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**COURSE OUTLINE  
GEOCACHING**

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**Office Hours:** The instructor will be with the class during lectures and labs. For inquiries between 9:30 and 4:20 Monday to Friday the instructor will be available in office or via email.

**Office Location:** DTB B123

**Contact:** [wrmaddox@uvic.ca](mailto:wrmaddox@uvic.ca)

**Class Meetings:** Monday-Friday 9:30-4:20 (including 45 min-1 hour for lunch), July 22 to 26th, 2024  
Lecture in COR A129. Labs in DTB A251 (GIS computer lab). Detailed course schedule on last page.

**We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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 enabled devices 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.

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

\*Please note: students are required to have a smart phone or smart tablet for the course. If this is a barrier please contact the instructor PRIOR to the start of the course.

**KEY THEMES:** GPS, geocaching, data collection, navigation.

**TIMELINE:** The course runs Monday to Friday 8:30-4:30, with assignments due up until Sunday night. Assignments are due at 9pm on Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri/Sun. See the full schedule below. Students are expected to be available Monday to Friday to complete lectures, labs, exams, and the group project.

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**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

There is no required text for this course, however a reading list has been prepared and can be found at on Brightspace. Journal articles can be accessed through the University library catalogue or via VPN.

Students will benefit from reviewing these learning resources prior to the start of the course.

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## 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.
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## EVALUATION

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| [1] Final Exam                  | 30% |
| [2] Assignments (4 + 1 quiz)    | 25% |
| [3] Geocaching Reflection Essay | 5%  |
| [4] Practical Exam              | 10% |
| [5] Group Geocache Project      | 30% |

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

**Practical Exam:** A practical exam will take place on Friday after the written final exam. It is independent and will test your competency with handheld navigation and data gathering.

**Group Project:** The group project is due Friday at 9pm. Each group member is expected to contribute equally and be available during the week to work on the project. Please inform the instructor promptly should you have any concerns about your group.

**Reflection Essay:** Students will complete a short essay evaluating three group projects. This is due Sunday night.

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.

## GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

| Grade | Grade point value | Grade scale | Description  |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|--|
| A+    | 9                 | 90-100%     | <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. |
| A     | 8                 | 85-89%      |  |
| A-    | 7                 | 80-84%      |  |

|           |   |        |  |
|-----------|---|--------|--|
| <b>B+</b> | 6 | 77-79% | <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. |
| <b>B</b>  | 5 | 73-76% |  |
| <b>B-</b> | 4 | 70-72% |  |
| <b>C+</b> | 3 | 65-69% | <b>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory.</b> These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.  |
| <b>C</b>  | 2 | 60-64% |  |
| <b>D</b>  | 1 | 50-59% | <b>Marginal</b> Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.  |
| <b>F</b>  | 0 | 0-49%  | <b>Unsatisfactory</b> performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.   |
| <b>N</b>  | 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

Brightspace learning management systems (LMS) will serve as the main avenue of communication

(<https://www.uvic.ca/systems/services/learningteaching/brightspace/index.php>).

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](mailto:helpdesk@uvic.ca), Tel: 250-721-7687

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## POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments and/or project work will be penalized 20% per day (including weekends). Exceptions will only be granted for medical or compassionate reasons. 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.

## POLICY ON ATTENDANCE

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

Attendance is expected for all lectures and assignment time. The majority of course materials are presented in the first two days. Attendance will be taken. A high level of student cooperation and participation, involving asking and answering questions is expected. Students are expected to be activity engaged and punctual for course meetings.

Students are responsible for reviewing the current University of Victoria's academic calendar. There are

several regulations on conduct and expectations that you are bound by. As such you should make yourself familiar with them.

## **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 use 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.

[eqhr01@uvic.ca](mailto:eqhr01@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.

## 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)

**WEEK CALENDAR**

| Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                     | Friday   | Weekend  |
|---|---|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| Lecture: The World of GPS and How Maps Work<br><br>9:30 am - 12:00 pm | Lecture: Introducing Geocaching<br><br>9:30-11:00 am  | Lecture: Geocaching and the Environment<br><br>And Group Project Q&A<br><br>9:30 – 10:30 am | Group Project Work Period    | Final Exam Written<br><br>9:30 - 11:30 am<br><br>Practical Exam (starts immediately after written, 45 minute timed activity) | Deliverables Due: Geocaching Experience Reflection Essay due Sunday<br><br>9:00 pm |
|   | Lunch<br><br>11:00 am – 12:00 pm                      | Lab: Geocaching (Assignment 3)<br><br>11:00 am – 12:00 pm                                   |                              | 11:30 am – 12:15 pm  |  |
| Lunch<br><br>12:00 – 1:00 pm  | Labs: Managing Data (Assignment 2)<br>12:00 – 4:30 pm | Lunch<br><br>12:00 – 1:00 pm  | Lunch<br><br>12:00 – 1:00 pm | Lunch<br><br>12:15 – 1:00 pm   |  |
| Lab: GPS Basics (Assignment 1)<br><br>1:00 – 4:30 pm                  |   | Lab: Geocaching (Assignment 3)<br><br>1:00 – 4:30 pm  | Group Project Work Period    | Group Project Work Period<br><br>1:00 – 4:30 pm  |  |
| Deliverables Due: Assignment 1<br><br>9:00 pm                         | Deliverables Due: Assignment 2<br><br>9:00 pm         | Deliverables Due: Assignment 3<br><br>9:00 pm   |                              | Deliverables Due: Group Project<br><br>9:00 pm   |  |

Lectures: COR A129

Labs: DTB A251