

# GEOG 181: Our Digital Earth

Fall 2017

Mon & Wed 2:00-3:20pm (plus lab!) in JAQ 101

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## GEs

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**This course is about you and your place *in the world*.** We are all located somewhere. What does that mean? How can we know? How do we measure it? Why is it important?

This course will introduce you to cutting edge spatial thinking and technologies that are redefining how we know the world around us. These ways of approaches places and people are changing the way we think about those people and places. We will discuss online mapping, mobile technologies for responding to natural disasters, how to represent and mobilize under-represented communities and how spatial information is embedded in our everyday lives.

Grounding all of this is an inherently **spatial approach** to the world around us. You will delve into the fundamental components of *spatial thinking, a skill in high-demand in today's workplace*, society, and world. Understanding how things relate to each other, how they embedded in systems that may or may not seem related, and how those things impact each other is vital to understanding our globalized world. Through learning these approaches to real-world, ongoing problems, you will also develop skills in spatial technologies that are increasingly being used in today's work places.

**This course counts towards a Social Science Group Elective and is required for the Geography Major and the Spatial Data Science and Technology majors.**

## Resume-ready skills developed through this course

- Interpretation of maps and qualitative and quantitative data
- Analysis of data visualization
- Using ArcGIS online
- Creating ESRI Storymaps
- Creating web apps
- Integrating various data sources into one platform

## Learning Objectives

- Understanding the importance of spatial approach and analysis to phenomena around us
- Integrating various types of data to tell the story of a place or phenomenon
- Develop effective spatial literacy
- Utilize spatial analysis and techniques that can assist people on the ground and in real-time

## Logistics

- This course is operated through [canvas.uoregon.edu](https://canvas.uoregon.edu). Please ensure that you have access to the course as soon as possible.
- The text for this course is delivered through **TopHat** at tophat.com. You should have received an email inviting you to join. If you have not, or if you have registered late for the course, please let the instructor know. A single-term subscription should cost about \$67 for both the app and the online textbook.
- You must also have access to **ArcGIS Online**. **DO NOT SIGN UP FOR A FREE ACCOUNT ON THE ArcGIS Online website**. You should receive an email from ESRI inviting you to sign up through the UOregon Online Group for your free account. If you haven't received it, please let the instructor know asap.
- We will also be using an online discussion service called **PackBack**. This service is required and will cost \$18 per term. You should receive an email from PackBack to sign up.
- **We will be using cell phones in class!** You do not need a smart phone, just the ability to text. We will occasionally be doing activities that require a smart phone, but these will always be in groups where only one smart phone will be needed. Computers can also be used for some of these activities as well.

## Success in this course

- Read the assigned chapters before coming to class. It is easy to read and interactive. There are brief assessments embedded in the course text. Please complete these prior to class so that in-class activities can run smoothly and learning is more effective.
- Attend and participate in class. Classes will be a combination of lecture and interaction. You are welcome to bring a computer or smart phone to class, as we will have activities that will allow you to explore data and functions during the lecture time.
- Complete assignments on time. This includes labs and homework assignments. Some of the activities build upon each other. Do not let it get away from you. For each day an assignment is late, 10% will be taken off of the assignment grade.
- Show up to, and participate in, discussion sections. You will have more time to understand the materials and the technologies in a low-pressure environment. Take advantage of this time!
- Complete the mid-term and the final. On time.
- If you need help, ask for it! There is an instructor and two GE teaching assistants. Take advantage of it!

**A note on deadlines. They are important and set. Consider this a professional development exercise. If you ask for an extension, you may not get it. You will also be penalized 10% per day that the assignment is late (including weekends and holidays) unless you have a documented, university-approved excuse.**

### On that note

**The final exam will be Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:45pm. Yeah, luck of the draw. Don't make plans to leave town before the final. Only university-approved absences will be allowed to make-up the final.**

## Academic Integrity Code

All students are expected to complete assignments in a manner consistent with academic integrity. Students must produce their own work and properly acknowledge and document all sources (ideas,

quotations, paraphrases). Students can find more complete information about the [University of Oregon's Policy on Academic Dishonesty in the University of Oregon Student Handbook](#).

***If you are found to have plagiarized (copied) off a classmate or from other materials for a test or an assignment of any sort, your first warning will be a zero on the assignment. Your second incident will result in an F in the course.***

### Accessibility Statement

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me at the beginning of the term if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or [uoaec@uoregon.edu](mailto:uoaec@uoregon.edu).

### Attendance Policy

Class attendance is an important part of a student's educational experience. Students are expected to attend every meeting of their classes and are responsible for class attendance, and attendance will be taken at random through various means. Regardless of what reasons there may be for absence, students are accountable for all academic activities, and I reserve the right to require special work or tests to make up for the missed class or classes. Only for a university-approved absence (doctor's note, death in the family, university athletics, and academic conferences) will a student be allowed to make-up work or turn it in without a late penalty.

### Grading

Attendance and participation in class	10pts
Participation in online discussions	10pts
Lab grade	20pts
Assignments	25pts
Midterm	15pts
Final	20pts
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100pts</b>

\*\* Reminder: For each day late that you turn in any assignment (in-class, lab, or class assignments) or take an exam, you will have 10% taken off the grade for that assignment or exam unless you provide a university-approved excuse.\*\*