

# **GEOG 5368 GIS Program Use and Applications**

## **Course Information**

### **Instructor**

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### **Course Description**

This is an advanced level GIS course which covers advanced topics in GIS program use and applications. This course allows students to take modules through ESRI's "Virtual Campus" in order to enhance their knowledge of particular software application programs used in the GIS field. Accordingly, it enables students to gain a higher level of specialization in the use of programs that are of particular relevance to their career requirements. Students will expand their exposure to various tools and applications of GIS and sharpen their skills in a handpicked list of modules that are customized to meet their particular needs.

### **Course Setup**

First go to the following website to choose courses you want to take (choose E-Learning > Web Courses for Learning Format):

<https://www.esri.com/training/catalog/search/>

Different modules have various hours of duration. Students are required to select a total of **50** hours minimum (please feel free to choose more if you want to learn more modules).

After choosing the courses you want to take, please send the list to me via email ([ggong@shsu.edu](mailto:ggong@shsu.edu)). I will then work with you to finalize your list of courses based on your interests, difficulty level, data availability, etc. That being said, I may reject some of the courses you selected if those courses are too basic or have been covered by other courses in our curriculum. After your list of courses is approved, I will then request the access for you. I will need a non-SHSU email address from you to send you the invitation email. Once you receive the invitation, please accept it and follow the instructions to set up an account with Esri.

## Software

The primary GIS software used in this course is ArcGIS. If you do not have access to a computer with ArcGIS installed, I can give you a free student version (including the extensions) with a one-year license that you may install on your own PC. Please download a copy of ArcGIS for Desktop at the following address:

<http://www.esri.com/landing-pages/software/arcgis/arcgis-desktop-student-trial>

After you download the software, please let me know so I can send you an activation code.

## Grading

Your final grade from this course comes from **TWO** parts: the completion of all the modules (100 points) and a **final project** (100 points). Each module you take will have its own tutorials and exercises. Please follow all the instructions carefully and finish all the lab exercises. Upon the completion of each module, you will have chance to print out a certificate to show that you have successfully finished the course. Submit all the certificates to the instructor after you finish all the modules.

### **Final Project:**

Each student is required to do a final project using the knowledge/technique learned from the courses s/he picked to solve a practical problem involving real world data. I suggest you start to think about the topic of your final project as early as possible. A one-page final project proposal is due by the end of October. Students are encouraged to work closely with me in developing their final projects. The final project report needs to be submitted in the form of a 24" x 36" poster (digital copy is fine). It should include the following components: research question, literature review, data and methodology, results, conclusion and discussion.

## Late Work

Each module does not have a separate due time. Instead they are all due by the last class day. However, I hope you could work through all the modules at a pace that you feel comfortable and not waiting till the last week. Any overdue submission would get zero credit. The final project poster is also due by the last class day (please check the school Academic Calendar for the official Last Class Day).

## Academic Honesty

Students are encouraged to study in groups or communicate with the instructor whenever instruction or help is needed. However, independent completion of each module is required! Please do not copy others' certificate or help others get certificate.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>