (lecture)
Sept 9	Introduction to GIS, GIS Applications and GI-Science (ch. 1)	
Sept 16	Projections and Coordinate Systems (ch. 2)	Intro to Spatial Data Models (Raster vs. Vector)
Sept 23	GIS Issues and Applications	
Sept 30	Midterm #1	Raster Data Models (ch. 4)
Oct 7	Vector Data Models (ch. 3)	
Oct 14	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	Acquisition of GIS Data (ch. 5)
Oct 21	Editing Spatial Data (ch. 7)	
Oct 28	Midterm #2	Raster Data Analysis (ch. 12)
Nov 4	Raster Data Analysis (cont.)	Buffering (ch. 11)
Nov 11	Overlay Procedures	Vector Analysis (ch. 11)
Nov 18	DTMs and Interpolation (ch. 15)	Cost Pathway Analysis (ch. 17)
Nov 25	Midterm #3	Case Study Examples
Dec 2	Terrain Analysis (ch. 13)	

NOTES:

(1) chapter readings from Chang (2014) – course text – are indicated in parentheses