



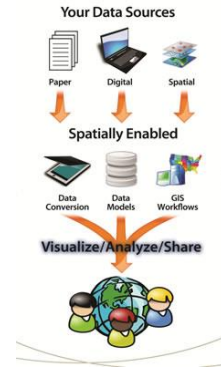
## GIS Projects

GEOS 5320 – Spring 2014

**Class Meetings: Monday/Wednesday 11:30am-12:55pm**  
**210 Ross Hall (Roan Scholars Room)**

**Instructor:** Andrew Joyner, Ph.D.  
Office: 308 Ross Hall  
E-mail: [joynert@etsu.edu](mailto:joynert@etsu.edu)

**Office hours:** MWF: 10:30-11:30am  
or by appointment



### 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to GIS project management through the completion of two different types of projects: a group project and an individual project. The group project will consume a large part of the semester and Monday will typically be dedicated to a “business meeting” where we will discuss weekly progress made on the project. The project will present a real-world consulting scenario where the class will be asked to use GIS, mapping, modeling, and database skills to develop the Risk Assessment and Hazard Profile sections of a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the ETSU campus. An individual project will revolve around each students’ research interests and it is expected that the project will be related to each students’ thesis.

Additionally, local and regional GIS managers and specialists will come to the class to discuss experiences that they have had with their own past and current GIS projects. Most presenters will also have a Q&A time to go over any questions you have about projects and employment in the field.

### A. Course Format

The success of this course will depend on how much time and effort you put into it. There will be no traditional lectures or labs, but instead the class will alternate between business meetings, project management discussions (data standards, database construction, timelines, workflows, etc.), and special guest speakers. Business meetings will be led by a different student each week and that student will be expected to send out a meeting agenda the day before the meeting, lead the meeting agenda, take meeting notes, and send a copy of the meeting notes out to the class within 24 hours after the business meeting. Class discussion on specific project management topics will be led by the instructor and related readings will help to guide these discussions. Students will need to, as a group, divide up project tasks, set weekly goals, create a timeline for successful project completion, constantly adapt the timeline to reflect issues that arise, and be personally accountable and responsible for their specific tasks. There will be various deadlines for parts of the individual project throughout the semester and these parts will include: a project proposal based on the Sea Grant agencies pre-proposal statement of interest form, peer critiques of the proposal, a rough draft of the methods/results, peer critiques of the methods/results, and a final white-paper style report that includes a section about limitations and issues related to your specific project.

## B. Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated according to the following:

### **Business Meetings:**

Students will rotate leading the meeting each week and the weekly leader will be graded on their meeting agenda, how they lead the meeting, and their meeting notes. Promptness in sending out the meeting agenda and notes will also be a graded component.

### **Individual Tasks Completion:**

Each individual will be assessed based on how they contributed to the group project based on their completion of individual tasks in a timely manner.

### **Group Project Completion:**

The class will be evaluated, collectively, based on the entire (or partial) completion of the group project.

### **Group Project Peer Evaluation:**

Your contribution to the group project will be evaluated by your peers and will contribute to your final individual grade.

### **Individual Projection Completion**

Graduate students will write a white paper report and undergraduates will produce a conference-ready poster

### **Class Discussion/Participation**

### **Discussion/Questions for Guest Speakers**

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS &amp; GRADING</b>	
Leading a Business Meeting	50 points
Group Project Tasks	100 points
Group Project Completion	100 points
Group Project Peer Evaluation	30 points
Proposal	20 points
Proposal Critiques	10 points
Methods/Results Report Draft	30 points
Methods/Results Report Critiques	10 points
Methods/Results Final Report	50 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>400 points</b>

## C. Readings

Students are expected to complete all required readings that are assigned occasionally for group discussion. Students are also expected to examine and extract information from current hazard

mitigation plans, hazard mitigation crosswalks (i.e., FEMA guidelines), and a multitude of GIS- and hazard-related resources.

## D. Grading Policy

Grading will follow the ETSU graduate student grading scale. Deadlines for the individual project are strictly enforced and meeting self-imposed deadlines for the group project will lead to higher group-related grades. There is no extra credit, make-up, or late assignment policy. Active discussion and participation will be factored into your “business meeting” and “group project completion” grades.

Scale	Point Equivalent	Grade
92.5 - 100	370 - 400	A
89.5 - 92.49	358 - 369	A-
87.5 - 89.49	350 - 357	B+
82.5 - 87.49	330 - 349	B
79.5 - 82.49	318 - 329	B-
77.5 - 79.49	310 - 317	C+
69.5 - 77.49	278 - 309	C
< 69.5	< 278	F

## E. Class Policies

The following policies guide this course

- Silence cell phones while in the class room.
- Respect your classmates and instructor by being on-time and prepared for class.
- Always ask questions!
- Don't miss class!

## 2. COURSE SUPPORT

If you have a disability that may impact your work in this class and may require accommodations, please inform the instructor and contact Disability Services through the following webpage: (<http://www.etsu.edu/students/disable/>)

## 3. ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY

As a student at East Tennessee State University, you have acknowledged the standards that have been defined in the Student Code of Conduct, and thus you have agreed to adhere to its tenets.

Students are responsible for submitting work that reflects their individual performance. Misrepresentation of your own work either through plagiarism, collusion, or data distortion is a serious breach of the code of student conduct. If you have any questions on what constitutes plagiarism, review it in the [ETSU Student Handbook](#).

#### 4. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	Dates	TOPICS & READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Jan 22	Overview of Class, Project Explanation, and Resources	ID/Scan Mitigation Plans
2	Jan 27/29	Project Discussion (both days) - explaining mitigation & data resources, selecting project components, etc.	Develop Timeline & Individual Tasks
3	Feb 3/5	Hazard ID, Individual Tasks, Methods Discussion, & Timeline	Weekly Tasks; Develop Methods
4	Feb 10/12	Business Meeting 1; GS: David Light (Eastman)	Weekly Tasks; BM: Joey
5	Feb 17/19	Business Meeting 2; <b>Proposal Peer Critiques</b>	Weekly Tasks; BM: Crystal; <b>Proposal Due</b>
6	Feb 24/26	Business Meeting 3; Guest Speaker 2	Weekly Tasks; BM: Selena
7	Mar 3/5	Business Meeting 4; Data Standards (*optional speaker*)	Weekly Tasks; BM: Jeremy
8	Mar 10/12	Spring Break	
9	Mar 17/19	Business Meeting 5; GS: Mark Tuttle (ORNL)	Weekly Tasks; BM: Amy
10	Mar 24/26	Business Meeting 6; <b>Report Peer Critiques</b>	Weekly Tasks; BM: Steph; <b>Report Draft</b>
11	Mar 31/Apr 2	Business Meeting 7; Guest Speaker 4	Weekly Tasks; BM: Joey
12	Apr 7/9	Business Meeting 8; Database Management (*optional speaker*)	Weekly Tasks; BM: Crystal
13	Apr 14/16	Business Meeting 9; GS: Joyce Pierce (GIS Consultant)	Weekly Tasks; BM: Selena
14	Apr 21/23	Business Meeting 10; <b>Final Report Presentations</b>	Weekly Tasks; BM: Jeremy; <b>Final Report</b>
15	Apr 28/30	Business Meeting 11; Group Project Review/Audit	Weekly Tasks; BM: Amy
16	May 3-8	Exam Week - "Stakeholder" Meeting Presentation	<b>Group Project Due</b>

*The course schedule, readings, guest speakers, and procedures described in the syllabus are subject to change. Students will be informed of any such changes via the D2L course site and/or via email.*