



Instructor:	Douglas Miskowiak, GISP. Senior GIS Education Specialist		
Office:	Science B305 (Third Floor, Eastern Most Wing)		
Office Hours:	Wed 2pm to 3pm or Email to schedule office hours by appointment.		
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Class Schedule:	Section 1.	Lecture.	T, Th, F 9-9:50 AM Science A201

Course Description:

A survey of the contemporary digital, geospatial world and how the knowledge of location affects our everyday lives. Topics include how location is discovered, collected, managed, and the influences to our understanding and decision-making about the world around us. Social networking, privacy, marketing, security, health, and other societal impacts are emphasized and experienced during this course. **Credits:** 3 **Prerequisites:** None

Course Overview: Join the revolution by investigating our world from a geographic perspective using popular geospatial technologies. Explore the use of geographic information systems, remote sensing, drones, and global positioning systems among other geospatial tools, data, and concepts to arrive at well-informed decisions, designs, and policies that address perplexing societal issues and problems.

Learning Outcomes: After taking this course, students will be able to...

- Describe how the matrix of geographic thinking is applied to problem solving.
- Describe the three domains of geographic synthesis.
- Describe the three geographic perspectives of space, place, and scale.
- Describe techniques of geographic representation and inquiry.
- Explain the process of geographic inquiry.
- Recognize contributions to geographic thinking through history.
- Recognize how geography has shaped the world's places, historical and modern.
- Examine modern geospatial technologies and their applications to solve societal problems.

Course Format: This course is taught primarily face-to-face, but some materials and content are delivered online, disseminated using Canvas. Lectures, reading materials, lab assignments, examinations, and other learning resources are available via Canvas. *Contact your instructor if you need assistance using Canvas.* The course consists of:

1. Attendance
2. Lectures
3. Online Learning Resources
4. Assignments
5. Discussions
6. Weekly Graded Quizzes



1. **Attendance:** Attendance will be managed per the [UWSP attendance policy](#). While attendance in the classroom is not mandatory during the COVID-19 pandemic, your participation in the course is highly encouraged. Engaging with your peers is part of the human learning experience. If you are unable to attend a face-to-face lecture or discussion, you must attend and participate online. Please contact your instructor via email if you plan to attend online.

Excused Absence: Attendance may be excused only if the student emails the instructor prior to the beginning of the anticipated missed class period with a legitimate explanation. The following provides a list of legitimate explanations:

- Required attendance of field trips or other academic activities for other classes.
- Academic or professional conference attendance.
- Required travel or activities for athletic events, theatre, dance, or other university related activities you participate in.
- Serious or contagious illness (a doctor's note may be requested).
- Death of a family member.
- Military service per UWSP attendance policy.
- If finished with lab work, please ask your instructor to review your work before not attending.
- Other reasons discussed and approved in writing by your instructor

Attendance Conduct: Be respectful to your peers and instructor. Attend class on time. Engage with your peers and instructor. Learning is greatly enhanced when students actively engage with their peers and instructor. Be ready to address questions from the lectures and learning resources.

Face Coverings: At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance:

- Please monitor your own health each day using [this screening tool](#). If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
 - As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.



- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

2. **Lectures:** Lectures concentrate on delivery of fundamental geospatial methods, constructs, and ideas. Lectures share the foundational body of knowledge and language to help you prepare for a career with the Geospatial Sciences or use the Geospatial Sciences in other career areas. Some lectures will share case study approaches about how Geospatial technologies have been applied and how they have benefitted society.

Lecture Expectations

- Attend every lecture – online or face-to-face
- Take your own personal notes to supplement the presentation
- Ask your instructor questions when you don't understand a topic
- Engage with your instructor and your peers – share your own perspectives
- Student understanding of lectures will be assessed using examinations

3. **Online Learning Resources:** Readings and other learning resources will be made available to students via Canvas. These resources will be organized by topical area. No book purchase or rental is required for this course. Online learning resources are a supplement to lecture and will offer ideas from other perspectives.

Online Learning Resources Expectations

- Read or complete the resources associated with each lecture topic
- Take your own personal notes to summarize and supplement the learning resource
- Student understanding of online resources will be assessed using quizzes
- Online learning resources will be part of the weekly discussion

4. **Assignments:** Eight assignments will be distributed during the semester. Six assignments, worth 25 points each, will be related to the lecture topic that week and will ask you to explore the topic on your own. These topics will be part of the course discussions, typically held on Friday of most weeks. One assignment, worth 100 points, will require you to use GIS cloud computing resources to generate a 3D scene of a real-world area. The final assignment, worth 200 points, will ask you to create a storymap that details the use of Geospatial Technologies in an area that interests you (e.g. agriculture, natural resources, transportation, arts, law, public safety, health, tourism, and others).
5. **Discussions:** Friday lecture sessions will typically be reserved for student discussions. Discussions will focus on the lecture topic and assignment of that week. Assignments 1-6 will be graded by your participation/performance in the discussion session, as defined by the rubric of each assignment. Accommodations will be made for online learners to participate in discussions via Zoom or Canvas.



6. **Weekly Graded Quizzes:** Quizzes will accompany lecture topics, case studies, and other learning resources to assess your comprehension of each week's learning materials. Students must complete 11 of 12 graded quizzes. Each required quiz is worth 50 points each for a total of 550 course points. Students may earn up to 600 points on quizzes, with 50 points serving as extra credit. Quizzes are administered on Canvas.

Quiz Expectations

- Complete the quiz by or before the due date
- No quiz will be reopened after the due date – if you require more time to take a quiz, contact your instructor before the quiz closes.
- **Plagiarism and cheating are NOT tolerated. You are expected to directly and personally take the quizzes, take the quizzes alone and without assistance from others. You are not allowed to witness another person taking the quiz. UWSP procedures will be followed if students are suspected of plagiarizing materials or cheating (see <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>). Penalties can include, but are not limited to failing the quiz, failing the course, and expulsion from the university. Please, do not risk your academic career.**



Evaluation and Grading: One-thousand total points are possible in this course. Students are graded based upon quizzes and assignments.

Weekly graded quizzes = 550 Points (50 points each with 50 additional points available)
 Assignments 1-6 (Discussions) = 150 Points (25 points each)
 Assignment 7 (Build a 3D Scene) = 100 Points
 Assignment 8 (Craft/share a Storymap) = 200 Points

Total = 1,000 Points

Ranges of percentages, course points and their equivalent letter grades are shown below. By referring to this table you can determine your letter-grade standing at any point in the course.

<u>Percent</u>	<u>1000 Points</u>	<u>100 Points</u>	<u>50 Points</u>	<u>25 Points</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
93-100	930	93	46.5	23.25	A
90	900	90	45	22.5	A-
87	870	87	43.5	21.75	B+
83	830	83	41.5	20.75	B
80	800	80	40	20	B-
77	770	77	38.5	19.25	C+
73	730	73	36.5	18.25	C
70	700	70	35	17.5	C-
67	670	67	33.5	16.75	D+
63	630	63	31.5	15.75	D
<63	<630	63	<31.5	<15.75	F