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**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Geog 222: Introduction to Maps and GIS**

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**Lecture Times:** Monday/Tuesday 12-1:50

**Lecture Location:** Clearihue A208

**Office Hours:** Monday/Tuesday 11-11:50

**Office Location:** DTB B204

**Contact:** smaxwell@uvic.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course introduces techniques and fundamentals of spatial data and analysis. Topics include: scale, map projections, cartography, GPS and Geographic Information Systems.

**KEY THEMES:** GIS, cartography, digital mapping, spatial data, GPS, on-line mapping, open-source GIS.

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**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

None

**RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)**

Essentials of Geographic Information Systems (link to online text posted on course Brightspace page).

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**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Understand fundamentals of spatial data.
- Basic understanding of Geographic Information Systems.
- Gain familiarity with GIS software and digital mapping.

**EVALUATION**

Laboratory Assignments 42%

Midterm Exam 15%

Final Exam 35%

Unit Quizzes 8%

Students have in the past found that some of the lab assignments can be time-consuming and

challenging. Please make sure you schedule your time effectively. Please plan to be in the lab for the entire scheduled lab time. The lab materials are both supplemental and complementary to the lectures.

Testable material for exams includes lecture material, lab material, readings and other items posted to Brightspace. Exams will be a combination of short-answer, calculations, and multiple-choice.

## GRADING SYSTEM

Students must complete the following elements to pass the course:

- Midterm Exam
- Laboratory Assignments
- Final Exam

Failure to complete one or more of these elements will result in a grade of “N” regardless of the cumulative percentage of other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	<b>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent</b> 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.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	<b>Very good, good and solid</b> 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.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	<b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	<b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> 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.

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## GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: [uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/](http://uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/)
- Geography Department Chair: [geogchair@uvic.ca](mailto:geogchair@uvic.ca)
- Geography Undergraduate Advising: [geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)

## BRIGHTSPACE

<https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/352966>

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### POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be penalized **15% per day** (including weekends and holidays). For extenuating circumstances and health problems please inform the course instructor of your situation promptly within 5 days of the due-date. Advance notice is preferable. For technical issues you must inform the TA one day prior to the due date.

### POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

Lectures and labs are in-person. Lecture slides will be posted to Brightspace, however not all lecture material is included on the slides. Attendance in lectures and labs is highly recommended. If you miss lecture please arrange to copy another student's notes. Students may only attend the lab section in which they are registered.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

**Policy on Academic Integrity:** [web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html)

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see [uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php](http://uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php).

### USE OF AI

Please be advised that in this course you are not authorized to use any form of generative AI. In order to successfully complete course activities, generative AI is not required nor welcomed. Students should not make any use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, among others that use AI for content generation and editing. As the University of Victoria states on its Academic Integrity Policy "Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility." Therefore, I expect you to comply with the course syllabus and I encourage you to enhance your academic experience in this course by refraining from using generative AI.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) as soon as possible ([uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://uvic.ca/services/cal/)). The CAL staff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. 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.

## **SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC**

If you have been directly or indirectly impacted by sexualized violence, reach out to the SVRO for information, advice, resolution options (restorative and disciplinary) as well as support options and referrals. The SVRO is both survivor-centred and trauma-informed in their approach.

[eghr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eghr01@uvic.ca)

Sedgewick C Wing

[www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp)

## **EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (EQHR)**

EQHR is a resource for students, staff and faculty who have experienced discrimination and harassment and are looking for informal and formal resolution options as well as advice, coaching and/or education. We are available for confidential consultations so that you can ask questions and learn your options.

[eghr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eghr01@uvic.ca)

Sedgewick C Wing

[www.uvic.ca/equity](http://www.uvic.ca/equity)

## **RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program. For academic advising-related questions, students in the Geography Department are also encouraged to meet with the Geography Undergraduate Advisor ([geogadvising@uvic.ca](mailto:geogadvising@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#). International students are also encouraged to contact the International Student Liaison in Geography (Prof. CindyAnn Rose-Redwood, [cindyann@uvic.ca](mailto:cindyann@uvic.ca)), who can assist in making connections with other international and domestic students in the Geography Department and share opportunities for getting involved in departmental activities more broadly.

## **COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, 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 online 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.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

	Dates	Lecture	Lab	Lab Due
1	May 13	Introduction		
2	May 14	Spatial Data	May 16 Lab 1 Spatial Data	May 22 Lab 1
3	May 21	Coordinate Systems & Map Projections	May 23 Lab 2 Coordinate Systems	May 29 Lab 2
4	May 27	Queries		
5	May 28	Buffers & Overlays	May 30 Lab 3 Queries	June 5 Lab 3
6	June 3	Guest Lecture		
7	June 4	<i>Midterm</i>	June 6 Lab 4 Overlays	June 12 Lab 4
8	June 10	Raster		
9	June 11	Webmaps and Cartography	June 13 Lab 5 Raster Analysis	June 19 Lab 5
10	June 17	3D Applications		
11	June 18	GPS & Data Collection	June 20 Lab 6 Web Maps	June 26 Lab 6
12	June 24	Review/Bonus		
13	June 25	<i>Final Exam</i> Location TBA	June 27 No Lab	

### DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

### NOTE:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* [uvic.ca/services/counselling/](http://uvic.ca/services/counselling/)

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* [uvic.ca/services/health/](http://uvic.ca/services/health/)

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* [uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://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.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege*

*of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.*  
[uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php](http://uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php)