University of Victoria

GEOGRAPHY 315
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Summer Term 2017
Dr. Shannon Fargey

COURSE OUTLINE
Geocaching

Contact: fargey@uvic.ca or 250-721-7342
Office Location: DTB B308
Office Hours: *By appointment*

Class Meetings: Monday-Friday 9:30-4:20 (including 1-hour for lunch), July 10-14
Classroom: DTB A102
Labs: DTB A251

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 units 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. A final project requires students to create and hunt for geocaches on the UVic campus.

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.

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 the end of the course outline. 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] Exam	30%
[2] Worksheets	15%
[3] Term Paper	25%
[4] Group Geocache Project	30%

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

Term Paper: At the beginning of the course, the instructors will provide the students with three topics for the term paper. Each student will select one topic and prepare a *SHORT* (approx. 1250 word) essay style response. Students are expected to write at a third-year university level, including proper structure, grammar, and a *minimum* of three academic references. Limited class time will be given for working on this assignment, therefore completion will occur primarily on students' own time.

Group Geocache Project: Students will work in small groups to complete a geocaching project. This project will consist of the creation of a "cache" on the UVic campus that highlights or showcases some aspect of the campus. Class time will be given to complete this project. Two mini essays will be written by the group on: [1] geocache place choice and [2] geocache concept. Students will search for the caches of their fellow students on the last afternoon of the course.

GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ **A** **A-**	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	**Exceptional**, **outstanding** and **excellent** 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-**	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	**Very good**, **good** and **solid** 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.
C+ **C**	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	**Satisfactory**, or **minimally satisfactory**. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	**Marginal** Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	**Unsatisfactory** performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: http://geog.uvic.ca
Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield geogadvisor@uvic.ca
Department Chair: Dr. Johan Feddema geogchair@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

CourseSpaces learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication (http://coursespaces.uvic.ca). 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, Tel: 250-721-7687

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

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

Attendance is MANDATORY for the first, second and final day of the course (Monday July 10th, Tuesday July 11th, Friday July 14th). The majority of lecture material is presented in the first two days. If you do not make it to both of these days you will be dropped from the course. 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). On final day of the course the final exam will be given and students will search for the caches of their fellow students in the afternoon. Failure of any group member to participate in the final activity will result in an 'N' incomplete grade on the final group project and subsequently an 'N' grade in the course, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are expected to be activity engaged in field activities and be punctual field outings.

Cell phones must be turned off in class and ONLY be used during field activities if pertinent to do so.

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.

Late assignments and/or final projects will be penalized 20% per day (including weekends and holidays). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Written proof must be provided within five working days. *Only the course instructor can grant exceptions*.

Conflicts with 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.

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 or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor.

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.

Please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website. Please contact me if your have any questions.
http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/

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 Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations http://rcsd.uvic.ca/. 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 term, 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.

READINGS LIST

Additional readings and learning resources will be posted on CourseSpaces.

Dobson, J. E., & Fisher, P. F. (2003). Geoslavery. *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*, *22*(1), 47–52. doi:10.1109/MTAS.2003.1188276

Goodchild, M. F. (2007). Citizens as sensors: The world of volunteered geography. *GeoJournal*, *69*(4), 211–221. doi:10.1007/s10708-007-9111-y

Ishikawa, T., & Takahashi, K. (2013). Relationships between Methods for Presenting Information on Navigation Tools and Users ' Wayfinding Behavior. *Cartographic Perspectives*, *75*(75), 17–28.

Ishikawa, T., Fujiwara, H., Imai, O., & Okabe, A. (2008). Wayfinding with a GPS-based mobile navigation system: A comparison with maps and direct experience. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *28*(1), 74–82. doi:10.1016/j.jenvp.2007.09.002

Mathews, A. J., Lu, Y., Patton, M. T., Dede-Bamfo, N., & Chen, J. (2013). College students' consumption, contribution, and risk awareness related to online mapping services and social media outlets: Does geography and GIS knowledge matter? *GeoJournal*, *78*(4), 627–639. doi:10.1007/s10708-012-9456-8

Neustaedter, C., Tang, A., & Tejinder, J. K. (2010). The role of community and groupware in geocache creation and maintenance. *Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - CHI '10*, 1757. doi:10.1145/1753326.1753590

O'Hara, K. (2008). Understanding geocaching practices and motivations. *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human …*, 1177. doi:10.1145/1357054.1357239

Schlatter, B., & Hurd, A. (2005). Geocaching 21st-Century Hide-and-Seek. *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation and Dance*, *76*(7), 28–32.

SCHEDULE

Specifics subject to change – monitor CourseSpaces for announcements

DATE	TOPIC AND ACTIVITIES	READINGS
Monday July 10	• Lecture: Introductory concepts, Datums and coordinate systems, GPS and Navigation, How to use your GPS • *Worksheet #1*: Using Handheld GPS (due by 4:20 pm)	Ishikawa et al., 2008 Ishikawa and Takahashi, 2013 Instruction manuals for GPS units (on CourseSpaces)
Tuesday July 11	• *Lecture*: Introduction to Geocaching • *Worksheet #2*: Managing GPS Data (due by 4:20 pm) • *Time to work on Group Project*	Neustaedter et al., 2010 O'Hara, 2008 Schlatter & Hurd ,2005
Wednesday July 12	• *Worksheet #3:* Geocaching • (due by 4:20 pm) • *Time to work on Group Project*	
Thursday July 13	• *Lecture*: Applied GPS • Time to work on Group Project (due by 4:20 pm)	Goodchild, 2007 Dobson and Fisher, 2003 Matthews et al., 2013
Friday July 14	• Exam (9:30 am to 11:20 am) • Course evaluation • Class Geocache Hunt (finished by 4:20 pm)	