Introduction

Getting Started with Earth Imagery at Work

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Introduction

Welcome to the *Earth Imagery at Work* massive open online course! Thank you for signing up for this MOOC. We've spent a lot of time developing the course exercises that are tailored to show how imagery can offer real-world solutions for environmental management, agriculture, disaster relief, public utilities, the insurance industry, and the commercial sector.

We'll be using a number of sources for imagery, most of which are freely available. We'll look at super high-resolution images captured from drones, high-resolution aerial imagery, and moderate-resolution multispectral imagery from Landsat. And if you're wondering what "moderate-resolution multispectral imagery" means, don't worry. We've taken the time in the exercises to explain the terminology and the technical concepts without oversimplifying the material.

Earth Imagery at Work

Using ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Pro

We're also using two parts of Esri's ArcGIS platform. We've set up an ArcGIS account for each of you to access these applications for the duration of the course, and you'll have a couple of extra weeks at the end to finish up after the last section is released.

*Note: If you already have an ArcGIS account, please use the one associated with this course (where your username ends with **_eiaw**), as explained in the first exercise in Section 1. This will ensure that you have access to the maps, data, and functionality necessary to complete the exercises.*

You will be using this same ArcGIS account information for all of the exercises that we perform on ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Pro in this course.

Note: Your ArcGIS account is not the same as the account you use to access the course in the Udemy learning platform.

- For some of the exercises, you will use ArcGIS Online, which is Esri's web GIS that allows you to use, create, and share maps, scenes, apps, layers, analytics, and data. ArcGIS Online is a browser-based application, so you'll want to ensure that you are using one of the <u>ArcGIS Online supported browsers</u>.
- For the more processing-intensive applications, you will be using ArcGIS Pro. ArcGIS Pro is a desktop GIS application, and you'll want to make sure that your computer meets <u>ArcGIS Pro system requirements</u>.

The next few exercises in this section cover how to access, download, install, and sign in to these applications.

Before we get started...

We want you to get as much out of this course as possible, and we've designed it so that anyone can come in and do the exercises. That's not to say that they've been overly simplified; rather, we've put a lot of time into explaining imagery, a topic that sometimes gives people headaches. So, when you're doing these exercises, if you run into something that's confusing, please let us know.

At times, this course will be demanding. Imagery terminology can be foreign and really technical. If you're totally new to using imagery or even new to GIS, you're going to have lots of questions. We monitor the Q&A in Udemy, the learning platform we are using for this course. So, don't get frustrated; just ask. Not only does this help us improve the course for the next offering, but someone else in the MOOC may have the same question, as well. For questions about how to get the software to run, we have a rapid response support team in place. And you can always email us at <u>gistraining@esri.com</u>.

Posting questions in the Udemy Q&A

We strongly encourage you to post your questions and respond to fellow students' questions in the Udemy Q&A.

- Use a hashtag like #NeedHelp with a descriptor when asking for help. For example, #NeedHelp - Section 2, Exercise 2 or #NeedHelp - Can't Find Living Atlas.
- Use descriptive wording to clearly explain your question or where you need help. You can also attach a screenshot to your question.
- You are also encouraged to answer your peers' questions. Help your fellow students when you are able to do so.
- You can search the Q&A by typing a word or phrase into the Search For A Question field at the top of the Q&A page in the Udemy platform.
- The Udemy Q&A can also be used for discussions. If you have a topic, an interesting link, experience with the subject matter of an exercise, or an example of how you have used ArcGIS and imagery in your own work, feel free to share!

But for those bigger questions, the "why…?" questions, we have experts in each of these domains who can address those, as well. And don't forget that your peers who are taking this MOOC can also help. There will be experts taking this MOOC who can answer your questions. What makes us happiest is when someone runs into something that they don't quite understand and they ask about it, which in turn sparks a lively discussion. Those discussions make MOOCs even more valuable than the content that we've created.

Conclusion

We hope that you are as excited to take this course as we have been in developing it. All right, let's get to work!