Course Syllabus

**GEOGRAPHY 481/581: GIScience 1**

**Class Times:**

This course is an asynchronous web course. You just need reliable internet for several hours a week and you are welcome to work through the content at times that fit your schedule.

**Professor:**

Dr. Carolyn Fish  
Assistant Professor of Geography  
Email via Canvas to "All Teachers" (I expect to be able to answer your questions within 48 hours on weekdays)  
Office Hours: By appointment. Please email me via Canvas or cfish11@uoregon.edu.

**Readings:**

Optional Textbook readings in [https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/essentials-of-geographic-information-systemsLinks to an external site.](https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/essentials-of-geographic-information-systems).

This is a free online textbook. The class content/quizzes comes from lecture videos and other activities, but this book might be helpful if you want more explanation beyond that.

**Course Description:**

This class is an introduction to concepts behind organizing, analyzing, and visually presenting geospatial information. This class addresses three major questions:

1. How can we organize the real world into a system that can be used to analyze it?
2. How do we represent the variation in the world around us?
3. How to record, recall, and analyze this information?

GIScience 1 explores these questions though the applied use of software designed to facilitate the collection, analysis, symbolization, and communication of information about the world; that is to turn observations of the real world into information useful for acting in the real world. This is often done with maps, and much of this work will involve the creation of maps.

**Course Objectives:**

After completing this course, students should be able to:

* Understand how the real world is simplified and categorized to be put into a GIS
* Plan and execute basic GIS analysis using a software application framework.
* Communicate the results of an analysis through language and graphics.
* Articulate the characteristics of and differences between data representations.
* Be able to make a basic map and display the results of a GIS analysis inquiry

**Grading:**

This course follows the [UO Compliant Grading Scheme](https://teaching.uoregon.edu/resources/grading-schemes-canvas)

A+           100 to 97-100                          
A               <97 to 94                                  
A-             <94 to 90                
B+            <90 to 87  
B               <87 to 84  
B-              <84 to 80  
C+           <80 to 77  
C              <77 to 74  
C-             <74 to 70  
D+           <70 to 67  
D              <67 to 64  
D-             <64 to 61  
F                <61

**Assignments:**

***Weekly Quizzes (10 per term) - 40%:***

Online. Due by Friday at noon every week. We drop your lowest quiz grade. No late quizzes accepted.

***Lab Assignments (6 per term) - 60%:***

There are six lab assignments due at noon on Fridays. Occasionally you will have more than a week to complete a lab assignment depending on the complexity of the lab.

**Late Assignments:**

Quizzes are not accepted late. If these are not completed by the due date, you get a zero.

Lab assignments are considered late after 1 minute past the deadline. 10% will be deducted each day an assignment is late. Zeros are given after 10 days late.

**Student Accessibility:**

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify the professor if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC) in 360 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

Students registered with AEC should try to send a notification letter to the professor during Week 1 or 2 of the term. I appreciate trying to meet with students early in the term to assure that I am adequately accommodating students.

**Student Conduct:**

The University Student Conduct Code (available at <https://dos.uoregon.edu/conduct>) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the students’ obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at researchguides.uoregon.edu/citing-plagiarism.

***The professor of this course reserves the right to change aspects of this syllabus at any time during the term. Students will be informed if and when this occurs.***