GEOG 5223: Design and Implementation of GIS (COVID 19)

Spring 2020

Course URL

http://carmen.osu.edu

Instructors

Prof. Ningchuan Xiao | xiao.37@osu.edu

Ms. Polina Berezina | berezina.2@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Office hours

Day	Time	Join URL	Instructor
Monday	1-2:30 PM	https://osu.zoom.us/j/551773131	Dr. Xiao
Tuesday	12-2 PM	https://osu.zoom.us/j/561528141	Ms. Berezina
Wednesday	1-2:30 PM	https://osu.zoom.us/j/551773131	Dr. Xiao
Thursday	11-Noon	https://osu.zoom.us/j/412982851	Dr. Xiao
Friday	12-2 PM	https://osu.zoom.us/j/561528141	Ms. Berezina

This syllabus is modified from the original in order to deal with the circumstances caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. Starting from week 12 (March 23), this course will be delivered totally online. There are no required sessions when you must be logged in to Carmen at a scheduled time. This version of the syllabus will mainly cover the changes made for online delivery. The following list outlines the changes:

- In the remaining of the semester, this course will be organized into 5 weekly modules, including 4 modules on QGIS programming and 1 module on GIS ethics.
- Each **weekly module** includes various kinds of materials, mostly including tutorials, exercises, participation of an online discussion board, check-your-skills quizzes, and possibly videos. The check-your-skills quizzes can be taken multiple times and are designed to make sure each student work in a proper sequence. It has been my observation that students tend to jump to the exercises without carefully reading and working through the tutorials. These pop quizzes are required for you to finish the module. Please pay attention to the order of the materials in each module and finish them in that sequence.
- The last QGIS module includes a timed open-book quiz and students are required to finish the quiz before they can move on to the next topic. There is only one attempt for each quiz. So please do not start quiz unless you think you are ready. Also note the end time of quiz on carmen and plan carefully.
- There will be no final exam.
- Please see below for new policy about late submission.
- **Discussion posts & responses.** Each week, we will post 2 or more questions on the discussion board and students are required to post their responses to all of these questions. All responses are due before the beginning of the next Monday. In addition, students should also actively participate the weekly discussion board by either posting their problems or responding to other students' posts (or both).

- **Office hours.** We will hold online office hours at the times specified in the beginning of this syllabus. CarmenZoom will be used for these virtual office hours. All students and instructors at OSU have access to this service. More information about CarmenZoom can be found at here. Links to these services will be provided at the carmen homepage.
- **Final projects.** Based on the survey in the spring break, it is clear that the majority of students were highly concerned about the group projects due to difficulty in communication and collaboration. Because of this, students will have an option to work on a coding project or to write an essay about GIS ethics. For those who choose a coding project, the project must be different from the previous project (for the sake of fairness to all students), and product vision and user stories must be submitted by the end of Week 13 (see course schedule for details). A new, updated list of project ideas is provided and can be accessed through the course schedule page. More details about the essay route will be provided as we approach week 16.

In sum, the following five activities will be used for students to receive their final grade.

1. Coding exercises
2. Workshop projects
3. Quizzes
4. Discussion posts and responses (replacing final exam)
5. Final project or Essay

Below is the definitional grading system that will be used to assign the final grade of this course. The original syllabus has more detailed explanation of this system.

Course grade	Best grades	Project/Essay	Lowest grade
A	AAA	B	C
A-	AA	B	C
B+	A	B	C
B	BBB	C	C
B-	BB	C	D
C+	B	C	D
C	CCC	C	D
C-	CC	C	E
D+	C	D	E
D		D	E
E			E

Pace of online activities

Students should plan to devote at least the same amount of time to your online courses as you would to attending lectures on campus and completing assignments. Other good study habits, such as attending class (logging on) regularly and taking notes, are just as important in an online course as they are in a classroom. You will only achieve effective learning if you spread your participation out and work on the course materials on a daily basis or on a regular pace. It is generally very difficult, if possible at all, to finish weekly modules at the last moment.

Policy updates

Late assignments: Late submissions will be accepted up to a week past the due date. One day late will incur a 10% penalty. Two days late will incur 20% penalty. Three days will incur a 30% penalty. Four days late will incur a 40% penalty. Five to seven days late will only receive 50% credit of the grade you would have received if it was submitted on time. If you contact me ahead of time for deadline adjustments you will not incur any penalty. Please refer to Carmen for due dates.

Technical Requirements

The minimum technical requirements for this class include the following:

Students must have a computer (laptop or desktop) to finish this class online. More specifically, your computer must be able to access Carmen online, which requires a modern web browser. In order to view the embedded images in the tutorials, you need to install FireFox on your computer. A recent version of Python 3 must also be installed. We will use video in this class, which should be supported by most modern web browsers. CarmenZoom will generally require a microphone and camera on the computer for best communication. If you do not have microphone and/or camera on your computer, we can try Carmen discussion board, but it is not guaranteed to have immediate responses.

Reliable access to the internet is essential. Internet access may not be used as an excuse for late, missing, or incomplete submissions. It is students' responsibility to ensure reliable connections.

To familiarize with CarmenZoom, please visit https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenzoom/getting-started-carmenzoom.