**Syllabus**

**- Summary -**

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| **Course Title** | Fundamentals of GIS |
| **Course No.** | 16260 |
| **CRN** |  |
| **Section** | 1 |
| **Start/End Dates** | Jan 25 - May 6 |
| **Term/Module** | Spring 2021 |
| **Meeting Date/Time** | Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00am-1:45pm |

**- Course Description and Objectives -**

Geographic Information Systems or Science is a collection of perspectives and tools for the collection, preparation, and analysis of digital spatial datasets, enabling the interpretation of this information to address problems involving location.

This is a foundational course, in that it provides students with an opportunity to experience a broad range of GIS activities as they begin to understand the structures and systems that underlie geospatial analysis. The goals of this course are as follows:

* Model best practices for the identification, acquisition, and preparation of geospatial data
* Demonstrate the interrelationships and common fundamental concepts common to the suite of Geographic Information Systems software packages and methods
* Interpret the inputs, methods, and results of Geospatial Analysis for the clear communication to the chosen audience

**- Instructor -**

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| --- | --- |
| **Name** | Dr. Ashley York |
| **Email** | yorka@rowan.edu |
| **Zoom** | <https://rowan.zoom.us/j/4462917136?pwd=bDh4d0FNdklTV2lmK21RUjNqZFZIQT09>  Password: ILoveGeog |
| **Office Hours** | Mondays 3:30-5pm (email ahead of time as I won't just sit on Zoom if no one is coming to OH) |

Email: I will do my best to answer emails within 24-48 hours. Please include details of the course in the email subject and include a proper salutation. You are welcome to address me as Ashley, Dr., or Professor.

**- Texts and Materials -**

* Textbook:
  + GIS Fundamentals A First Text on Geographic Information Systems, Sixth Edition, by Paul Bolstad. ISBN-10 1593995520, ISBN-13: 978-1593995522
  + Additional readings will be posted on Canvas
  + Lectures will be posted on Canvas
* Software: (all software are available in classroom and Rowan Cloud)
  + ArcGIS <http://www.esri.com/arcgis/about-arcgis> (ESRI, 10.7.1)
  + Rowan Cloud <http://rowan.edu/cloud>: Citrix Receiver and ExpanDrive
  + TerrSet <https://clarklabs.org/terrset/> (Clark Labs)
  + QGIS <http://www.qgis.org/> (QGIS)
  + Google Earth Pro <https://www.google.com/earth/desktop/>
* Other materials, supplies, etc.:
  + USB Drive: You may wish to bring a personal portable USB drive (5GB or larger) to class with you. Data storage is very important in this class and you should consistently back up your work.
  + Blue light glasses: Zoom fatigue is real.

**- Schedule -**

See link on Canvas to detailed schedule.

**- Assignments -**

* 10% Participation and Attendance

See Attendance and Classroom Behavior policies for details on how this may be measured.

* 6% Quizzes

2% x 3 Quizzes

Quizzes will be based on assigned readings and lecture materials. They will occur on Canvas and will be multiple choice/short answer and timed. You will be allowed to use any notes and Canvas materials - I ask that you do not use websites outside of the course page but quizzes will not be monitored.

* 14% Discussions

2% x 7 Discussions

Discussions will be based on assigned readings and lecture materials and will often require use of software. They will occur on Canvas, assigned during Monday's class with your initial post due on Wednesday at midnight, and your responses to your colleagues by Sunday at midnight. (\*DQ0 varies slightly from these due days)

* 40% Labs

                5% x 8 Labs

In general, one day a week will be dedicated to lecture and activities, and one day will include hands-on computer labs using different GIS software programs. Labs are due on Canvas at the start of class one week after the date they are assigned.

* 30% Project

                5% Proposal

                10% Presentation

                15% Final Paper and Map Deliverables

Towards the later third of the semester, the class sessions will be primarily dedicated to the completion of a project on a particular theme, and will include a proposal (5%), presentation (10%), and paper (15%). There will be ample time given towards gaining feedback from the professor on project development and completing each required component. Detailed descriptions/outlines/expectations for each component will be discussed in lecture and posted on Canvas as deadlines approach.

**- Policies -**

* Student Accommodation:

Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact upon your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations.  The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. We look forward to working with you to meet your learning goals.

* Academic Integrity:

While this course encourages you to work together, all assignments must be unique to the individual and plagiarism will be taken very seriously. The professor will do their best to ensure you understand proper citation methods. If you have any questions, please ask before turning in an assignment that could potentially be considered plagiarized.

[https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy (Links to an external site.)](https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy)

* Attendance:

**Communication is key!** Please do your best to let me know about absences ahead of time, the earlier the better. I want to acknowledge the world is really weird and scary right now and I want to ensure everyone's success, which I think may look different for each individual student particularly during these difficult times. Please just communicate with me as early and best you can if you or a family member becomes sick with COVID, or you are experiencing discomfort related to the racial climate in the US.  Missing too many class meetings will, ultimately, negatively impact your ability to do well in this course.

Students are responsible for virtual attendance at every class period as specified in the syllabus.  At least 50% of the course activity will be during specified class periods during which students must attend, although there may also be asynchronous learning activities as per the syllabus. Failure to virtually attend a class session without appropriate reason and notification to the instructor can result in grade penalties or failure of the course as per the syllabus.

Depending on the format of a class, absences may take the form of failure to join scheduled synchronous remote class sessions, failure to participate in remote class activities, whether synchronous or asynchronous, or failure to meet deadlines for submission of assignments. Student attendance at virtual sessions should be indicated by engagement which could include (but is not limited to) having a webcam on, responding verbally or in a chat box, submitting a response following the class, or other indicator, with recognition of varying technology and needs among students.

[https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Attendance+Policy (Links to an external site.)](https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Attendance+Policy)

* Late policy:

Assignments will be deducted 10% for each day they are late. If you know in advance of any possible conflicts with assignments,  please contact the professor at least two business days in advance to make arrangements. For more information on obtaining an excused absence, please see the attendance policy above.

* Electronic Device and Classroom Behavior:

Studies have shown that you learn better and remember more through taking hand written notes! Given that this course will often be held via Zoom, you are expected to be **physically and mentally present.** Please refrain from using your computer or cell phone for visiting personal websites during our Zoom sessions. Also, please don't prank me or record me and put me on TikTok.  It is preferred that you have your camera on as much as possible. Please keep yourself muted unless you are actively talking to me or your classmates. I think this is crazy to have this in here, but I do not care if you participate from the comfort of your bed, please just be dressed appropriately. I would love to see your pets and my cat (your "TA") will often join us. Please be in touch with the professor if your personal household or technology situations are not conducive to this policy.

[https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Mobile+Electronic+Device+Policy (Links to an external site.)](https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Mobile+Electronic+Device+Policy)

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Classroom+Behavior>

\*In the event that we move in-person, this section will be modified to include details about masks and social distancing!\*

**- Grading -**

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| **Category** | **Description** | **Percentage/Points** |
| Participation |  | 10% |
| Quizzes | 3 x 2% | 6% |
| Discussions | 7 x 2% | 14% |
| Labs | 8 x 5% | 40% |
| Final Project | Proposal (5%), Presentation (10%), Paper and Maps (15%) | 30% |
| **Total** | | **100%** |

\*The instructor reserves the right to change this document at any point and will inform the students of any changes.\*