Overview
This seminar is designed as an introduction to the wider GeoInformatics field/industry. Students will be exposed to a number of professionals and researchers. The goals of this seminar course are twofold: to introduce students to the wider GeoInformatics community, and to promote networking and lasting interactions with local and regional GeoInformatics professionals. Students 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, students will become exposed to many of the GeoInformatics community organizations in the New York City metro area; this in turn will help students to learn to:

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

Expected Outcomes
By the end of this course, students 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 students get good grades, great! If many 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 writeups: 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 where you upload your assignments to. 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.

**Academic Standards**
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!

**Students with a Disability**
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.

**Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct**
“In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College affirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationship. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, on contacting the College’s Public Safety Office (212-772-4444)

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College’s Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) of Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

**CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct**
The policy is available at [http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf](http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf)
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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>The Metro NY GeoInformatics Scene</td>
<td>Jochen Albrecht</td>
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<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Geospatial applications of MCMC analysis</td>
<td>Chuanrong Zhang</td>
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<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Geospatial big data applications at CIESIN</td>
<td>Dara Mendeloff</td>
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<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>Urban simulations</td>
<td>Paul Torrens</td>
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<td>Mar 18</td>
<td>The intrinsic role of geoinformation in nonprofit management</td>
<td>Jake Garcia</td>
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<td>Mar 25</td>
<td>Geoanalytics at the Planned Parenthood Federation of America</td>
<td>Mitsue Iwata</td>
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<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>DCP’s GeoSupport program</td>
<td>Lynn Seirup</td>
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<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>Geo support at the Wildlife Conservation Society</td>
<td>Kim Fisher</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
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