



COURSE OUTLINE
Geocaching

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. You will gain hands-on experience operating and working with a GPS receiver or with GPS-enabled smartphone apps, 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 close to where you live.

This course is suitable for students from any background. You will require a GPS receiver or a smartphone with the ability to download GPS applications. If you require a GPS receiver, contact me prior to beginning of class on Monday. Strong participation in an online group environment and willingness to be outdoors are fundamental to success in this course.

Class Meetings: Monday-Friday 9:30-4:20 (including 1-hour for lunch), July 6 to July 10
Classroom: Online using Zoom and coursespaces
Labs: Online using Zoom and coursespaces

The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, please visit the UVic Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement ([Indigenous Student Support Centre](#)).

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Matt Fuller, PhD ABD Department of Geography, mtfuller@uvic.ca

When emailing me please include 'GEOG 315 - your name - brief subject' in the subject line.

Office Hours: *By appointment.* Please let me know if you would like to discuss any matter related to the course outside of lecture or labs. We can arrange a meeting on Zoom during a time that is convenient for both of us.

Instructor Bio: I am a PhD candidate focused on Critical Geography and Political Ecology in the Geography Department at UVic. I have a Masters in Environmental Studies and a bachelor's degree in social movement theory and media justice from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. My research focus is on environmental and climate justice, especially pertaining to how Indigenous and

other frontline communities resist and respond to the harmful presence of fossil fuel megaprojects in their own backyards. Much of this research is engaged with doing community-based participatory research, where grassroots GIS and GPS tools are utilized in communities to tell their own stories of environmental degradation and pollution. I rely a lot in my research on the sort of grassroots technologies we will be using! I have worked with the Lummi Nation Sovereignty and Treaty Protection office the last seven years on their campaigns and projects.

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 or GPS app on a smartphone (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 on CourseSpaces. 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 *(subject to change)*

[1] Final Exam	25%
[2] Worksheets (3)	30% (10% each)
[3] Paper/Reflection	15%
[4] Group Geocache Project	30%

Final Exam: An online exam will be given on the Friday morning of the course. The test will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The test will cover material from the lectures (Monday through Thursday) and readings assigned in class.

Group Geocache Project: Students will work in small groups to complete a geocaching project. This project will consist of the creation of a virtual “cache” that highlights or showcases some aspect of the area around where you live. 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.

Additional information about the evaluation components will be found on CourseSpaces.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/

Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

Department Chair: Dr. David Atkinson geogchair@uvic.ca

GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	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.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	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.
B	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	
C+	3	65-69%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	60-64%	
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.

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 6, Tuesday July 7, Friday July 10). The majority of lecture material is presented in the first two days. **If you do not make it to all three 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 the final day of the course, the final exam will be given and groups will present their geocaching projects to the course 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 is 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 actively engaged in all activities. Students must complete all

evaluation components to obtain credit. Failure to complete 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, lab sessions 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 documented medical or compassionate reasons. Assignments will not be accepted 2 days past the stated deadline. *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 <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>. 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. 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

Web: 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 CourseSpaces for announcements*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30am – 12:00pm Lecture: The World of GPS How Maps Work	9:30am – 11:00am Lecture: How Maps Work (cont)	9:30am – 11:00am Lecture: Intro to Geocaching	9:30am – 11:00am Lecture: Applied GPS	9:30am – 10:30am Q & A
	11:00am – 12:00pm Lab Exercise #2	11:00am – 12:00pm Lab Exercise #3	10:30am – 12:00pm Group Project Work	10:30am – 12:30pm Final Exam
12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch	12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch	12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch	12:00pm – 1:00pm Lunch	12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch
1:00pm – 4:00pm Lab Exercise #1	1:00pm – 4:00pm Lab Exercise #2	1:00pm – 4:00pm Lab Exercise #3	1:00pm – 4:00pm Group Project Work	1:30pm – 4:00pm Group Project Work