GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course title: Digital Planet
Course number: GEOG 5

Course description: This course will explore the technologies and the societal implications of our digital planet. Specific attention is given to geospatial technologies which provide locational services, imagery, mapping and other capabilities. In addition to use in industry, government, and non-profit sectors, these technologies are also common on mobile devices and in Internet applications. Investigation of issues related to society, population, and geo-politics will be undertaken using a variety of Internet-based technologies that are ideally suited to analyzing sociological data and geographic patterns. This course will also consider issues of geographic perception, social justice, equity, privacy, and representational accuracy of our digital planet. This course may be offered in a distance education format.

Location: 1415 plus online
Meeting times: Tuesday/Thursday, 11 – 11:50; online times vary

Hybrid Course Format: This is a hybrid course. Lectures, discussions, assessments and online content are delivered online via Shasta College’s online course delivery platform called Moodle. Instructions for login and system use can be found under the Shasta College Online link from the main Shasta College website www.shastacollege.edu). STUDENT MUST ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE ONLINE TO COMPLETE THE COURSE. Online content is delivered on a weekly basis. Students should access the online course on Monday each week to access online content along with reminders of assignments and activities.

Advisory: A grade of C or higher in ENGL 190 or English Placement Level 6 or higher.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dan Scollon
Email: dscollon@shastacollege.edu
Office location: 1312
Office hours: Mon – Fri: 10 – 11 am
Phone: 242-2314

COURSE CONTENT OUTLINE AND OBJECTIVES

1. Foundation of a Digital Planet
   a. Defining Geospatial Technologies
   b. Historic development
   c. Internet, distributed data and the cloud
2. Geographic Representation
   a. Spatial perceptions
   b. Cartographic representation
   c. Virtual environments and gaming interfaces
d. Critical thinking and critical assessment of map content

3. Basics of Geospatial Technologies
   a. Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
   b. Global Position System (GPS)
   c. Satellite imagery
   d. Internet mapping services (IMS) and location-based services (LBS)

4. Societal Implications of the Digital Planet
   a. The bleeding edge of technology: how to keep from getting cut
   b. Internet (access to digital data) vs. Web (community, exchange)
   c. Wikis for updating photos, locations, descriptions
   d. Social media: turning Facebook into "Placebook"
   e. Citizen data collection and citizen sensors
   f. Economy of the Digital Planet
   g. Privacy concerns

5. Geo-Political Considerations
   a. Digital planet and the exercise of the State power (hegemonic cartography)
   b. Representation of contested territory
   c. Geospatial intelligence
   d. The surveillent society

6. Under-represented Populations
   a. Bridging the digital divide
   b. Contested spaces and Counter-mapping
   c. Participatory GIS
   d. Legal application for land rights claims
   e. Social, environmental, and spatial justice
   f. Appropriate technology

7. Applications and Implications of the Digital Planet
   a. Population and Social Welfare
   b. Political and Electoral Maps
   c. Environmental and Public Health
   d. Planning and Infrastructure

**Course Objectives**

Upon course completion students will be able to:

1. Define essential characteristics the digital planet and how they relate to societal concerns.
2. Interpret geographic patterns using different methods of geographic representation.
3. Critique the application of digital mapping technologies in terms of equity, privacy and power.
4. Evaluate the appropriate use of digital mapping technologies for social welfare, political mapping, public health, and planning.
5. Apply Internet-based digital mapping tools to acquire, create, and analyze maps.
Student Learning Outcomes

1. Articulate changes to geographic representation through the emergence of geospatial technologies.
2. Demonstrate essential skills in spatial thinking and the application of spatial concepts such as pattern, density, proximity, containment, and connectivity.
3. Apply geospatial technologies to essential spatial concepts, including scale, projections, orientation, relationships, different scales (local, regional, national, international).
4. Analyze geospatial issues and applications in society and sustainability.
5. Present issues, information, concepts, and conclusions related to geo-political boundary representations.
6. Evaluate the benefits and risks of geospatial technologies to under-served, under-represented and at-risk populations, in the context of social equity, justice and social responsibility.
7. Articulate the potential benefits of geospatial technologies addressing ethical and privacy concerns.
8. Demonstrate personal responsibility by evaluating opportunities for enhanced interaction and learning through the use of geospatial technologies.
9. Characterize emerging geospatial technologies and paradigms in the context of social change and global interdependence.

READINGS AND RELATED MATERIALS

No textbook is required for this course. Readings will be provided on the course website.

- Klinkenberg, Brian, Geospatial Technologies and the Geographies of Hope and Fear. 2007.
## COURSE EVALUATION AND GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>Assignments will explore essential theme of the role of geospatial technologies in society.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Two exams will cover essential concepts, practices and applications.</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussions and Article Reviews</td>
<td>Online discussion forums and review of assigned articles and papers.</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Class participation, one-on-one meeting with instructor.</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>500 pts</td>
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## GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Please read the Rights and Responsibilities of students found in the Shasta College Catalog.

### Course Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active participation in the course is essential to learning. Please do your best to be on time to weekly lab session, but it is preferable to arrive late than not at all. Because we will only meet one day a week missing a class will result in missing a significant amount of course content. As mentioned previously, online engagement is essential to success in the course.

### Work Submittal and Grading

Labs will be due at the end of class on the Thursday (students needing additional time can submit lab assignments on Friday by 12 noon without penalty). Lab grades are based on completion of lab requirements. Late labs will be accepted no later than 1 week after the original due date (start of class on Thursday) and will be marked down five (5) points. Students not in attendance for Thursday lab, may complete Textbook Tutorial for partial credit. Graded assignments are generally returned 1 week following submittal.

### Communication

Clear communication between instructor and students is essential for student success. Office hours are the best time to meet with me face to face. Email is a good way to communicate with questions, comments or concerns. Please use Angel email for class communication.

### Class Conduct

Learning is not a spectator sport! Active engagement in class is essential for student learning. Make connections between the material and your personal experiences. Students are encouraged to ask questions and share experiences. However, please refrain from talking with fellow students during class (unless you are instructed to do so) as it is disruptive to the instructor and other students. Students wishing to use personal computers in class are welcome to do so, but are asked to restrict computer use to class-related activities (e.g., note taking). NO TEXTING IN CLASS.

### Academic Honesty

Students are expected to do their own work unless advised that collaboration is
acceptable. Materials used for assignments and papers must be paraphrased and properly cited. Failure to use proper citation procedure is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" if it is flagrant and/or deliberate.

For testing, students are expected to keep their eyes on their own paper and protect their exam from being copied by a classmate. Students caught cheating on an exam will be given a "0" for the exam and may be referred for disciplinary action.

Disabled Student Service and Accommodations
Shasta College offers students with disabilities numerous services including counseling and academic advisement, assessment for learning disability, readers, specialized tutoring, note providers, brailled texts, texts in audio or enlarged formats, in-class interpreting for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, adaptive equipment, assistive technology, test facilitation, etc. These services, accessed by referral from the DSPS Counselors or Learning Disabilities Specialist, are available to students attending either the main Shasta College campus or the extended education locations throughout the Shasta-Tehama-Trinity Joint Community College District. The disability professionals work with students to evaluate their disability related educational limitations and to plan and prescribe suitable programs, reasonable accommodations and services. For students with intellectual disabilities, targeted courses and supports are provided through the Transition Services component of Disability Services. A specially equipped assistive technology computer lab, located in Room 2004, is available for students with disabilities referred by the disability specialist. For more information on the various programs and services or if you would like an appointment with a specialist, please call (530) 242-7790 or, stop by Room 2005 located in the Student Center Building 2000.

Drops
IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP THE CLASS. Students may drop the class, and have no notation appear on their transcripts, through the fourth week or thirty percent (30%) of the term for classes less than a semester in length. If a student intends to drop the class and stops attending but fails to file the necessary forms, a failing letter grade may be assigned by the instructor.

Withdrawals
IT IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE CLASS. Students may withdraw from the class after the official "drop" date and up through the fourteenth week or seventy-five percent (75%) of the term for classes less than a semester in length. The notation "W" will appear on the student's transcript. Students who have not dropped or withdrawn from the class before the end of the fourteenth week or seventy-five percent (75%) of the term for classes less than a semester in length will be assigned a course grade.

Changes
The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments as the course proceeds, within the bounds of the course description and outline.