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# GIS 321 Principles of Programming for GIScience

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## **Instructor and contact information:**

**Instructor:** Sergio Rey

**Office:** Coor Hall 5612

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 2-3 or by appointment

**Email:** srey@asu.edu

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**Course prerequisites:** [CSE 110](#)

## **Course description:**

Contemporary research in analytical geography has placed an increasing demand on the computational skills of its practitioners. The advances in spatial data analysis and geographical modeling have also largely out-paced the capabilities of standard statistical software. At the same time, the multidisciplinary nature of the spatial sciences often translates into the need to deal with disparate data sources, formats and programming languages. As such, students undertaking research are often confronted with a daunting set of tasks that are seldom covered in an integrated fashion in course work. This course is designed to address this situation.

## **Course learning outcomes:**

- Introduce geography students to basic computational concepts using Python, an object-oriented scripting language, for data processing, analysis and application development in geographic research.
  - Familiarize students with the fundamental tools used in collaborative programming and research projects in an open source and cross-platform environment.
  - Provide students with skill sets that are in high demand within academic GIScience and commercial GIS development.
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**Grading policy:**

Grading in the course will be based on the following point system:

Component	Points
Exercises	360
Exam 1	120
Exam 2	220
Exam 3	300
Total	1000

**Exams** will be based on the readings, discussion forum posts, and exercises. All exams are cumulative. Late exams will not be accepted.

**Exercises** will be completed and submitted on Github.

**Extra credit** will be given for accepted pull requests that provide corrections or enhancements to course materials. 10 points for each accepted pull request.

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**Required and recommended readings:**

W: Wentworth, P., et al. (2012) *How to Think Like a Computer Scientist: Learning with Python 3*. OpenBookProject [How to Think Like a Computer Scientist](#). Denoted as **W** in schedule.

Chacon, S. and Straub, B. (2014) *Pro Git*. [Git: Distributed Even if Your Workflow Isn't](#). Denoted as **C** in schedule.

Other readings to be assigned.

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**Weekly activities** All readings are from the How to Think Like a Computer Scientist text unless noted, e.g. with a `git ch1` descriptor.

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Assigned	Due
1	8.22	Course Introduction, <a href="#">Intro to github</a>	<a href="#">C1</a> , <a href="#">C6</a>	<a href="#">E0 GitHub</a>	

2	8.29	Software installation, shells, git local	Install All, Install Windows, Install Mac, C2, C3	E1 Shells	E0
	9.05	Labor Day Holiday			
3	9.12	git distributed, git Collaboration	C4, C5, C6	E2 git collaboration	E1
4	9.19	Python Introduction, Test Driven Development	WP, W1	E3 Testing	E2
5	9.26	Continuous integration, Operators-operands		Exam 1	E3
6	10.03	Sequences, Dictionaries, Sets		E4	Exam 1
	10.10	Fall Break			
7	10.17	Functions, Modules		E5	E4
8	10.24	Object orientation		E6	E5
9	10.31	Composition		Exam 2	E6
10	11.07	Functional programming		E7	Exam 2
11	11.14	NumPy and SciPy		E8	E7
12	11.21	Visualization		E9	E8
13	11.28	Geospatial Python		Exam 3	E9
	12.05				Exam 3

## **Academic integrity**

The ASU student academic integrity policy lists violations in detail. These violations fall into five broad areas that include but are not limited to: cheating on an academic evaluation or assignment, plagiarizing, academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information, aiding academic integrity policy violations and inappropriately collaborating, or falsifying academic records. For more information about the ASU student academic integrity policy, please use the following web link

<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>

## **Disability accommodations**

Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential.

## **Code of Conduct**

As course instructor, I am dedicated to providing a harassment-free learning experience for all students, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, or choice of operating system. All course participants are expected to show respect and courtesy to other students throughout the semester. As a learning community we do not tolerate harassment of participants in any form.

All communication should be appropriate for a professional audience including people of many different backgrounds. Sexual language and imagery is not appropriate in this course.

Be kind to others. Do not insult or put down other students. Behave professionally. Remember that harassment and sexist, racist, or exclusionary jokes are not appropriate for GIS321.

Students violating these rules may be asked to leave the course, and their violations will be reported to the ASU administration.

This code of conduct is an adaptation of the [SciPy 2016 Code of Conduct](#).

## **License**

All the software we will be using in this course falls under an [open source license](#). Additionally, we build on the shoulders of many giants in this course and will be adapting materials from the [Software Carpentry](#) project that has generously provided instructional materials under a [Creative Commons Attribution License](#).

All materials associated with this course are placed under the [Creative Commons Attribution License](#).

# Introduction to GitHub

Since this is our first meeting, the hands-on portion of the session will provide an overview of GitHub. The instructor will be doing the driving and the students can follow along on the lab computers. Next week you will install all the software for the course on your own laptop and the sessions will consist of you doing live coding.

In this first session, we introduce GitHub and cover:

- What is GitHub
- Why use GitHub
- Hands on with GitHub (Exercise)

## What is GitHub

From their [website](#)

### What is GitHub?

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GitHub is a code hosting platform for version control and collaboration. It lets you and others work together on projects from anywhere.

This tutorial teaches you GitHub essentials like *repositories*, *branches*, *commits*, and *Pull Requests*. You'll create your own Hello World repository and learn GitHub's Pull Request workflow, a popular way to create and review code.

## Why use GitHub?

Let's let [Kris Shaffer](#) tell us why:



# GITHUB FOR ACADEMICS

KRIS SHAFFER, PH.D.  
CU-Boulder

[kris.shaffermusic.com/@krisshaffer](http://kris.shaffermusic.com/@krisshaffer)  
see also: [Push, Pull, Fork: GitHub for Academics](#) (Hybrid Pedagogy)

view presentation at [kris.shaffermusic.com/githubforacademics](http://kris.shaffermusic.com/githubforacademics)  
fork presentation at [github.com/kshaffer/githubforacademics](https://github.com/kshaffer/githubforacademics)

Source: <http://kris.shaffermusic.com/githubforacademics>

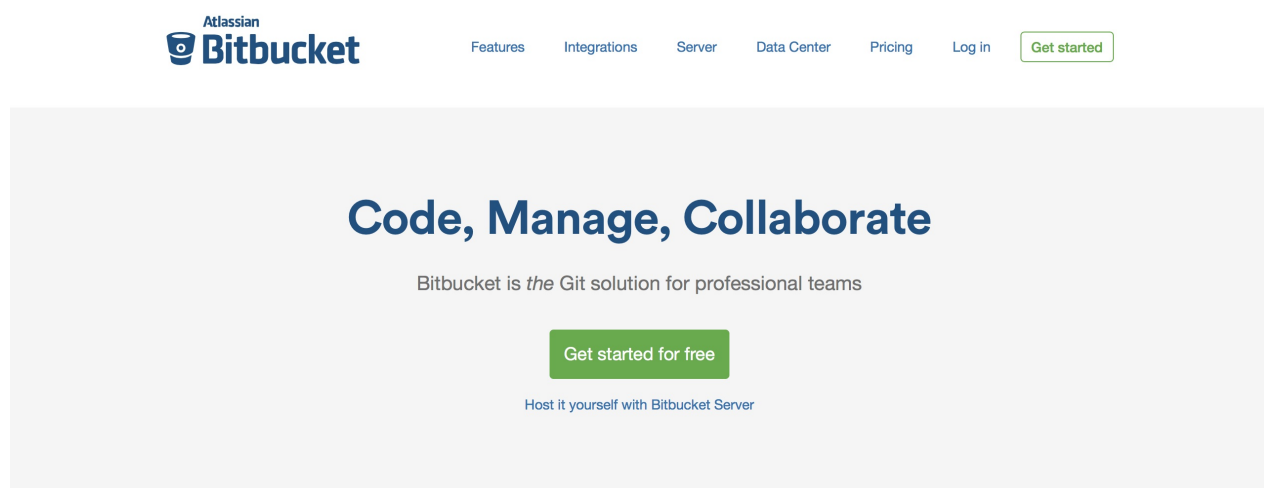
How does the instructor use Github?

The screenshot shows the GitHub profile of Sergio Rey (sjsrey). The profile includes a bio, location (Tempe, AZ), email (sjsrey@gmail.com), website (http://sjsrey.org), and join date (Aug 21, 2009). The profile also displays statistics: 51 Followers, 10 Starred, and 8 Following. The 'Popular repositories' section lists several repositories, including 'pysal', 'narsc2013\_pysal\_workshop', 'stars', 'todo2day1', and 'foss4g14'. The '710 contributions in the last year' section shows a contribution graph with a summary of pull requests, issues opened, and commits.

Source: <https://github.com/sjsrey>

## BitBucket

There is an alternative service called [BitBucket](#) that you may be interested in



### Built for professional teams

Distributed version control system that makes it easy for you to collaborate with your team. The only collaborative Git solution that massively scales.

## Exercise

For this first exercise you will work through the [github tutorial](#).

Once you complete the tutorial, go to the course Blackboard site and under Exercise 00, submit the url for your github account along with the link to your work that demonstrated you did in fact complete the tutorial.