GEOG 4910: Professional GIS Portfolio

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Course Description

Students create a professional digital GIS portfolio to demonstrate proficiency in spatial analysis and science communication. A minimum of three projects will comprise this portfolio, and they will be drawn from courses that comprise the Applied Geographic Information Science certificate.

Course Objectives

1. Build an online platform
2. Populate with a minimum of 3 projects from the courses in USU’s geographic information science certificate program.
3. Learn techniques for group and self-critique
4. Students are introduced to general science communication best practices.
5. Students are introduced to basic visual design best practices

Course Prerequisites

This course has two prerequisites:

GEOG 1800 or WILD 1800, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems;
and WATS 4930, Advanced GIS and Spatial Analysis (may be taken concurrently);

and either ENVS 4950, Special Topics: Python Programming (may be taken concurrently)
or GEOG 4870: Geospatial Analysis with R (may be taken concurrently)

Course Details

Canvas: The course will use Canvas (https://online.usu.edu/) for course announcements, assignment delivery and submissions and grades. It is the student’s responsibility to log in to and utilize the Canvas system. Help using the Canvas system can be obtained by contacting USU Information Technologies at 797-HELP or going to http://it.usu.edu.

Internet access: A reliable high-speed internet connection is required for all students enrolled in the course.
Course Activities

The course is online and almost entirely independent study with the exception of two group critiques and one-on-one meetings with the instructor.

Website construction: Students will work individually to build a website and populate it with a minimum of three projects.

Critiques: Students are expected to participate in two group critiques.

One-on-one meetings: Students are responsible for setting up a meeting with the instructor no later than week 12, to discuss expectations for finishing the digital portfolio.

Evaluation and Grading

This course is graded pass/fail.

Course assessment: Assessment of the class will occur during week 15 utilizing the IDEA course assessment tool and possibly a more specific Survey Monkey survey.

Course Policies

Special needs:

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Learning Environment Policy:

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action.

Disruptive classroom behavior involves physical actions, verbal utterance, or other activities that interfere with either the instructors’ ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program. Faculty members of Utah State University
have the responsibility and authority to determine, maintain, and enforce an atmosphere in their classrooms that is conducive to teaching and learning, in accordance with University policy and practice.

Classrooms are learning environments reserved for the use of enrolled students and their instructors, both during class hours and after hours. All other persons are considered to be guests and are permitted access only at the discretion of the instructor.

**Gender-Inclusive language guidelines:**

Aspiring to create a learning environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, Utah State University’s Access and Diversity Center provides guidelines and resources regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language ([https://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/allies/index](https://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa/allies/index)). Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment, strengthens academic writing, enriches discussion, and reflects best professional practices.

Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of any gender (e.g. first-year student versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications, and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students may share their preferred pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored.

**Non-discrimination policy:**

Utah State University does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, genetic information, sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, disability, status as a protected veteran, or any other status protected by University policy or local, state, or federal law. For more information, visit [https://aaeo.usu.edu/non-discrimination](https://aaeo.usu.edu/non-discrimination)

**Emergency Procedures**

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**
Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [Article VII](#).

**Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:**

- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Code](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy](#)