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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**OUR DIGITAL EARTH**

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**Instructor: Dr. Chris Bone**

**Office Hours: Mondays 1:00pm – 2:00pm and by appointment (zoom link on Brightspace)**

**Contact: [chrisbone@uvic.ca](mailto:chrisbone@uvic.ca)**

**Teaching Assistant: Ross Horrelt**

**Drop-in Sessions: Tuesdays 11:00am – 12:00pm and by appointment (zoom link on Brightspace)**

**Contact: [rosshorrelt@uvic.ca](mailto:rosshorrelt@uvic.ca)**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to how the world of geospatial data and technologies influences our daily lives and shapes society and the world around us. Students learn how to collect and utilize location-based data, how to develop web maps and mobile mapping apps, how to create technologies to respond to environmental disasters and humanitarian crises, and how to think spatially in order to improve our understanding of our planet. Lectures involve a lively mix of presentations and group interaction, as well as several opportunities to crowdsource data collection in order to solve geospatial problems. Lectures also provide students with training in how to use various mapping technologies in order to collect, map, analyze, and communicate data in power ways.

**KEY THEMES:** location-based data, geospatial technologies, spatial thinking and problem solving, location privacy

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**REQUIRED TEXTS AND SOFTWARE**

The required text for this course is *Our Digital Earth*, which is free! Links to all readings will be provided. Kritik Peer Assessment Tool (\$24); ArcGIS Online; Brightspace

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Define appropriate modes of spatial thinking needed for addressing geographical questions.
- Collect and analyze geographic data to characterize spatial patterns of observations and spatial relationships between variables.
- Develop mobile app to facilitate the collection of geospatial data.
- Create web mapping applications to display spatial patterns and communicate information.
- Utilize technology theory to develop a geospatial tool to help with responding to an environmental disaster or humanitarian crisis.
- Understand issues of accessibility, privacy, and security with regards to geospatial data and technologies.

## EVALUATION

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Activity 1 | = 10% |
| Activity 2 | = 20% |
| Activity 3 | = 30% |
| Activity 4 | = 40% |

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

| Grade                              | Grade point value | Grade scale                 | Description  |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>A+</b><br><b>A</b><br><b>A-</b> | 9<br>8<br>7       | 90-100%<br>85-89%<br>80-84% | <b>Exceptional, outstanding and 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><br><b>B</b><br><b>B-</b> | 6<br>5<br>4       | 77-79%<br>73-76%<br>70-72%  | <b>Very good, good and 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><br><b>C</b>              | 3<br>2            | 65-69%<br>60-64%            | <b>Satisfactory, or 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.  |

## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: [uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/](http://uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/)
- Geography Department Chair: [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)

## BRIGHTSPACE

Please visit your BrightSpace site to access the website for Geog 104: Our Digital Earth

## POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will be accepted one day (24 hours) past the due date accompanied with a 10% late penalty. Assignments will not be accepted after this time, but students will still be able to obtain a grade if they participate in the peer assessment portion of the assignment.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible ([uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/)). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. 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.

## **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 [uvic.ca/svp](http://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: [uvic.ca/svp](http://uvic.ca/svp)

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

I 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 online 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.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

| WEEK    | DATE             | LECTURE TOPICS         |
|---------|------------------|------------------------|
| WEEK 1  | JAN 10 & 14      | Spatial Literacy       |
| WEEK 2  | JAN 17 & 21      | Geotagged Data         |
| WEEK 3  | JAN 24 & 28      | GPS                    |
| WEEK 4  | JAN 31 & FEB 3   | Spatial Patters        |
| WEEK 5  | FEB 7 & 10       | Scale                  |
| WEEK 6  | FEB 14 & 17      | Professional Writing   |
| WEEK 7  | FEB 21 & 24      | READING BREAK          |
| WEEK 8  | FEB 28 & MARCH 3 | Spatial Analytics      |
| WEEK 9  | MARCH 7 & 10     | Sensors in Space       |
| WEEK 10 | MARCH 14 & 17    | Science Writing        |
| WEEK 11 | MARCH 21 & 24    | Geo-Crowdsourcing      |
| WEEK 12 | MARCH 28 & 31    | Location Privacy       |
| WEEK 13 | APRIL 4 & 7      | Knowledge Mobilization |

## ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

### **ACTIVITY 1: CREATING A WEB APPLICATION (10%)**

Submission Due: January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Peer Assessment Due: January 28<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Feedback Due: February 1st @ 11:59 pm

### **ACTIVITY 2: IDENTIFYING FOOD DESERTS IN CITIES (20%)**

Submission Due: February 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Peer Assessment Due: February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Feedback Due: February 25<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

### **ACTIVITY 3: ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING WITH MAPS (30%)**

Submission Due: March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Peer Assessment Due: March 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Feedback Due: March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 11:59 pm

### **ACTIVITY 4: GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE (40%)**

Submission Due: April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Peer Assessment Due: April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

Feedback Due: April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59 pm

## **DISCLAIMER**

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

## **NOTE:**

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students. [uvic.ca/services/counselling/](http://uvic.ca/services/counselling/)*

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives. [uvic.ca/services/health/](http://uvic.ca/services/health/)*

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations [uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://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.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being. [uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)*

*We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*