

**GEOGRAPHY 607  
H(3-3)**

**GIS Basics and Beyond**

**Instructor: Dr. Shelley M. Alexander**

**Official Course Description:**

This course provides MGIS students with an introduction to Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The main goal of the course is to provide students with a solid theoretical and applied foundation in GIS, in order to support future course work in the program. The topics covered in the course will begin with fundamentals; representing reality in the digital realm, georeferencing, data structures, software history and comparison, to advanced topics such as spatial interpolation and network analysis. The primary software utilized will be ArcGIS 9.0, with some exposure to other software. This course is not about learning software exclusively – training is not the goal. However, the software is a vehicle for taking the theory and concepts into a working reality. A major part of your work in this course will be hands on and applied.

Weekly lectures will provide the knowledge basis from which to tackle the 5-6 lab assignments, which form the core of your work. The lab assignments will require written submissions that will involve the formal lab presentation and discussion of GIS analysis you carry out. Further, the assignments are largely self-directed, with a minimal amount of detailed command direction provided. One of the keys to learning GIS software is to be forced to problem solve on your own. There is a course assistant who will be helping the lab setting but the challenge is for you the student to discover the solution. The application area review is designed as an opportunity to explore the potential for GIS in your area of interest, and as a way of establishing ideas for future course projects.

**Prerequisite:**

Consent of the Department: MGIS students have priority and must register first.  
MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT

**Supplementary Fees:**

N/A

**Grading (Weighting):**

Lab Assignments: (x5) 60%  
Application Review: 25%  
Class Participation: 15%

**There is no final exam in this course. It is necessary to pass all components of this course to receive a passing grade in the course. Attendance will comprise 5% of your participation mark.**

**Grading System:**

96-100 A+      77-80 B      59-61 C-

90-95	A	71-76	B-	55-58	D+
86-89	A-	65-70	C+	50-54	D
81-85	B+	62-64	C	0-49	F

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at: <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>**

#### **Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

#### **Disability Resource Centre Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

#### **Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

#### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

#### **Campus Safewalk**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.