PDD/PAD/UST 644 GIS CAPSTONE SEMINAR

Day & Time:       Wednesdays, 6-9:50 p.m.
Location:         UR 351
Instructor:       Dr. Sung-Gheel (Gil) Jang
Office:           UR 349
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Phone:            (216) 687-5597
Office Hours:     By appointment
Course website:   Blackboard (https://elearning.csuohio.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct)

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 Geographic Information Systems. The seminar goal is to actively participate in discussions (and assume the lead for a couple of them) focusing on the GIS management issues within an organization as well as 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 discussions based on both selected chapters of the texts and any GIS-relevant topic of his or her choosing. For the seminar sessions using chapters of the textbooks, the leading student should prepare a MS PowerPoint Presentation (no more than 10 slides) briefly summarizing the chapters and addressing their key points. For the seminar sessions of your own interest, each student should choose three readings sourced from peer-reviewed academic journals. A relevant textbook chapter may substitute
for one of the readings. Web sites, reports, popular press articles, etc., may supplement, but not replace these core readings.

Other students must post brief summaries/comments with discussion questions on the assigned chapters/readings to Blackboard at least 6 hours before each class so that the leading student of each seminar can have time to compile the discussion questions.

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 in Blackboard, 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.

2. The GIS Capstone Project
You are required to complete an individual capstone project for this class. The project must be based on an approved 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 proposal by the instructor. When you prepare for your proposal and final report, you must follow the proposal guidelines and the final report guidelines respectively (See the handouts).

Each of you must maintain your own web log for your project in Blackboard (Discussions tool). All your work should be posted to the web log space. Also, you are required to post your work logs to the space such as summary of a meeting with your client; any problems you face; any breakthrough you have achieved; and so on.

Textbook


Recommended Resources

- PAD/PDD/UST/ENV 643 Readings

Grade

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

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

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.
Course Schedule
(As of Jan 22, 2010)

1/20  Class overview and introduction
      Select a seminar theme and chapters individually; choose/study a client organization

1/27  Seminar 1: Tomlinson Ch. 1-4 (led by John)
      Project work – introduce client organizations; present project ideas (MS PowerPoint Presentation)

2/3   Seminar 2: Tomlinson Ch. 5-7 (led by Dan)
      Project work – prepare for a project proposal

2/10  Guest Speaker (Daniel Meaney, GISP: GIS/IS Manager, Cuyahoga County Planning Commission – Confirmed)
      Project proposal presentation (MS PowerPoint)
      Preliminary proposal due

2/17  Peer-review due
      Seminar 3: Tomlinson Ch. 8-9 (led by Ryan)

2/24  Revised proposal due
      Seminar 4: Tomlinson Ch.11-12 (led by Jinghan)
      Project work – present revised project proposal; class discussion
      Circulate the revised proposal to the client organizations; solicit their feedback
      Revised proposal due

3/3   Guest Speaker (Xander Mavrides, PhD, GISP: GIS Manager, Cleveland Division of Water – Confirmed)
      Seminar 5: Obermeyer & Pinto Ch. 12-14 (led by John)
      Project work – If you receive any feedbacks from your client, present them and how you will cope with them in your project to the class (MS PowerPoint).

3/10  Seminar 6: Obermeyer & Pinto Ch. 7-8 (led by Dan)
      Project work

3/17  Spring recess – no meeting

3/24  Guest Speaker (Dick Kotapish, GISP: GIS Director, Lake County GIS Department – Confirmed)
      Seminar 7: Obermeyer & Pinto Ch. 9-11 (led by Ryan)
      Project work
3/31  **Interim report presentation** (MS PowerPoint)

  Seminar 8: Obermeyer & Pinto Ch. 5-6 (led by Jinghan)

  **Interim report due**

4/7  **Seminar 9**: Topic – TBD' (led by John)

  Project work

4/14  *Dr. Jang attends the AAG conference – no meeting*

  Project work

4/21  **Seminar 10**: Topic – TBD (led by Dan)

  Project work

4/28  **Seminar 11**: Topic – TBD (led by Ryan)

  Project work

5/5  **Seminar 12**: Topic – TBD (led by Jinghan)

  Project work

5/12  **Final presentation**

  Final report due: **May 12th, 6 p.m.**

*TBD: to be determined

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**GIS Journal List**

- Computers, Environment and Urban Systems
- *Journal of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA Journal)*
- Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design
- Transactions in GIS
- International Journal of Geographical Information Science (IJGIS)
- Journal of Geographical Systems
- Annals of the Association of American Geographers
- The Professional Geographer
- Computers and Geosciences

**Other resources**