

# GTECH 70800: Seminar in GeoInformatics

Spring 2017

Certain Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:50 PM

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Jochen Albrecht
<b>Class room:</b>	HN 1004
<b>Office hours:</b>	Monday and Thursday, 3:00 to 5:00 PM
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Description:</b>	Seminar series with external speakers from the GeoInformatics industry in and around New York City.

## Overview

This seminar is designed as an introduction to the wider geoinformatics field/industry. You will be exposed to a number of professionals and researchers in the NYC area, and each of you will be required to organize your own speaker from the community. The goals of this seminar course are twofold: to introduce you to the wider geoinformatics community, and to promote networking and lasting interactions with local and regional geoinformatics professionals. You will also be encouraged to participate in local GIS events, such as meetups (local interest groups), seminar series at other local institutions, GIS conferences, and more.

## Textbook

No textbook is required.

## Learning Objectives

Interacting with the wider GeoInformatics community is essential to building a functional and useful research network. Through this course, you will be exposed to many of the geoinformatics community organizations in the New York City metro area; this, in turn, will help you to learn to:

- Engage with local organizations and individuals
- Effectively present yourselves to the wider business and academic communities
- Become familiar with a number of topical areas under the umbrella of geoinformatics
- Become engaged and effective members of the wider GeoInformatics community

## Expected Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify key institutions, groups, researchers, and companies involved in the local GeoInformatics community.
- Effectively network with local geoinformatics community members.
- Write comprehensive reports on the work of another researcher/developer/professional.
- Participate in discussions about research and the social implications of GIS.
- Synthesize technical and application domain knowledge to address scientific issues.
- Apply critical thinking skills in both in-class discussion and written work.

## Evaluation

I do not grade on a curve. If many of you get good grades, great! If many of you have mediocre grades, so be it, it will be disappointing and an incentive to do better. I will not try to trick you with impossible exams. Ideally, all can have 100 points! Final evaluation will be based on the following breakdown:

Session write ups:	___	60%
Final exam:	___	30%
Participation:	___	10%

## Policy on Incomplete (IN) and Credit/No-Credit (CR/NC) grades

A final grade of IN (incomplete) will not be given except under the most extraordinary, and documented, circumstances. CR/NC is not available to students enrolled in GTECH 708.

## Course Policies

*Electronic recording devices* are allowed during lectures. All other personal electronics should be turned off before coming into the classroom. This includes cell and smart phones.

*Computers may be used for taking notes only*, and if you use them for activities not related to classroom content (e-mail, Facebook chats, surfing the Net...), you will be asked gently, but firmly, to turn them off.

*Web-enhancement* in the context of this course means that everything pertaining to this course will be communicated through [BlackBoard](#). You are required to check the BlackBoard course site on a daily basis. All changes to the syllabus will be announced on the course home page. All lecture and lab materials are accessible through [BlackBoard](#), and this is also the place to which you upload your assignments. Your exams and lab assignments will be graded based on what you have uploaded to BlackBoard and this is where you will find your grades and may access course statistics that help you to assess your standing at any given time.

## Communication

All email messages about this course should include "GTECH 708" in the subject line and be signed with your full name.

## Participation

Attendance is crucial. Assuming that the class-learning environment is active learning, adherence to protocols and the course timetable is very important. Lateness in arriving at class will not be tolerated. Class participation includes timely attendance and participation in organized class discussions, accomplishments of in-class tasks, and preparation of the reading assignments.

## Late Policy

All reading assignments are due 24 hours before the following week's class. 10% will be deducted for every day late. All assignments must be submitted to get a mark in this course. Exceptions will only be granted for medical reasons (requiring a written note from a medical practitioner stating your inability to attend class) or other extreme personal crises.

## Class Climate

Hunter has made a conscientious effort to increase diversity in the student, staff and faculty member populations. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavor to be respectful in our language, our examples, and the manner in which we conduct our discussions and group work. If you have any concerns about the climate of the class, please see the instructor.

## Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity

Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Be sure and reference all material you use. If you have any questions, please contact me!

## ADA Policy

If you have any type of disability (emotional, medical, physical, learning, etc.), there are support systems, resources, and accommodation actions available to you. If you wish to access any of these supports, resources or accommodations, I encourage you to contact the Office of [AccessABILITY](#), located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. Please Note: You are under no obligation to disclose your disability.

## Syllabus Changes

This current syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. All changes will/would be announced on Blackboard, which you should check regularly.

## Course Schedule

The following is fixed with respect to the meeting dates – but the topics are subject to change.

Week	Topics	Speaker
Feb 1	The NY Metro GIS Scene	Jochen Albrecht
Feb 15	GIS at the NYC Office for Emergency Management	Lynn Seirup
Mar 1	Urban GeoInformatics	Paul Torrens
Mar 15	Oracle Spatial database applications	Jayant Sharma
Apr 19	GIS applications in public health	Mike Porter
May 3	Indicator development	tbd
May 17	Spatio-temporal and semantic data models	Jeremy Mennis
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Final exam – 1:00 to 2:50 PM</b>	