

Introduction to Geographic Data & Information

Geography 370-007

FALL 2015 – TTh 3:30-4:45p Fetzner 106

Lab Sections: T 11:00-11:50a, W 3:35-4:25p, F 1:25-2:15p– Saunders 322

Phil Page, Lecturer – Dept. of Geography



Course Description

There is a geographic component to all phenomena on the Earth. Governments, businesses, scientists, and individuals all make use of geographic information from sources as distant as satellites orbiting the earth to the cell phone in your pocket. The objective of this course is to provide a **broad-based survey of geographic data and the techniques used to create, obtain, and interpret, and utilize geographic data**. This course is intended to familiarize students with the fundamental knowledge necessary to be *critically informed users and producers* of digital geographic information, and to ensure that all students have basic competencies with the ArcGIS suite of geographic software tools.

Topics we'll cover include the following:

- What is geographic information? (maps as quantitative information)
- Geodesy, map projections, and geographic coordinate systems
- How geographic information is stored digitally
- Finding sources for existing data & creating your own data
- Global positioning systems
- Satellite image data sources
- Analysis of geographic data
- Designing maps and other information outputs from geographic data
- and more...

Subsequent Courses

This course is intended to be a stand-alone survey of geographic information for majors from geography and students in related fields. It also serves as an introductory portal to more advanced courses that build on the material covered in this class:

- GEOG 477: Introduction to Remote Sensing and Digital Image Processing
- GEOG 577: Advanced Remote Sensing
- GEOG 491: Introduction to GIS
- GEOG 591: Applied Issues in Geographic Information Systems
- GEOG 541: GIS in Public Health
- GEOG 593: Geographic Information System Programming
- GEOG 594: Global Positioning Systems and Applications
- ENVR 468/ENST 468: Advanced Functions of Temporal GIS

Questions about this class? Feel free to contact the instructor: Phil Page (philpage@unc.edu)