GTECH 10100 Digital Earth
Spring 2020
Wednesday 9:10 AM to 12:00 PM
Hunter North 1022

Instructor: Mishka Vance
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               Please include "GTECH 10100" in the subject line and sign your full name as it appears in CUNYfirst. It is preferred that you use your Hunter email.
Office: HN 1032
Office hours: Wednesdays, by appointment only

Course Description
We are living in a digital and data-intensive era where looking up directions using web maps such as Google or Bing maps, or using GPS devices to search for the nearest Starbucks location, or requesting a ride share location-based service such as Uber from one's smartphone has become routine. Geospatial technologies enable us to capture, store, process and display a vast amount of geographic information about the Earth and the environment, including where we are in relation to the people and places we care about. These technologies are foundational to our rapidly changing modern lives. This course will serve as an introduction to geospatial technologies, how they have evolved over time, and how their development has changed our world.

Expected Learning Outcomes
1. Describe the underlying concepts of today's geospatial technologies.
2. Understand the role of geospatial technologies in society.
3. Develop the relevant computer knowledge and basic skills needed to use geospatial technologies on the web.
4. Explore the varied applications of geospatial technologies.

Software Used in Class
All software used in class can be accessed from an internet browser, including Google Maps, Google Earth, and the NYPL Map Warper.

Course Readings
There is no required text for this course. Any readings will be provided by the instructor via Blackboard. Students, however, are encouraged to explore topics of interest outside of class through scholarly articles, news sources, books, and other resources.

Student Evaluation

Lab assignments and in-class activities (60%)
A series of lab assignments and in-class activities will constitute 60% of the grade required for this course. In-class activities and lab assignments will be handed out and explained during class. Lab assignments are due before the beginning of class on the due date. In-class activities are due at the end of the class session.

Final project (30%)

During the semester students will work on a final project on a theme of their choice. Students will then present their work in the last session of the semester. Detailed instructions for the final project will be given in class.

Participation (10%)

Students are expected to attend all lectures and lab sessions, and participate in all discussions and activities both in the classroom and on Blackboard.

Late Submission and Exam Policies
- 50% of the grade is deducted for late assignments submitted after the regular due date and time. No points can be earned for late or missing in-class activities.
- No points can be earned for assignments submitted later than one week after the regular due date and time.
- There will be no exams given for this course but the instructor may administer unannounced quizzes during regular class time.

Based on your final score, you will be assigned a letter grade based on the numerical standards that can be found in the Hunter College Undergraduate Catalogue at http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/.

Incomplete and/or Credit/No Credit as a Final Grade

A final grade of IN (incomplete) will not be given in this course (with the exception of death, serious illness, or other documented emergency circumstances). Incompletes must be requested in writing prior to the last class session (with the exception of an unforeseen emergency as outlined above) and will be given only if the student's grade is at "C" or above at the time the IN is filed, and with evidence of a satisfactory reason. At the time you request an IN, you must also complete a Contract to Resolve an Incomplete Grade (form available at the college) and get my signature. Otherwise, I will average your existing grades based on the course grading rubric and record the grade you have earned.

To qualify for a final grade of CR/NC (Credit/No Credit), you must have completed **all** course requirements (exams, quizzes, in-class and homework assignments, labs, and the final course project) and have satisfactory attendance and participation. If even one of these requirements are not met, you will be ineligible to receive CR/NC. You must request the CR/NC option prior to beginning the second exam on Wednesday, May 1st, and submit the CR/NC form no later than Wednesday, May 8th, the last regular class meeting of the semester. The policy and form is available online at http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/advising/how-to/file-credit-no-credit-cr-nc.

Course Policies
Communication
All email messages about this course should include "GTECH 101" in the subject line and be signed with your full name as it appears in CUNYfirst. It is preferred that you use your Hunter email.

Web-enhancement
Everything pertaining to this course will be communicated through BlackBoard. You are required to check the BlackBoard course site on a daily basis. All changes to the syllabus will be announced on the course home page. All lecture and lab materials are accessible through BlackBoard, and this is also the place where you upload your assignments to. Your exams and lab assignments will be graded based on what you have uploaded to BlackBoard and this is where you will find your grades and may access course statistics that help you to assess your standing at any given time.

Lab Access

The lab(s) (room HN 1090B) are generally open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and students with appropriate access are entitled to work in these labs when the labs are not being used for teaching (On days when the entire college is closed, access to the labs is restricted to those students who have gained prior permission to use the labs). Additional information on labs and lab policies is available here: http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/techsupport/rules.html. Please ensure you have a Geography account - login and password. You will still be responsible for handing in the labs on time if your account is suspended because of non-compliance. If you do **not** have a Department of Geography computer account you must complete the application found at http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/techsupport/comp_account.html.

Class Climate

Hunter has made a conscientious effort to increase diversity in the student, staff and faculty member populations. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavor to be respectful in our language, our examples, and the manner in which we conduct our discussions and group work. If you have any concerns about the climate of the class, please contact me.

Academic Standards

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations. Be sure and reference all material you use. If you have any questions, please contact me!

ADA Policy:

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY to secure necessary academic accommodations.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

A. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
B. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262), or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complementary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

The CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct can be found here:
http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Labs
1	Jan 29	Course Introduction Introduction to Geospatial Technologies	
2	Feb 5	Early Navigation Map Projections	
3	**Feb 12**	**NO CLASS - COLLEGE CLOSED**	
4	Feb 19	Introduction to Google Earth	Lab 1
5	Feb 26	Global Positioning Systems	
6	Mar 4	Tracking and Surveillance	
7	Mar 11	Introduction to Open Street Maps	Lab 2
8	Mar 18	EmergencyResponse	
9	Mar 25	US Census and Populations	
10	Apr 1	Critical GIS	Lab 3
11	**Tues, Apr 7**	**Citizen Cartography @ New York Public Library**	
12	**Apr 8**	**NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**	
13	**Apr 15**	**NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK**	
14	Apr 22	Nature of Cartography Project Proposals Due	
15	Apr 29	Web Maps	Lab 4
16	May 6	Remote Sensing	
17	May 13	Future of Geospatial Technology	
	May 20	Final Project Presentations 9:10 AM to 12:00 noon Final Project Reports Due	

Syllabus Changes

Changes to the syllabus are possible. Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, the current syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change. All changes will/would be announced on BlackBoard, which you are expected to check daily.