GTECH 361 – GIS Analysis
GTECH 732 – Advanced GIS

Spring 2016
Thursdays, 5:35 – 8:15 PM

Place of Instruction: Hunter North, Room 1090B
Credits: 3
Instructor: Carsten Kessler, carsten.kessler@hunter.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 3 – 5 PM
Office: HN 1026
Prerequisites: GTECH 201 – Introduction to Geographic Information Science (or equivalent) for GTECH 361 students
GTECH 709 – Introduction to GIS (or equivalent) for GTECH 732 students

Course Overview
This course will examine the principles of geographic information systems (GIS) including an overview of data structures, data types, methods of data analysis, cartographic modeling, and object-oriented GIS. It will build on the knowledge acquired in the introduction to GIS course, which is a prerequisite. Instead of weekly lab assignments, students will work on 5 larger lab assignments that simulate small GIS projects from practice. The primary software used will be ArcGIS, while individual lab exercises will be conducted using other software packages.

While the lecture portion of this class will be the same for undergraduate (GTECH 361) and graduate (GTECH 732) students, the labs, midterm exams, and requirements for the final projects will be different and appropriate for the respective levels.

Required textbook

Expected Outcomes
By the end of the course it is expected that students will be able to synthesize and integrate concepts of GIS theory and methodology, including data models, data structures, topology, and spatial analysis. Additionally, students will learn to synthesize and integrate information from the GIS/GIScience literature, and demonstrate a conceptual and working knowledge of spatial analysis operations, including mathematical modeling, GIS-based simulation, interpolation, and space-time representation/analysis. Students will utilize the skills they learn to develop advanced GIS software skills, particularly in ArcGIS, as well as intermediate to advanced scientific computing skills. The primary goal of this course will be to prepare students advanced use of GIS technologies required for graduate work and advanced GIS positions.
Criteria for Evaluation

Midterm 20%  The course will follow the CUNY grading policy that can be
Abstracts 10%  found in the online undergraduate/graduate catalog at
Labs 40%  http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/.
Final project 30%

Policy on Incomplete (IN) and Credit/No-Credit (CR/NC) grades – for Undergraduate Students Only
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 732 or
any other graduate-level course in the Hunter College School of Arts & Sciences.

Course Policies

Communication
All email messages about this course should include GTECH 732/ GTECH 361 in the subject
line and be signed with your full name.

Web-enhancement
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. 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.

Late Policy
Labs and the answers to the questions should be emailed on the due date before the
beginning of the class at 5.35pm. Late work will be downgraded 10% for each day late after
the due date. These rules will also be applied to homework and abstracts. If you get behind
in this course, it will be difficult to catch up. If you get behind for any reason talk to the
class instructor early. Unless for a serious documented emergency reason, requests for
handing in late work cannot be honored.

Lab Access
The lab (room HN 1090B) is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and students with
appropriate access are entitled to work in these labs when the labs are not being used for
teaching. Additional information on labs and lab policies is available here:
http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/techsupport/rules.html
Please ensure you have a geography account – login and password. You will still be responsible for handing in the labs on time if your account is suspended because of non-compliance.

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 contact me.

Hunter College Statement 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. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations. 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.

Syllabus Changes
Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, the current syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. All changes will be announced on Blackboard.

Abstracts and readings
You are required to write three (3) one page typed abstracts over the course of the semester. The abstract should be not more than one page, typed, single-spaced using one-inch margins and 12 point type. There will be one abstract for each of the following papers:


All papers are available through the Hunter library.

Tentative Schedule – subject to change!

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<th>Topic</th>
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<td>Feb 4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Introduction to Modeling with GIS</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>Data models for GIS: Cartographic and GIS Data Structures</td>
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<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Data models for GIS: Issues of Spatial Data Models</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Modeling and Simulation in an Object-oriented GIS</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Data Input, Storage and Editing</td>
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<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Modifiable Areal Unit Problem (MAUP)</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
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<td><strong>May 19</strong></td>
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<td>Final project presentations</td>
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