

Sul Ross State University
Crime Mapping
Fall 2021
CJ 4302 Syllabus

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Class hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:00-11:50 AM

Classroom: WSB 310

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 1:00 PM and 3 PM

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Caplan, J. M.and Moreto, W.D. (2012). GIS for Public Safety: An Annotated Guide to ArcGIS Tools and Procedures. Newark, NJ: Rutgers Center on Public Security.

http://www.rutgerscps.org/uploads/2/7/3/7/27370595/gismappingforpublicsafety_v10_caplanmoreto_ebook.pdf

Recommended Text Book:

Gorr, W.L., Kurland, K.S., Dodson, Z.M. (2018). GIS Tutorial for Crime Analysis, second edition. ESRI Press ISBN: 978158948167

SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

Additional readings (e.g., articles, reports) will be posted on Blackboard. Regarding scientific journal articles, BYRIAN WILDENTHAL MEMORIAL LIBRARY OF SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY has an extensive database infrastructure. You can get detailed information and advice from libraries website <https://library.sulross.edu/#>

Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Once you logged in to your Sul Ross Account on Blackboard you should be automatically connected to the library webpage as well. Thus, you can browse the online databases of the University and reach the articles on the reading list.

The syllabus is subject to updates and changes always look to the course announcements and reminders for updates. The faculty member reserves the right to amend this syllabus as needed.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop-style course intended to introduce a practical introduction to the basic functionality of the geographic information system (GIS) and its applicability on crime analysis and mapping. The course will provide an opportunity for students to gain and improve the theoretical, analytical, and technical skills necessary for analyzing crime in a geographical context. The students will learn to analyze public safety-related data through mapping. Subspecialties include (1) creation of geographic digital data, (2) analysis of public safety data, and (3) production of digital maps to build further expertise in GIS.

Geographic information systems (GIS) are computerized systems designed for the storage, retrieval, and analysis of geographically referenced data. GIS uses advanced analytical tools to explore spatial relationships, patterns, and processes of cultural, biological, demographic, economic, geographic, and physical phenomena.

This course covers underlying geographic concepts (world coordinate system and projections, vector map topology, tiled and layered maps, etc.), map design and outputs, geodatabases, importing spatial and attribute data, digitizing, geocoding, spatial data processing, and advanced spatial analysis. Additional emphasis will be on crime mapping and analysis. The technical focus

of the course includes computer lab tutorials and case studies using the leading desktop GIS software, ArcGIS from ESRI.

Application areas covered in this course include city and regional planning, community planning, economic development, education, election, and environmental studies, housing and property evaluation, transit and transportation issues, land use, historic studies, crime analysis and policing, emergency management, public works utilities, census population and demographic studies, health, and business applications, including marketing, advertising, and site selection.

By the end of the course, students will have sufficient background to identify spatial characteristics of diverse application areas, enabling them to integrate spatial thinking and GIS analysis into their academic research and careers.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide knowledge about various topics related to crime analyses in a geographical context. Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

LO1- Understand and explain basic principles, topics GIS concepts, techniques, and real-world applications

LO2- Understand the concept and technical language of GIS software

LO3- Define and discuss different GIS data concepts

LO4- Understand and compare different approaches related to crime analyses

LO5- Develop the theoretical and practical skills necessary for studying crime in a geographic context;

LO6- Understand and compare the concept and historical development of crime mapping

LO7- Conduct spatial crime analysis using GIS software

LO8- Explore different data sources for crime analysis and mapping.

LO9- Understand and explain the application and importance of crime mapping in criminal justice agencies

MARKETABLE SKILLS:

This course is designed also to help the students for building various marketable skills to use in their in careers Criminal Justice related professions. Specifically, in this course, the following marketable skills, which are some of the most important skills for such careers, will be emphasized during this course:

MS 1- Verbal and Written Communication Skills

MS 2- Critical Thinking and Observation

MS 3- Multicultural Understanding.

MS 4- Accessing Resources with Crime Data and the most current updates of legal codes and procedures.

MS 5- Teamwork and Working Collaboratively

MS 6- Analyzing the Factors Contributing to Crime

GENERAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Students are encouraged to attend the class, ask questions and express opinions, however, talking among students and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. You may bring beverages to class with you, but not food. Reading outside materials such as newspapers or other course work is not permitted during class time. Students should be prepared to engage in discussion over the assigned readings, and for possible pop quizzes. Electronic devices are never allowed to use in class in a way to distract the instructor and other students. Keep your mobile phone in silent mode, otherwise, switch it off. Violation of this crucial principle will be penalized. There will be one general rule in class which applies to all situations. This is also called “golden rule”. **TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE TREATED.**

COURSE STRUCTURE:

Several diverse learning activities will be used to ensure that the student objectives have been met including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, instructor-led skills training, and student practice sessions. Hands-on skills training will "walk" students through a series of tasks for GIS mapping and analysis. A "watch" and "follow" methodology will be employed. After watching the instructor demonstrates a technique, students will follow along in an effort to complete structured lessons. Lectures or structured discussions will focus on the daily class topic. Lessons will focus on using ArcGIS software to create digital maps, process spatial data, and produce your own artifacts.

GRADING:

There will be at least nine assignments during the semester (a total of 30%). The main purpose of these assignments is to enhance the analytical and technical skills of the students on GIS. Students should submit to the instructor by the beginning of class on the day in which they are due. When a student does not submit an assignment on time, this assignment will be graded a zero. Students will have major exams throughout the semester, with questions drawn from the readings and the supplemental materials posted on the blackboard. These 2 exams will be worth 25% each. There will be no makeup exams. Remaining 20% will be based on semester project and in-Class presentation. The semester project will be a scenario about crime mapping and will measure your applied understanding of the major skills and concepts presented in class. Finally, the students should make an in-class presentation and present their crime mapping scenario.

Lab Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Semester Project	10%
<u>In-Class Presentation</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

IN-CLASS PRESENTATION

The students are required to prepare and present an in-class presentation. They will prepare a power-point presentation and submit it to Blackboard before doing their presentation in class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and papers. Cheating on tests and plagiarism on assignments will result in a grade of "F" on that part of the course, a possible grade of "F" for the entire course, and possible recommendation for suspension from the university.

Plagiarism consists of presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source) and submitting examinations or other work in whole or in part as one's own when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person (see the Student Handbook).

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden

ATTENDANCE:

The Department of Homeland Security and Criminal Justice feels very strongly that class attendance is a direct predictor of student classroom success. Therefore, the faculty of the CJ department as a

group will enforce the following student attendance policy. This policy does not supersede the SRSU policy on student attendance; it simply reinforces those stated goals. Criminal justice faculty will take class attendance. In accordance with current SRSU policy, when a student misses a total of 9 hours of class, the presumption is that the student will be dropped from that class with an “F”. Students who violate the SRSU attendance policy may also find that they are ineligible for any extra credit or any discretionary grading curve applied to any or all exams for that course/semester. It should also be noted that it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor prior to any University event that would cause an absence. Failure of the student to inform the instructor will result in that absence being recorded as unexcused. Attendance is important! Attendance demonstrates maturity, responsibility and a serious attitude toward education. Additionally, instructors seldom teach only from the book. Missing a class (even an excused absence) will put you at a disadvantage for all of the materials covered when you were absent such as films, presentations, and guest lectures which cannot be made up. Attendance will be taken daily and absences cannot be made up. Students should be in class on time and should be prepared to stay for the entire class period. Students who are late will not be counted as attending if attendance has already been taken.

In returning to on-campus activities, please review the <https://srlobos.com/sports/2020/7/22/covid-19-resources.aspx> for policies and procedures that are intended to keep our Sul Ross as safe as possible. **In the event that you find yourself experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, I request that you do the following:**

Stay home! This is the best way to prevent spreading COVID-19 as supported by scientific evidence.

Please provide a screenshot of the symptom monitoring response that asks you to quarantine and let me know of your absence. If you are self-quarantining/isolating, you need to let me know we may arrange a virtual class.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT:

"I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports a diversity of thoughts, perspectives and experiences, and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don't hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND BLACKBOARD HELP DESK

Sul Ross State University has established a variety of programs to help students meet the challenges of college life. Support to students includes advising, counseling, mentoring, tutoring, supplemental instruction, and writing assistance. For a complete list of academic support services, visit the Student Support Services <https://www.sulross.edu/section/311/student-support-services>. For more information, students are encouraged to contact SSS at (432) 837-9118 or visit Ferguson Hall Room 105. For Blackboard help visit <https://www.sulross.edu/bb/> (or call 432-837-8523) (M-F 09:00 am-06:00 pm). You can get The Distance Education Handbook at <https://tvpb.sulross.edu/start/index.html>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AS AMENDED (ADAAA)

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

W	DATES	TOPICS	READINGS
1	Aug.23-27	Introduction of Syllabus and course requirements Introduction of GIS and its use for crime analysis	- Course syllabus (blackboard) Readings on Blackboard
2	Aug.30-Sept.3	Theoretical Explanations of Crime Analysis History of crime mapping	Readings on Blackboard
3	Sept-6-10	Intro to Mapping and ArcGIS SEP. 6 LABOR DAY NO CLASS	Caplan Chapter 1 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-1
4	Sept-13-17	Communicating with maps	Caplan Chapter 2 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-2
5	Sept-20-24	Map Design and Using Crime Maps	Caplan Chapter 3 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-2
6	Sept-27- Oct.1	Spatial Data and Map Projections	Caplan Chapter 4 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-2
7	Oct.4-8	Geocoding and Working with Coordinates	Caplan Chapter 5 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-5
8	Oct. 11-15	Spatial and Tabular Joins	Caplan Chapter 6 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-6
9	Oct. 18-22	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u> Working with attribute tables	Caplan Chapter 7 - Additional Readings on Blackboard

			Assignment-7
10	Oct.25-29	Working with shapelines	Caplan Chapter 8 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-8
11	Nov. 1-5	ArcToolbox and Geoprocessing	Caplan Chapter 9 - Additional Readings on Blackboard Assignment-9
12	Nov.8-12	Raster Data Analysis and Mapping	Caplan Chapter 10 - Additional Readings on Blackboard
13	Nov.15-19	Identifying Hot Spots and predictive policing	Caplan Chapter 11 - Additional Readings on Blackboard
14	Nov. 22-26	Identifying Hot Spots and predictive policing –Cont. Online mapping Nov 24-26 THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY NO CLASS	Caplan Chapter 12 - Additional Readings on Blackboard
15	Nov. 29- Dec. 3	<u>IN CLASS PRESENTATIONS OF SEMESTER PROJECTS</u>	

END OF COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Student evaluations of faculty are administered online at the end of each term/session for all courses with five or more students. Students will receive an email containing a link to a survey for each course in which they are enrolled. All responses are anonymous.