

TAMU-GEOG-215-GeospatialCornerstone / GEOG-215-GeospatialCornerstone

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README.md

GEOG 215: GEOSPATIAL CORNERSTONE

Instructor: Dan Goldberg, daniel.goldberg@tamu.edu | Office Hours: TBD or by appt.

Lecture: TBD TBDam - TBDam @TBD

PreReqs: None.

Catalog Description

Professional career options, methods, strategies and skills involved in successful career planning in the geospatial sciences; highlights high impact learning opportunities such as study abroad and internships and the development of scientific communication skills.

Course Description and Prerequisites

This class is an introduction to the professional career options, methods, strategies, and skills involved in successful career planning in the geospatial sciences. This class highlights high impact learning opportunities such as study abroad and internships and the development of scientific communication skills. Prerequisites: GEOG and GIST majors; sophomore classification or approval of instructor.

Learning Outcomes or Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to career opportunities that are available across the geospatial industry including both the public and private sectors. The course will include an introduction to various means by which students can be best-prepared for obtaining professional employment in the geospatial industry and for ensuring a successful career, including the types of skills that required in different segments of the industry and how and where students can find instruction and practical experience to obtain them. This course will highlight how and why high impact learning experiences such as undergraduate research, internships, and study abroad are important components of a student’s portfolio that will aide them in gaining professional employment before and following graduation. This course will provide training on effective writing and communication, and emphasize the importance of both as key aspects of successful careers in the geospatial industry.

At the end of this class, each student will be able to:

1. Enumerate and compare the types of jobs that are available in the geospatial industry, in both the public and private sectors;
2. Enumerate and evaluate the sets of geospatial skills required by different types of jobs, and develop an academic and extra-curricular plan to achieve those that are required for the types of professional employment that they desire;
3. Describe the application process for graduate and professional school, and develop a plan for improving the competitiveness of their application;
4. Develop an effective career plan including a reflection on the impact that internships and other high impact learning experiences may have on their job-seeking potential;
5. Prepare, present, and discuss the strengths of different resume styles and contents; and
6. Develop effective communication skills for geospatial information and topics in writing, visually, and in spoken presentations.

Email

All Texas A&M students should use their university-associated email accounts when emailing the instructor and teaching assistants.

Textbook and/or Resource Material

No required textbooks. Course readings will include online and other videos and resources and materials provided by the instructor.

Attendance and make-up policies

Attendance is mandatory for all classes and events. This course will follow the [University's policy](#) if a student cannot complete assigned activities by their deadlines due to excused absences.

Grading Policies

Grading for this course will be based on completion of the University "C" course requirements. 70% of the assignments for the course will include writing assignments totaling at least 1250 words. This writing will be complemented with a combination of oral presentation slides, handouts, scripts, web sites, and posters which accompany an oral presentation. The course will also require "public speaking" which will be done in person and/or electronically, for example in video or podcast formats. Collaborative work (i.e., group assignments) will be counted as no more than 30% of a student’s grade, with the remaining 70% being individual work. Student assignments will be provided with formative feedback including review and assessment by the instructor as well as peer-review by fellow students. To pass this course you must pass the C component.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Type	Weight
Thoughtful engagement in class discussions, including questions for speakers	15%
Writing and speaking assignments	85%

Grading Scale

The typical grading scheme for this course has the following cutoffs: ≥90% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, <60% F An average performance in the class will earn a satisfactory grade

Academic Integrity

Aggie Code of Honor For many years Aggies have followed a Code of Honor, which is stated in this very simple verse: "An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do." The Aggie Code of Honor is an effort to unify the aims of all Texas A&M men and women toward a high code of ethics and personal dignity. For most, living under this code will be no problem, as it asks nothing of a person that is beyond reason. It only calls for honesty and integrity, characteristics that Aggies have always exemplified. The Aggie Code of Honor functions as a symbol to all Aggies, promoting understanding and loyalty to truth and confidence in each other. For additional information please visit <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>.

Due Dates and Time Zones

All homework and other assignments will be due following the class that they were assigned, unless otherwise indicated on the assignment.

Texas A&M University Student Services

Texas A&M University offers a variety of student services to on-campus and online students. For more information, please visit <http://distance.tamu.edu/Student-Services>.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

Course Schedule

Week	Readings	Topic	Writing	Speaking	Other
01	TBD	The Geospatial Industry			[HW01] Github Setup
02	TBD	Graduate School			
03	TBD	Public vs. Private		[HW02] S03 (Ind. 5m 250w)	
04	TBD	The Hiring Process			
05	TBD	Resumes/Cover Letter	[HW03] W05 - Resume + Cover Letter (Ind. 1000w)		
06	TBD	Internships/Research			
07	TBD	Career Planning	[HW04] W07 - Career Plan V1 (Ind. 750w)		

Week	Readings	Topic	Writing	Speaking	Other
08	TBD	Other HILEs			
09	TBD	Communicating Effectively		[HW05] S09 (Ind. 5m 250w)	
10	TBD	Scientific/Professional Writing			
11	TBD	Networking			
12	TBD	Public Speaking		[HW06] S12 (Ind. 5m 250w)	
13	TBD	Effectiveness in a Team		[HW07] S13 (Grp. 5m 250w)	
14	TBD	Project Management	[HW08] W14 - Career Plan Final (Ind. 750w)		
Totals		Individual Writing	2500w	750w	
Totals		Group Writing		250w	
Totals		Individual Speaking		15m	
Totals		Group Speaking		5m	

Assignment Types and Weights

Style	Assignment Type	Words/Mins	Points	% Writing/Speaking Grade
Individual	Presentation	15	1500	27%
Individual	Writing	2500	2500	46%
Individual	Presentation Response	750	750	14%
Group	Presentation	5	500	9%
Group	Presentation Response	250	250	4%
Total			5500	100%

Writing & Speaking Instruction Methods

This course will follow the ["Best Practices for W & C Courses"](#) from the TAMU University Writing Center for teaching writing and speaking.

Grading Rubrics

[Preparation - Pre-Class](#)

[Participation - In-Class](#)

[Presentations - Individual Assessment](#)

[Presentations - Group Assessment](#)

[Writing - Individual Assessment](#)

[Writing - Group Assessment](#)

[Teamwork - Individual Assessment](#)

[Teamwork - Group Assessment](#)