Course Title: GE0 150: Our Spatial World (2 s.h.)

Class Meeting Time & Location: 1:40-3:20 MW, Lindner 202 Computer Lab

Instructor: **Ryan Kirk**, Dept of History and Geography, Dept of Environmental Studies
rkirk2@elon.edu (e-mails will be responded to within 24 hours)
Office: 112C Lindner Hall
Work Phone: 336-278-6477

Office hours:

Mon 3:00-4:00pm	Tue 10:00-11:00am	*or by*
Wed 1:00-2:00pm	Thu 11:00-12:00am	*appointment*

Course Web site: We will use **Moodle** extensively this term. Some assignments will be submitted online, while others will require printed copies. Please pay careful attention to instructions for each assignment.

Required Text: **No required text. All readings will be as pdfs or websites.**

Course Overview: This course is designed to provide you with an overview of emerging spatial technologies and an appreciation for how these technologies are being used and how they are changing society.

Course Objectives:
1) Exposure to spatial technologies including Google Earth, GPS, Location-Bases Services, and GIS
2) Appreciation for how spatial technologies might be affecting us and changing how we interact
3) Resourcefulness in geospatial problem solving

Catalog Description: With the continual advancement of location-tracking smart phones, on-line mapping tools, and navigation systems, it is clear that we are living in an increasingly spatial world. This course will combine the exploration of a variety of spatial technologies -- ranging from GPS to Google Earth to Geographic Information Systems -- with an on-going discussion of how these spatial technologies are changing the way we interact with each other and with the broader world. The course will involve hands-on exercises and readings in order to give you an introductory level understanding of spatial technologies and a deeper understanding of our increasingly connected world. *Offered 2nd half of Fall & Spring Semesters.*

Grades: Grades will be determined by the following:

Exercises (5 @ 6% each)	30% of your final grade
Position Essays (3 @ 8% each)	24%
Your geotechnological footprint	10%
Twitter consumer patterns analysis	10%
Final Exam	26%

Attendance & Participation Policy: The attendance policy in this course is simple: you get two free 'unexcused' absences, and each additional 'unexcused' absence will result in a 2% deduction of your final grade. These include illnesses and other personal matters. Sanctioned Elon events will be excused. There is no explicit participation grade, but excessive disruptions or lack of participation may result in a deduction applied to your final grade.

Exercises (5): The exercises are designed to give you exposure to various spatial technologies. Instructions will be provided one week before the exercise is due. Grading is based on the quality of your answers and professional presentation.

Position essays (3): To facilitate in-class discussions, you will research select topics and write a 800-1500 word essay arguing for or against an assigned prompt. Prompts and grading rubrics will be available on Moodle. The 3 essay questions are:

1) Are navigation technologies and smart phones making us stupid?
2) Is geospatial data development a good use of tax dollars?
3) Are geospatial technologies an invasion of our right to privacy?

Geotechnological footprint: The central assignment of the first half of the course will be to critically assess the geotechnological footprint of you and your immediate family. You will detail the breadth of technologies that store or track your location information, evaluate ways to identify location from those technologies, and reflect upon the implications of this information.

Twitter consumer pattern analysis: The central assignment of the second half of the course is to use spatial technologies to track consumer habits of all students in this course. We will all use the location feature on anonymous Twitter accounts to track our consumer behaviors for the first 5-6 weeks of the course, and then will individually analyze those patterns.

Exam: The single exam in this course will be held during the official final exam period. It will consist of short answer questions related to the lecture material and presentations. Sample questions will be discussed throughout the term. A list of testable content will be posted on Moodle and updated regularly.

Grading Policies:

Overall grading is criterion-referenced, in which grades are designed to measure how well students perform relative to predetermined standards. Grades follow the traditional scale and the traditional thresholds are guaranteed: (e.g., > 93% = A, 90-93% = A-, etc). No individual assignments will be curved, but the final grades may be curved upwards (never downwards) at the discretion of the instructor based on how class performance and grade distributions match expectations. I will work hard to communicate grade status throughout the semester as well as give indications of any potential final curve.

Grades on each assignment can be contested to the instructor up to 2 weeks after the assignment is returned for errors or perceived injustice. Send an e-mail or bring a written statement to office hours containing sound reasons why a grade should be changed.

Incomplete grades are assigned at the discretion of the professor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Requires a written agreement between the professor and student *before* the final exam.

Submitting Assignments: Due dates for assignments are listed on the course schedule (below). **Lab and written assignments are due the start of class on the due date.** Assignments are to be submitted in paper format unless the instructor provides explicit directions otherwise. A separate sheet for instructions and requirements will be provided.

Exam: The exam will be based on content covered in the mini-lectures and various assignments. We will develop a list of testable material as we go. The test format will consist of short answer questions.

Late Assignments: Extensions on assignments may be granted if requested in advance with appropriate justification. **Without an approved extension, assignments may be submitted up to 3-days late for 80% partial credit, or up to 7-days late for 60% partial credit**. Assignments will not be accepted later than 7 days after the due date without an approved extension. The exam made up with prior notification or documented emergency.

Academic Integrity Policy: Students are expected to abide by the Elon Academic Honor Code (available at http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/handbook/honorcpp.xhtml). Alleged violations will be dealt with according to University policy.

Special Assistance: Please inform the professor of any special needs for accessibility and learning, and appropriate measures will be taken to aid success in the course. If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with Disabilities Services in the Duke Building, Room 108 (278-6500) for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

How to succeed in this course

Success in this course primarily depends upon sustained effort and critically engaging content. It is intended to be a straight-forward course with straight-forward assignments.

Schedule

Week	Session	Date	Topic/Activity	Due Items / Notes
Week 1	**1**	**Mar 31**	Introduction Exercise 1: Google Earth Part I	
	2	**Apr 2**	**Class meets from 12:20-1:30 due to Spring Convocation** Identifying geospatial technologies	
Week 2	**3**	**Apr 7**	GPS & Location-based Services	*Exercise #1 due before class*
	4	**Apr 9**	Exercise 2: Google Earth Part II	*Position Essay #1 due before class*
Week 3	**5**	**Apr 14**	Exercise 3: Google Maps / Simply Map	*Exercise #2 due before class*
	6	**Apr 16**	Location Based Services	
Week 4	**7**	**Apr 21**	***No class; Easter Holiday***	
	8	**Apr 23**	Exercise 4: Online GIS	*Exercise #3 due before class* *Geotechnological footprint due*
Week 5	**9**	**Apr 28**	Spatial Technologies & Government	*Exercise #4 due before class*
	10	**Apr 30**	Exercise 5: Geolocation and Twitter	*Position Essay #2 due before class*
Week 6	**11**	**May 5**	Ethics and spatial technologies	*Exercise #5 due before class*
	12	**May 7**		*Position Essay #3 due before class*
Week 7	**13**	**May 12**	Course wrap up	*Consumer patterns due*
Final Exam		**Sat May 17 8:00-11:00**	Final Exam	*Exam can only be rescheduled based on hardship as defined by University policy*