GIS FOR MUNICIPALITIES  
GISC1173-23501

Day/Time: Labs: Mondays 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  
Location: EMGI H105  
Lab Hours: By Appointment during Office Hours

Professor: J. Scott Sires  
Office: EMGI H115  
Office phone: 972-860-4362  
Office hours: Mondays None  
Tuesday 12:20 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.  
Wednesday 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday None  
Friday None  
Email: ssires@dcccd.edu

Lab Coordinator: Jerry Bartz  
Office: EMGI H105  
Office phone: 972-860-4796  
Open Lab: M T W R, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Email: gbartz@dcccd.edu


COURSE INFORMATION

Number: 1173  
Section: 23501  
Credit Hours: 1

Description: Focuses on use of GIS technology within and for municipal entities. Introduces specific GIS applications used within municipal environments and in support of municipal services. Discusses the evolution of GIS within these environments and explains current trends. Includes concepts of regional actions and resources as they affect local municipalities.

Prerequisites: None

Objectives: This course will provide the student with the fundamental applications and business cases for GIS within the local government industry. By completing this course, students will:  
Relate city problem to a GIS problem, develop an approach and solve the problem.  
Gain a basic, practical understanding of local government GIS applications.  
Collect, or acquire, decision-specific geo-data, incorporate attributes and overlay all on basemap data.  
Extract and import datasets from existing legacy data environments.  
Site reasonable concerns when publishing local government data.  
Identify local government GIS components and related costs.  
Qualify local government GIS functions as internal or external.  
Apply practical ArcGIS experience by developing a portfolio of local government GIS projects.

Outline: 17 calendar week semester meeting on Mondays only. The 7 assignments are due as per due dates listed below.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic of Study</th>
<th>Exercise Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>HOLIDAY – CAMPUS CLOSED – NO CLASS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1/27</td>
<td>General Discussion of requirements and of syllabus. Introduction to text and scope of exercises. Hazardous Emergency Decisions Project 1 – An Explosive situation in Springfield, VA.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/03</td>
<td>Continue Hazardous Emergency Decisions - Project 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/10</td>
<td>Hazardous Emergency Decisions Project 2 – Skirting the Spill in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.</td>
<td>Haz/Emer Project 1 due beginning of class week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/17</td>
<td>Continue Hazardous Emergency Decisions Project 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2/24</td>
<td>Demographic Decisions Project 1 – For Richer or poorer in Chicago.</td>
<td>Haz/Emer Project 2 due beginning of class week 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/03</td>
<td>Continue Demographic Decisions Project 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK – CAMPUS CLOSED – NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>Demographic Decisions Project 2 - Determining diversity in Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>Demographics Project 1 due beginning of class week 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>Continue Demographic Decisions Project 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>3/31</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Decisions Project 1 – Taking a bite out of Houston’s crime.</td>
<td>Demographics Project 2 due beginning of class week 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>4/07</td>
<td>Continue Law Enforcement Decisions Project 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/14</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Decisions Project 2 – Logging Lincoln’s police activity</td>
<td>Law Enf. Project 1 due beginning of class week 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>4/21</td>
<td>Continue Law Enforcement Decisions Project 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>5/05</td>
<td>Continue Urban Planning Decisions Project 1</td>
<td>Urban Project 1 due by end of class week 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>5/12</td>
<td>No required class meeting however lab is open for this class Create portfolio item</td>
<td>Portfolio item due by May 14th, 5:00 PM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Recommendations:** Storage device; to be used in this class as well as all other program courses.

**Assessments:**
- Lecture attendance and participation: 10%
- Portfolio Item: 13%
- Exercise assignments: 77%
Attendance: You are expected to attend all lectures and labs. It is your responsibility to withdraw from this course if necessary. If you stop attending class your final grade will be determined as shown in the above “Assessments” with zeros for all grades missed. Attending includes being prepared such that full participation is not hampered.

ADA Statement: If you are a student with a disability and/or special needs who requires accommodations, please contact the college Disability Services Office.

Religious Holidays: Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Academic Dishonesty: Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion. As a college student, you are considered a responsible adult. Your enrollment indicates acceptance of the Dallas County Community Colleges Code of Student Conduct published in the Dallas County Community Colleges Catalog. https://www1.dcccd.edu/cat0506/ss/code.cfm

Pay specific attention to Pages 3 of 5 and 4 of 5 of the STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, STUDENT CONDUCT, item number 11 defines how we define cheating.

Withdrawal Policy: If you are unable to complete this course, it is your responsibility to withdraw formally. The withdrawal request must be received in the Registrar’s Office by Thursday, April 17, 2014. Failure to do so will result in your receiving a performance grade, usually an “F”. If you drop a class or withdraw from the college before the official drop/withdrawal deadline, you will receive a “W” (Withdraw) in each class dropped.

Six Drop Issue: **STOP BEFORE YOU DROP**
For students who enrolled in college level courses for the first time in the fall of 2007, Texas Education Code 51.907 limits the number of courses a student may drop. You may drop no more than 6 courses during your entire undergraduate career unless the drop qualifies as an exception. Your campus counseling/advising center will give you more information on the allowable exceptions. Remember that once you have accumulated 6 non-exempt drops, you cannot drop any other courses with a “W”. Therefore, please exercise caution when dropping courses in any Texas public institution of higher learning, including all seven of the Dallas County Community Colleges. For more information, you may access: https://www1.dcccd.edu/coursedrops

Repeating this course: Effective for Fall Semester 2005, the Dallas County Community Colleges will charge additional tuition to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. All third and subsequent attempts of the majority of credit and Continuing Education/Workforce Training courses will result in additional tuition to be charged. Developmental Studies and some other courses will not be charged a higher tuition rate. Third attempts include courses taken at any Dallas County Community Colleges since the Fall 2002 Semester.

Geo Lab Policies: Food IS allowed in the Geo lab but you take responsibility for any property damage that results from your food or drink; regardless of how the damage occurred. Drinks ARE allowed in the classroom, WITH TIGHT FITTING LIDS ONLY, but you take responsibility for any property damage that results from...
your food or drink; regardless of how the damage occurred. With respect to any food you consume in lab, the cleanliness of our lab is also your responsibility. Your PC and desk are your responsibility; please keep them clean so we all benefit from the best environment.

Cell Phones are to be silent at all times within the lab. Cell phones are not to be used during class lecture nor can they used during labs. **Cell phones and pagers are no longer allowed in the Testing Center.**

Etiquette will be observed at all times in the classroom. We will not tolerate students talking over the instructor, other students or guests. At no time may a student touch the keyboard or other input devices on any PC except their own UNLESS prior approval of a PC user; ASK FIRST! At no time will a student remove, delete or erase any files from any PC other than files they have created on the PC they are using at that class time. Each lab PC is WIPED OUT EACH NIGHT! Only the content of our Geo Lab Server is maintained. At no time will a student write-over an existing file on any PC other than on the PC they are using at that class time.

Students will prepare for class as needed and directed. BEING UNPREPARED or late results in a disruption to the lesson and content delivery and will result in reductions in participation and or lab grade for the student causing the delay. Students will participate in class discussions and will NOT perform non-geospatial technology program work, will not email beyond that needed for support of our classes, will not surf the internet nor perform other activities during class EXCEPT related to the course of study. Behavior unacceptable to the instructor will result in removal of the student from class.

**If you are receiving Financial Aid grants or loans, you must begin attendance in all classes. Do not drop or stop attending any class without consulting the Financial Aid Office. Changes in your enrollment level and failing grades may require that you repay financial aid funds.**

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**COURSE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES**

1. Understand and apply methods and appropriate technology to the study of the geospatial technologies.
2. Recognize geographic and quantitative methods and the differences between these approaches and other methods of inquiry and to communicate findings, analyses, and interpretation both orally and in writing.
3. Identify and recognize the differences among competing geographic theories.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the major issues and problems facing geospatial technologies, including issues that touch upon ethics, values, and public policies.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the interdependence of geospatial technology and their influence on, and contribution to modern culture.

**COURSE INTELLECTUAL COMPETENCIES**

1. Reading – The ability to analyze and interpret a variety of printed materials – books, documents, and articles.
2. Writing – The ability to produce clear, correct and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion and audience.
3. Speaking – The ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion, and audience.
4. Listening – Analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication, possess sufficient literacy skills of writing, and reading.
5. Critical Thinking – Think and analyze at a critical level.

**Right to Change syllabus:** The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary.