Lab Syllabus – GEO327G/386G: GIS & GPS Applications in Earth Sciences – Fall 2021

TA: Cole Speed; cspeed7@utexas.edu

Lab Time/Location: Monday 1:00-3:00PM (All sections); JGB 2.312

Office hours: Thursday 9:00-11:00AM; JGB 2.312 (or by appointment)

Introduction
GIS and GPS are an extremely powerful tools with a wide range of applications and uses spanning the earth sciences. I am very excited to help you learn how to use them! Though the lab assignments will take some time and effort both in and out of the lab period, I am confident that you will come out of this course with the skills necessary to approach and answer research questions using GIS and GPS technology. Please don’t hesitate to ask me for help at any time.

Lab Assignments and Data
Lab directions are in the “Assignments” folder on Canvas and can also be accessed through the course website (Lab >> Select a Lab). The lab assignments are self-contained and provide step-by-step instruction for completion. Please turn in your assignments through the corresponding lab in the “Assignments” tab. There will be a rubric that shows the point system for each lab. Please attach you answers to lab questions and associated map document(s) in PDF format. I will grade, provide feedback/suggestions, and return them electronically.

Data for the lab is located on the JSG network at \disk.austin.utexas.edu\root\geo-class\Geo-327g_386g. A 32 GB or larger flash drive is highly recommended. You will have 20 Gb of secure network storage space for this class, but a flash drive will prove useful for working outside the lab or on your personal computer.

Grades
The lab component of this course accounts for 35% of your total course grade. Lab assignments will be due at the beginning of the lab period on the due date for the assignment. For each day (up to 5 days) that an assignment is late, 10% of the overall score will be deducted from the raw score. In excess of 5 days late, you may still turn in your lab any time before the end of the semester for a maximum of 50% of the original attainable score. Everyone will be granted a one-time exception for turning in a lab late without a penalty. Please notify me if/when you would like to use your exception. One-time exception lab assignment must be turned in by the following Friday. Please talk to me or send me an email if you have an emergency and cannot complete the lab on time.

Maps of the Week
I will feature a map or two each week from the previous lab that I feel best exemplifies the features we look for in a good map. I’ll specifically highlight features that made this map stand out. For reference, some essential elements that every map should have can be found here. The author of the Map(s) of the Week will receive 1 bonus point on the lab.

Safety Protocol in the Computer Lab Room
Our best protections against spreading COVID-19 on campus are vaccinations, masks (defined as cloth face coverings), and staying home if you are showing symptoms. For the benefit of everyone, students are requested to follow these important guidelines:

- If possible, try to use the same workstation for every lecture/lab period.
- You are responsible for sanitizing your class computer workstation, keyboard, and mouse before departing the classroom using provided supplies.
- Until told otherwise, please always wear a cloth face-covering properly in class and in all campus buildings.
- COVID-19: Reporting symptoms and test results: To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to University Health Services and that faculty and staff report to the HealthPoint Occupational Health Program (OHP).