PDD/UST 644 GIS CAPSTONE SEMINAR

Day & Time: Tuesdays, 6-9:50 p.m.
Location: UR 39
Instructor: Dr. Sung-Gheel Jang
Office: UR 349
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Phone: (216) 687-5597
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. to noon, or by appointment
Course website: CSU Blackboard (http://www.csuohio.edu/elearning/blackboard/index.htm)

Prerequisites
The prerequisites for this class are the successful completion of PAD/PDD/UST 642 (Introduction to GIS), and the successful completion of PAD/PDD/UST 643 (Advanced GIS).

Class Objectives and Description
This course is planned as both a capstone and a seminar and as such, has two complimentary goals. The capstone goal is to integrate the GIS knowledge and skills you have accumulated over the last two semesters into a single and significant project utilizing the functionality of a Geographic Information System. The seminar goal is to actively participate in discussions (and assume the lead for one of them) centering on current issues and topics in the field of GIS.

This course is the third in a sequence of graduate level course in Geographic Information Systems. Upon satisfactory completion of the three graduate courses (642, 643, 644), you will receive a Graduate Certificate in Urban Geographic Information Systems. You should double check the University Certificate requirements if you are under the impression that this course will complete your Graduate Certificate in Urban Geographic Information Systems.

Class Structure
This course is organized as follows:

1. Seminar Discussions
   This component of the course serves as the seminar portion of the class. It will be the responsibility of each student to lead one discussion based on any GIS-relevant topic of his or her choosing. While you may wish to choose the topic area of your research project, note that your presentation should not at all involve your research project. If there is another topic you wish to explore, feel free. Each student will choose three readings sourced from peer-reviewed academic journals. A relevant and heretofore unassigned textbook chapter may substitute for one of the readings. Web sites, reports, popular press articles, etc., may supplement, but not replace these core readings.

   You are expected to read all assigned materials prior to each class, and come to class ready to discuss the readings. Remember, presenters should be primarily leading a discussion rather than lecturing so class preparation and participation is very important. If you are unprepared to participate in a discussion of the readings, inform the instructor prior to the start of class. You must make the readings available in one of the two following ways: (1) Place readings on the ‘Discussions’ tool of the course Blackboard shell, and send the class an email stating your readings are available at least one week prior to your
presentation date; or (2) make hard copies of the articles available to the instructor at least two weeks prior to your presentation date. You will forfeit your presentation opportunity if you do not make the readings available (as described above) so that your classmates have adequate time to prepare for the discussion.

You are required to hand in summary reports with discussion questions of each article assigned for a class’s seminar discussion before the class via the Blackboard Assignment Dropbox. The leading student of each seminar should utilize the discussion questions.

2. The GIS Capstone Project
   You are required to complete a GIS-based capstone project for this class. The project must be based on an approved research proposal. As you progress into the work some revisions to the approved proposal may be required. Any such changes must be put in writing and discussed with an approved by the instructor. Presentation of your research results and a web-based project summary are required.

Required Materials
There is no textbook for this class. However, students are required to acquire the class readings.

Helpful Resources
• PDD/PAD/UST 643 Readings

Evaluation
Your final grade will be determined as follows:

   20%   Class Participation (Summary Reports; Web Log)
   10%   Seminar Presentation
   5%    Project Proposal
   5%    Peer-review on the proposals
   10%   Revised Project Proposal
   20%   Interim Report
   30%   Final Report

Tentative Class Schedule
A detailed class schedule will be distributed once student presentation dates and topics are determined.

Class Policies
• Based on the nature of a seminar class, attendance is required. In the absence of extreme and documents circumstances, missing class immediately and negatively impacts your grade. You are responsible for changes to this syllabus and the course schedule as announced in class.
Students should refer to the CSU Graduate Catalog ([http://www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/catalog](http://www.csuohio.edu/gradcollege/catalog)) for administrative procedures related to drop, add, withdrawal, and incompletes.

It is your responsibility to follow the University Policies such as Student Conduct Code and Academic Regulations and Procedures which can be found at [http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/conduct/index.html](http://www.csuohio.edu/studentlife/conduct/index.html) when you take this course.

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in UC304. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.