

GEOG 465: Topics In Geographic Information Science: Geospatial Ontologies & Semantics

Spring 2012 Course Syllabus

Class Time: Tu & Th: 9:30 - 10:45 am

Location: ISAT/CS 336

Instructor: Dr. James W. Wilson

Contact Information

Email: wilsonjw@jmu.edu

Office: HHS 3223

Office Hours: Tu & Th: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

By appointment (2 business day turn around except in extenuating circumstances)

Phone: 540-568-2757

Geographic Science Webpage: <http://www.gs.jmu.edu>

Course Description

3 credits. This course examines varying topical issues in geographic science. This course may be repeated as course topics vary. *Prerequisite: GEOG 366 or permission of instructor.*

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Define ontology and semantics as they relate to information science
- Describe how and why ontologies and semantics relate to GIScience
- Diagram the relationship of spatial concepts
- Identify and describe different standards for storing and accessing geospatial ontologies
- Explore and visualize geospatial ontologies
- Utilize geospatial semantic technologies

Materials

- Assigned readings
- Access to the Internet and a World Wide Web Browser
- JMU: Blackboard, LAN, and E-mail Accounts
 - The Blackboard course management system will be used for posting readings and assignments, making announcements, and managing online class discussions.
- All students taking a geospatial technologies course in the ISAT Department are required to purchase an external hard drive by the start of the second week of class. The drive will be used to store lab and project data. It is recommended that the drive have a minimum capacity of 500 Gb and be powered via the USB cable rather than a wall adapter. Suitable hard drives can be purchased at the JMU bookstore, as well as at discount department stores and electronics stores. Students taking multiple geospatial technology courses are only required to purchase a single drive.

Attendance and Participation

While attendance is not mandatory, students are responsible for all materials presented and discussed in class. Students should read the assigned readings before the designated class.

Assessment

Students will be evaluated on the basis of tests (which may contain different types of questions including multiple choice, short answer, or essay questions), participation in the class, various in-class and other assignments, and project work. Assignments must be completed on time and late submissions will be marked down 10% for every day they are late.

Grades

Final grades will be assigned on a 10-point scale A-F (e.g., 90-100% = A.) Further, where appropriate, + and - grades will be given in the lower and upper 3 points for each range (e.g., 80-83 = B-).

<u>Item</u>	<u>%</u>
Test	20%
Participation	20%
Assignments	60%
	100
	%

Honor Code

“Students shall observe complete honesty in all academic matters.”

E-Mail and Communication

The James Madison University e-mail system is the official electronic mail system for distributing course-related communications. *You must use the JMU electronic mail system for course communications. Please preface the subject line of any course related email with GEOG465!* In accordance with University policy, grades and other confidential information will NOT be reported via e-mail or telephone under any circumstances.

Course Evaluation

The syllabus is a contract between the professor and students regarding course requirements, expectations, and assessment, which establishes my obligations to you in teaching this class. I also take this contract to include your obligation to evaluate the course at the end of the semester. Student evaluations provide important feedback for me, and they are essential for measuring teaching effectiveness in the profession. Chairs and Deans see course evaluations every year in reviewing faculty performance, and committees at all levels of the University rely on the evaluations in making decisions. We take your input very seriously, and a high rate of student response is necessary for a meaningful assessment of teaching effectiveness. Therefore, in taking this course you commit yourself to completing a course evaluation at the end of the semester.

Additional University Policies can be found at: <http://www.jmu.edu/syllabus/>