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Spring 2021







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RSE Spring 2021 Syllabus

Thursdays 09:30-12:15, online, remote, via Zoom + Canvas

Dr. Zachary Christman christmanz@rowan.edu, office hours and meetings by appointment, weekday mornings preferred but others possible.

Course Overview: This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts, software conventions, analytical operations and range of interpretations using remotely sensed imagery to assess landscape conditions and changes across the Earth surface. Through active participation in this course, students will gain proficiency with the tools, data, vocabulary, analytical functions, and interpretive options of remote sensing technologies and their interfaces with geographic information systems and science.

assessments, students will gain understanding and hands-on practical experience with the following:

Course Objectives: Through active engagement in the lessons, activities, exercises, and

- 1. Science of mapping conditions and changes on the Earth's surface via remotely sensed imagery
- 2. Technologies involved in image acquisition, preparation, analysis, and interpretation
- 3. Analytical frameworks and techniques using the modern GIS and Remote Sensing software packages
- 4. Best practices for analyzing, interpreting, and describing imagery and derived products.

Required materials: There are no required texts for purchase; assigned readings will be distributed in class and/or through Blackboard. All course data will be distributed through the internet or the University O:\ drive. Most data will be stored on your networked H:\ drive. In contrast to most vector-based GIS data, remotely sensed **raster** imagery can have very large file sizes, so the organization and management of data and storage space is of utmost concern.

The primary analytical software for this course is Idrisi® TerrSet™ and has been installed on all

Geography & Environment lab computers in 302 and the G&E lab, in Robinson 311, as well as

the RowanCloud implementation via Citrix Workspace. It is not required that you obtain your own copy of Idrisi, but if you wish to do so, there are license discounts available to you at a substantial discount due to Rowan subscribing to this software package. Please contact me for details. Daily activities: Throughout the semester, there will be activities in class, ranging from group activities to individual guiz assessments to class-wide discussions. Your attendance and active

engagement in the course is essential to your understanding of course material and your success on all other activities. As such, any absences will proportionately reduce your score for this section, and you may not make up these missed opportunities without an excused absence or the explicit permission of the instructor. **Group Activities**: Intermittent exercises implement concepts from the lessons with practical experience using the software and imagery. These exercises will be due one week following

the introductory assignment, unless otherwise specified. Exercises will vary in content but include both map figures as well as the answer to both analytical and conceptual questions pertaining to the related skills and concepts. PDFs: All submitted assignments must be in the PDF (Portable Document Format) file format, with your name and the assignment in the title (e.g., ChristmanZ_Lab5.pdf), unless otherwise

specified. PDF documents preserve image and text formatting as you originally composed it,

effectively creating a "digital print" of the document. **Technology**: This is a technologically intensive course and we will make extensive use of the lab computers and other equipment during the course activities. However, please refrain from using personal technological devices in a manner that distracts from your or others' learning during class. Laptop computers and tablets may be permitted during information presentation

and certain other course activities; however, it is generally recommended to use paper for

Email: Your official Rowan email is an essential form of communication in this course. You are expected to check your email daily in case of any announcements or other urgent course information. Email is my preferred form of communication for any course or topic questions, or any issues that arise during the semester. I prioritize student emails and generally aim to respond in less than one business day (<24 hours during the work week, perhaps longer on the weekend or other announced period). Please feel free to contact me with any queries: christmanz@rowan.edu

may not necessarily have opportunity to make up "daily activity" assignments missed. For any absence to be excused, you must contact me at least 24 hours prior to class time, though this is not a guarantee of accommodation. Please see the Provost's website for more information regarding absences: http://www.rowan.edu/provost/registrar/coursefag.html **Integrity**: Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. According to Rowan University policy, students committing any act of academic dishonesty may fail the course, be

suspended from the university, or both. In order to avoid plagiarism, students should provide appropriate documentation whenever quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or otherwise using the language or ideas of others. The Rowan policy on Academic Issues is available on the provost's web site. http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/conduct OfficeofTheProvostRowanUniversity.htm & Special Needs: Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that

may have an impact on 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. **Diversity**: Rowan University promotes a diverse community that begins with students, faculty, staff and administration who respect each other and value each other's dignity. By identifying and removing barriers and fostering individual potential, Rowan will cultivate a community where all members can learn and grow. The Rowan University community is committed to a

safe environment that encourages intellectual, academic, and social interaction and engagement across multiple intersections of identities. At Rowan University, creating and maintaining a caring community that embraces diversity in its broadest sense is among the highest priorities. **Appropriate Conduct**: Rowan University and its faculty and staff are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. Title IX makes it clear that sexual misconduct and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against

protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct or harassment, to the University's Title IX Coordinator so that the appropriate resources and support options are provided. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct and harassment that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware. If you are the victim of sexual misconduct or harassment,

Confidential Resources: The Wellness Center, Winans Hall, 856-256-4333, www.rowan.edu/wellness 2

Non-Confidential Resources: Office of Student Equity and Compliance (OSEC), Savitz Hall 203, 856-256-5830 Public Safety, Bole Annex, 856-256-4911

Other reporting information is available here: go.rowan.edu/titleix

Rowan encourages you to reach out to these resources:

Curiosity & Patience: The analysis of remotely sensed imagery invokes many skills that relate to the management of other spatial data and also a host of new factors that must be taken into consideration. Through persistence with the new software interfaces and assignment requirements and curiosity about the new possibilities they reveal, you will gain a skill set that can be carried to many other contexts

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Attendance: Attendance will be taken every class. This class is cumulative, and each class builds on the previous material learned. You are expected to attend all classes. If absent, you

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