Syllabus for GEOG797

Instructor
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Office Hours: Wednesdays (3:00pm-5:00pm)
(Additional office hours can be scheduled by appointment via email or phone.)

About the Course
Time: 5:30pm – 8:00pm, Wednesdays (lectures)
Location: Online (http://elms.umd.edu/)

Description
This course is designed to provide a project environment through which you practice and integrate what you have learned through the Master of Professional Studies in GIS. The purpose of this course is to design and develop an applied GIS project. Topics covered include formulating research problems, reviewing published literatures, collecting data, designing, implementing, and reporting a GIS project. By the end of the term, each student is expected to complete an individual project. The project will be a GIS application that can be tested, demonstrating the student’s ability to manage and develop a GIS application project in real world situation. The final project product should also serve as a portfolio of what you have accomplished in the MPSGIS program.

There are weekly lectures but no lab sessions.

Textbooks (optional)
There is no required text book for this course. Following books can be used as useful references.

Assignments
Besides the capstone project, there are totally five (5) assignments to be completed. Each of these assignments will count 4% of the final grade. Late submission of lab reports will result in a reduction of the grade for that assignment of 10 points (out of 100 in total) per day. However, in some rare situations (e.g. medical or family emergency), if you need extra time, you will have to contact the instructor before the due date so that the deadline may be extended.

Presentations are also required in this class. The final presentation need to be made in person.
Grading

The distributions of grade among lab assignments, participation, and final project are:

Assignments = 20% (five assignments; each accounts for 4% in the final grade)
Presentations = 20% (two presentations; each accounts for 10% in the final grade)
Project Proposal = 10%
Final Report = 50%

The plus/minus grading system will be used to assign student grades which will be determined as follows:

97-100 = A+
93-96.99 = A
90-92.99 = A-
87-89.99 = B+
83-86.99 = B
80-82.99 = B-
77-79.99 = C+
73-76.99 = C
70-72.99 = C-
67-69.99 = D+
63-66.99 = D
60-62.99 = D-
<60 = F

Minor adjustments to this scale might be made based on the performance of the class as a whole.

Rules & Policies

Medical Excuses

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate that you have an illness or an injury. You must provide written documentation verifying your illness/injury immediately upon your return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. if you have not provided this documentation. Documentation not presented to me in a timely manner will not be accepted. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University’s Student Conduct Office.

Religious Preference Absence

Please refer to the Online Undergraduate Catalog Policy on Religious Observance.

Academic Dishonesty

The University of Maryland, College Park, has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.shc.umd.edu.
Course Schedule

This is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted to suit our class. (guest speakers TBA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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| 1    | Mar 5 | Course Introduction  
Overview of research process  
Formulating research problem  
Useful data sources          |                                               |
| 2    | Mar 12| Guest lecture (TBA)  
Review students’ research topics  
Searching for literature     | Assignment 1  
(Identify Research Problem)   |
| 3    | Mar 19| No class (Spring break)                                              |                                               |
| 4    | Mar 26| Writing a Research Proposal  
Outline of Project Proposal  
How to write introduction  
How to write literature review  
How to write abstract  
Review students’ assignments | Assignment 2  
(Literature Review)          |
| 5    | Apr 2 | Identifying variables  
Constructing Hypothesis  
Case study  
Review students’ assignments | Assignment 3  
(Timeline and Flow Chart)    |
| 6    | Apr 9 | Guest speakers (TBA)  
Review student’s assignments | Assignment 4  
(Data)                        |
| 7    | Apr 16| Steps for implementation  
Review and Questions        | Assignment 5 (Methods)                       |
| 8    | Apr 23| Students’ demonstration of the project progress                     | Full Proposal                                |
| 9    | Apr 30| Project Proposal Presentation                                       | Preliminary results and presentation         |
| 10   | May 7 | Writing a report : structure and guideline  
Review and Questions  
Students' demonstration of the project progress |                                               |
| 11   | May 14| Final Project Poster Symposium                                       | Final Report + Poster Poster Symposium       |