GIS. 460: GIS Intern, Nacogdoches County

Syllabus and Policy Statements- Summer II, 2018

Instructor: Dr. David L. Kulhavy  dkulhavy@sfasu.edu

Office Phone: 936-468-2081   Office No: For. 203F

Office Hours: TTh 9:30-11:00, MW 9-10, M 4-5, others by appointment

Class Time: To be arranged

Course Description: 3 semester hours. GIS with Nacogdoches County, Pictometry and GIS Database. This course can be taken for Honors credit.

Program Learning Outcomes (This is not a General Education class; it is part of the credit for the Spatial Science option for the B.S. Forestry): GIS. 460 is one of the Spatial Science core courses required of all Spatial Science majors and thus competency is required. A minimum grade of a “C” must be attained or the course will have to be repeated. The course is designed to address the following Program Learning Outcomes, as given in the BSF Program Matrix:

1. The student will demonstrate proficiency in research design and database management.
2. The student will demonstrate proficiency in the process of reviewing scientific literature pertinent to Spatial Science.
3. The student will demonstrate proficiency in basic statistical analysis; relative to their field of Spatial Science in Forestry.
4. The student will demonstrate competency in oral and written communication skills in Spatial Science journals.

The above PLOs are also recognized as vital components by the Society of American Foresters, the program’s accrediting agency.

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<th>Course</th>
<th>PLO 1 Proficiency in Research Design</th>
<th>PLO2 Scientific Literature Review</th>
<th>PLO3 Proficiency in Basic Statistical Analysis</th>
<th>PLO4 Preparation for Pursuit in a Professional Career</th>
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<td>GIS 460</td>
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1. M – Mastery – course supports Program Learning Outcome by providing students with opportunities to independently apply tactical and strategic planning skills to successfully accomplish real-world, non-academic management objectives. Completes students’ preparedness for entry-level professional activity accomplishment.
Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

Understand advanced ecological concepts & principles including research design and competency of the literature (PLO #1 and 2);

Be able to make stand assessments and be able to analyze GIS data and project future planning conditions (PLO #1 & 2);

Be able to make GIS database prescriptions with specific multiple objectives & constraints and understand the consequences, including methods of establishing and influencing the composition, growth, & quality of the city of county of Nacogdoches (PLO #1 and 3); and

Have demonstrated competency in oral and written communication skills (PLO #4).

Course Goals and Objectives:
The goal of this course is to provide you with an understanding of geospatial analysis of Nacogdoches County and its role in modern and GIS forest management. This will be accomplished by explaining and demonstrating the relationship of geospatial analysis with other sciences and by preparing database management for the county of Nacogdoches working with a database for natural resource management and county planning. We will demonstrate that most landscape ecological functions imitate natural processes, although some will change the process of nature, either by management or change in stand structure. It is also important to realize that it is essential that we wisely manage our natural resources if we are going to continue to be successful at maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

This course will build on the foundation you should have as the result of successful completion of GIS 410.

Additionally, I seek to enhance your basic intellectual competencies as defined by the State of Texas. State-mandated competencies reading, writing, speaking, listening, critical thinking and computer literacy –. I commonly utilize PowerPoint to present the outline of the lecture. If you only write down the outline, you will miss the most important material. You will be given specific reading assignments (from your textbook, on-line, and from handouts); read these materials and utilize them to enhance your notes from class. I expect you to be ready to respond orally in class when questions are posed to you. Every lab is an exercise in critical thinking. Every student will be required to give a minimum of an oral presentation on a topic on Advance Landscape Ecology; this oral presentation will be approximately 60 minutes at the maximum. A professional poster will be prepared using either Microsoft Power Point, Microsoft Publisher, Adobe Photoshop, or ArcGIS 9.3 using the Geographic Information Systems Laboratory to print their final product. In addition, a 11 x 17 brochure will be produced for your topic using Microsoft Publisher.

Required Text: No required text; papers on Pictometry and city and county planning using GIS
Course Requirements: GIS 460 utilizes a lot of hands-on learning from the GIS database and from assigned resources.

You will have three (3) major grades in the class. You will be required to give a 60 minute oral presentation utilizing PowerPoint during a lecture period.

Grading:
- Poster: 200 points
- Power Point: 200 points
- Brochure: 100 points
- Final Exam: 150 points

Your final course grade is based on a total of the above points. I use a system of:

- > 89.99% = A; 80-89.99% = B; 70-79.99% = C; 60-69.99% = D; < 60% = F.

I will also compute a class average and if warranted, a curve will be applied if the curve will result in a higher grade.

One of your “homework grades” will be to research pertinent information on the Nacogdoches County GIS database and make an oral presentation to the college.

Course Content:
GIS material will be supplemented with outside readings and assignments.

Attendance Policy:
I expect you to attend all lectures and lab meetings. I will take roll each lecture and lab class. Do not be late getting to class; two late arrivals equates to one unexcused absence. Starting with the third unexcused absence from lecture or lab, you will lose 1 letter grade per absence off of your final semester grade. If you miss a scheduled lecture exam, you must have a valid medical excuse from the Health Clinic or your family doctor before I will let you make up the exam. If you know beforehand that you will be absent from the scheduled exam then let me know ASAP. If your reason is acceptable, then you will be allowed to makeup the exam; the exam must be taken within 1 week of original scheduled date.

Academic Integrity (SFA Policy A-9.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or
attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

In regard to cheating and plagiarism, a first offense will result in a grade of zero (0) on that assignment. A second offense will result in a failing grade for the semester. In addition, the profession of forestry cannot embrace those that do not live by and adhere to the Society of American Foresters' Code of Ethics. **Please protect your own work. Do not let others copy or have access to your files or to hard copies of your reports.**

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

A grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances and is done at the discretion of the instructor of record with the approval of the academic chair/director. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).