



COURSE OUTLINE

Geocaching

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the activity of geocaching, along with the fundamentals of GPS navigation, and GPS data collection. Emphasis will be placed on geocaching, the history and workings of GPS and associated navigation systems, map datums, coordinate systems, and basics of GPS data management. Students will gain hands-on experience operating and working with GPS units in the field, through a variety of geocaching activities and assignments. Examples of the use of GPS in geographical research will be demonstrated through lectures and readings. A final project requires students to create and hunt for geocaches on the UVic campus.

This course is suitable for students from any background. Strong participation in a group environment and willingness to be outdoors are fundamental to success in this course.

Class Meetings: Monday-Friday 9:30-4:20 (including 1-hour for lunch), Aug 13 to Aug 17
Classroom: COR A229
Labs: DTB A251

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Shannon Fargey, Department of Geography, **DTB B308**, fargey@uvic.ca or 250-721-7342.

When emailing me please include 'GEOG 315 - your name - brief subject' in the subject line. This helps me sort through emails and makes it easier to respond to your message.

Office Hours: *By appointment.* I welcome you to come and discuss your ideas and questions anytime during this course, I have an open-door policy.

Profile: I am an Assistant Teaching Professor in the Geography Department. My role in the Department is primarily on program delivery, supporting student learning and discovery in Physical Geography, and Geomatics. I am passionate about hydrometeorological topics and field based learning. To learn more about me, and stay updated with exciting new studies in our field, please visit my website shannonfargey.com and follow me on Twitter @fargetmenot .

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain basic aspects of coordinate systems and datums;
- Discuss the history and development of satellite navigation;
- Manage and display personal GPS data using a variety of formats.
- Carry out essential functions of a handheld GPS (collecting waypoints, recording tracks, navigating to a position, etc.); and
- Participate in both the creation and consumption aspects of geocaching activities.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There is no required text for this course, however a reading list has been prepared and can be found at on CourseSpaces. Journal articles can be accessed through the University library catalogue. Students are expected to have reviewed these learning resources prior to the start of the course.

EVALUATION (tentative)

[1] Final Exam	30%
[2] Worksheets (3)	15%
[3] Paper/Reflection	15%
[4] Practical Exam	10%
[5] Group Geocache Project	30%

Final Exam: A closed book exam will be given on the Friday morning of the course. The test will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer type questions. The test will cover material from the lectures (Monday through Thursday) and readings assigned in class.

Practical Exam: Immediately following your final exam on Friday morning you will be asked to complete an independent field based exam designed to test your technical competency with a GPSr.

Group Geocache Project: Students will work in small groups to complete a geocaching project. This project will consist of the creation of a “cache” on the UVic campus that highlights or showcases some aspect of the campus. Class time will be given to complete this project. Two mini essays will be written by the group on: [1] geocache place choice and [2] geocache concept. Students will search for the caches of their fellow students on the last afternoon of the course.

Additional information about the evaluation components can be found on coursespaces.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

Geography Department website: <http://geog.uvic.ca>

Undergraduate Advisor: Dr. Phil Wakefield geogadvisor@uvic.ca

Department Chair: Dr. Johan Feddema geogchair@uvic.ca

GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+	9	90-100%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
A	8	85-89%	
A-	7	80-84%	
B+	6	77-79%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
B	5	73-76%	
B-	4	70-72%	
C+	3	65-69%	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
C	2	60-64%	
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

COURSESPACES

CourseSpaces learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>). Please monitor the page on a regular basis for course announcements. If you are having difficulty logging in or password problems, contact the Computer Help Desk Email: helpdesk@uvic.ca, Tel: 250-721-7687

IMPORTANT COURSE POLICIES

Attending class throughout the entire week is integral to successfully completing this course.

Attendance is MANDATORY for the first, second and final day of the course (Monday Aug 13, Tuesday Aug 14, Friday Aug 17). The majority of lecture material is presented in the first two days. If you do not make it to both of these days you will be dropped from the course. This course has a long wait list, and it is unfair to the students who are wait listed for you to miss a half day (10% of the course), a full day (20% of the course), or both the first and second days (40% of the course). On final day of the course the final exam will be given and students will search for the caches of their fellow students in the afternoon. Failure of any group member to participate in the final activity will result in an 'N' incomplete grade on the final group project and subsequently an 'N' grade in the course, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are expected to be actively engaged in field activities and be punctual for field outings.

Cell phones must be turned off in class and ONLY be used during field activities if pertinent to do so.

Students must complete all evaluation components to obtain credit. Failure to complete any evaluation component without permission from the instructor, will result in an 'N' grade, which equals a Grade Point Value of 0.

As an Instructor, I can refuse a student admission to a lecture, laboratory, learning activity or exam because of lateness, misconduct, inattention or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. Students who neglect their academic work may be assigned a final grade of 'N' (which equals a Grade Point Value of 0) or debarred from final examinations. Please refer to the UVic academic calendar in the section on student academic conduct for further information.

Late assignments and/or project work will be penalized 20% per day (including weekends). Exceptions will only be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons. Written proof must be provided within five working days. *Only the course instructor can grant exceptions.*

Conflicts with work, holidays or travel plans are not considered an acceptable reason to apply for a deferred assignment or project extension.

Unless otherwise stated students are expected to complete assignments independently.

Students are responsible for reviewing the current University of Victoria's academic calendar. There are a number of regulations on conduct and expectations that you are bound by. As such you should make yourself familiar with them.

PLAGIARISM

Academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating) is a very serious matter in any academic institution and is dealt with severely at the University of Victoria. *The responsibility of the institution:* Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects. *The responsibility of the student:* Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations, for referencing your sources, or unauthorized use of an editor, please familiarize yourself with the University policy on academic integrity found in the Undergraduate Calendar at the following website <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Infractions will be dealt with in accordance with University policy. Commonly, the penalty for any form of cheating/plagiarism is a grade of F on the tests or laboratory assignments, or a final grade of F in the course. However, depending on the severity of the case other penalties may include a record on the student's transcript or expulsion.

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. To ensure that all class members feel welcomed and equally able to contribute to class discussions, we will all endeavour 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.

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

We value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the course, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE) *monitor CourseSpaces for announcements*

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30-12:00 Lecture COR A229 History and Functioning of GPS; Datums and Projections	9:30-10:45 Lecture COR A229 Introduction to geocaching	9:30-12 Lab DTB A251 Lab exercise #3	9:30-10:20 Lecture COR A229 Applied GPS	9:30-11:30 COR A229 Final Exam
	11:00-12:00 Lab DTB A251 GPS Data Management Lab exercise #2 – Part A		10:30-12:00 Group Project Work - Lecture or Lab HHB 110 or A251	
12:00-1:00 Lunch	12:00-1:00 Lunch	12:00-1:00 Lunch	12:00-1:00 Lunch	Practical Exam and Lunch
1:00-2:00 Lab DTB A251 Operating a GPS Unit	1:00-1:20 DTB A251 Introduction to the Group Project	1:00-4:30 Lab 3 Geocache hunt/ Group Project planning Lecture or Lab COR A229 or DTB A251	1:00-4:30 Group Project Work - Lecture or Lab COR A229 or DTB A251	
2:00-4:30 Lab DTB A251 Lab exercise #1	1:20-4:30 Lab DTB A251 Lab exercise #2 – Part B			1:00-4:30 Class Geocache Hunt meet in DTB A251