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**COURSE OUTLINE  
GEOCACHING**

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**Class Meetings (Online):** Monday-Friday 9:30-4:30 (including 1-hour for lunch), August 9 to August 13  
Detailed course schedule on last page.



The goal of this course is to introduce students to the activity of geocaching, along with the fundamentals of GPS navigation, and GPS data collection. Emphasis will be placed on geocaching, the history and workings of GPS and associated navigation systems, map datums, coordinate systems, and basics of GPS data management. Students will gain hands-on experience operating and working with GPS enabled devices in the field, through a variety of geocaching activities and assignments. Examples of the use of GPS in geographical research will be demonstrated through lectures and readings.

This course is suitable for students from any background. Strong participation in a group environment and willingness to be outdoors are fundamental to success in this course.

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Dr. Shannon Fargey**, Department of Geography, **DTB B308**, [fargey@uvic.ca](mailto:fargey@uvic.ca) or 250-721-7342.

When emailing me please include 'GEOG 315 - your name' in the subject line. This helps me sort through emails and makes it easier to respond to your message.

**Office Hours:** *By appointment.* I welcome you to come and discuss your ideas and questions anytime during this course, I have an open-door policy.

**Profile:** I am an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Geography Department. My role in the Department is primarily on program delivery, supporting student learning and discovery in Physical Geography, and Geomatics. I am passionate about hydrometeorological topics and field based learning. To learn more about me, and stay updated with exciting new studies in our field, please visit my website [shannonfargey.com](http://shannonfargey.com) and follow me on Twitter @fargetmenot

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## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain basic aspects of coordinate systems and datums;
- Discuss the history and development of satellite navigation;
- Manage and display personal GPS data using a variety of formats.
- Carry out essential functions of a handheld GPS (collecting waypoints, recording tracks, navigating to a position, etc.); and
- Participate in both the creation and consumption aspects of geocaching activities.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no required text for this course, however a reading list has been prepared and can be found at on Brightspace. Journal articles can be accessed through the University library catalogue. **Students are expected to have reviewed these learning resources prior to the start of the course.**

## EVALUATION

[1] Final Exam	30%
[2] Assignments (3)	25%
[3] Geocaching Reflection	5%
[4] Location-Based Service Essay	10%
[5] Group Geocache Project	30%

*Final Exam:* A closed book independent exam will be given on the Friday morning of the course on Brightspace. The test will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer type questions. The test will cover material from the lectures and readings assigned in class.

Additional information about the evaluation components can be found on Brightspace.

## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>  
Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Cam Owens [geogadvisor@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvisor@uvic.ca)  
Department Chair: Dr. David Atkinson [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)

## BRIGHTSPACE

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication (<https://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/learningteaching/brightspace/index.php>). Please monitor the page on a regular basis for course announcements. If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: [helpdesk@uvic.ca](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca), Tel: 250-721-7687

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
<b>A+</b> <b>A</b> <b>A-</b>	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding</b> and <b>excellent</b> performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
<b>B+</b> <b>B</b> <b>B-</b>	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good</b> and <b>solid</b> performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
<b>C+</b> <b>C</b>	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory</b> , or <b>minimally satisfactory</b> . These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
<b>D</b>	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
<b>F</b>	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
<b>N</b>	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

## IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

**Attending class throughout the entire week is integral to successfully completing this course.**

Attendance is expected and MANDATORY for lectures and assignment time. The majority of course materials are presented in the first two days. This course has a long wait list, and it is unfair to the students who are wait listed for you to miss a half day (10% of the course), a full day (20% of the course), or both the first and second days (40% of the course).

Attendance is taken via zoom participation (presence). If you fail to participate in lecture a deduction of 5% on your final grade may occur.

A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are expected to be activity engaged and punctual for course meetings.

Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit. Failure to complete an any evaluation component without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

As an Instructor, I can refuse a student admission to a lecture, laboratory, learning activity or exam because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work may be assigned a final grade of 'N' (which equals a Grade Point Value

of 0) or debarred from final examinations. Please refer to the UVic academic calendar in the section on student academic conduct for further information.

Late assignments and/or project work will be penalized 20% per day (including weekends). Exceptions will only be granted for medical or compassionate reasons. Please contact the instructor within five working days if possible. *Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.*

Conflicts with work, holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred assignment or project extension.

Unless otherwise stated students are expected to complete assignments independently.

Students are responsible for reviewing the current University of Victoria's academic calendar. There are a number of regulations on conduct and expectations that you are bound by. As such you should make yourself familiar with them.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Victoria. *The responsibility of the institution:* Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects. *The responsibility of the student:* Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations, for referencing your sources, or unauthorized use of an editor, please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website - <https://www.uvic.ca/students/academics/academic-integrity/index.php#ipn-policies-consequences>.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Infractions will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. Commonly, the penalty for any form of cheating/plagiarism is a grade of F on the tests or laboratory assignments, or a final grade of F in the course. However, depending on the severity of the case other penalties may include a record on the student's transcript or expulsion.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

## **POSITIVITY AND SAFETY**

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavour to be respectful in our language, our examples, and the manner in which we conduct our discussions and group work. If you have any concerns about the climate of the class, please contact me.

## **COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)**

We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the course, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

## **SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC**

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR, Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca)

Web: [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp)

## **DISCLAIMER**

The presented schedules, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)** *monitor Brightspace for announcements*

Mon (Aug 9)	Tues (Aug 10)	Wed (Aug 11)	Thur (Aug 12)	Fri (Aug 13)	Sat (14)/Sun(15)
<p>*Zoom Lecture: The World of GPS and How Maps Work</p> <p>9:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p>*Zoom Lecture: Introduction to Geocaching</p> <p>9:30 am - 12:00 pm</p>	<p>*Zoom Lecture: Geocaching and the Environment 9:30 - 10:30 am</p> <p>*Zoom Lab: Geocaching (Assignment 3)</p>	<p>*Zoom Lecture: Group Project Q &amp; A 9:30 – 10:00 am</p> <p>Group Project Work time *Zoom meeting rooms available</p>	<p>Final Exam 9:30 am – 11:30 am</p> <p>Break</p>	<p>Deliverables Due:</p> <p>Essay: Location-based Services</p> <p>Sunday 11:59 pm</p> <p>Essay: Geocaching Experience Reflection</p> <p>Sunday 11:59 pm</p>
<p>Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm</p> <p>*Zoom Lab: GPS Basics (Assignment 1)</p> <p>1:00 - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm</p> <p>*Zoom Lab: Managing Data (Assignment 2)</p> <p>1:00 - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm</p> <p>*Zoom Lab cont.: Geocaching (Assignment 3)</p> <p>1:00 - 4:30 pm</p>	<p>Lunch 12:00-1:00 pm</p> <p>Group Project Work *Zoom meeting rooms available</p>	<p>Group Project Final Work *Zoom Breakout rooms created upon request</p>	
<p>Deliverables Due: Assignment 1 9:00 pm</p>	<p>Deliverables Due: Assignment 2 9:00 pm</p>	<p>Deliverables Due: Assignment 3 9:00 pm</p>		<p>Deliverables Due: - Complete Final Exam (time above) - Group Project 9:00 pm</p>	

\* All Zoom lectures are Synchronous