



**Syllabus: GGS900: GGS Colloquium  
Fall 2023**

Course Information	GGS900: GGS Colloquium Location: Engineering 1103 or virtual if announced Wednesdays: 5:55-7:10 pm Credits: 1						
Instructor	Dr. Paul Houser – Professor GGS Office Hours: meetings by appointment via email - <a href="mailto:phouser@gmu.edu">phouser@gmu.edu</a> . (use GGS 900 or GGS400 in Subject line)						
Course Description	This course exposes students to the diverse work of professionals and researchers in the general field of GeoInformation Science. The emphasis is on the use of geoinformation to understand the world in order to improve environmental management, human well-being and security. The course will help inspire students to develop their own professional career path. The presentations are intended to engage students and lively participation is expected. In-person, synchronous attendance is required (unless special arrangements are made in advance with instructor). It furthermore provides networking opportunities with professionals in government, NGO's and private companies within the DMV area.						
Course Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To expose students to the work of geospatial professionals and researchers.</li> <li>2. To stimulate critical thinking and engagement among students.</li> <li>3. To understand the diversity of geospatial applications and their societal benefits.</li> </ol>						
Course Format	The class will meet at least 12 times during the semester. Attendance is required and makes up 80% of the grade. Students have to submit 4 written assignments that will reflect of four selected presentations (20% of grade).						
Course Grading & Evaluation	<p>Attendance credit is acquired by signing a sign-in sheet at the beginning of class. Each sign-in counts 10% of the attendance credit (=8% of the total course credit). Students are required to attend 10 for maximum score. Students are allowed and encouraged to attend more than 10 meetings. Each assignment counts 5% of total grade (total of 20%).</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="656 1713 1211 1866" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>4 Assignments</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attendance</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total:</b></td> <td><b>100%</b></td> </tr> </table>	4 Assignments	20%	Attendance	80%	<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>
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Grades will be assigned as follows:

Weighted average range	Letter grade
> 98.0	A+
97.9 – 93.0	A+
92.9 – 90.0	A
89.9 – 87.0	A-
86.9 – 83.0	B+
82.9 – 80.0	B
79.9 – 77.0	B-
76.9 – 73.0	B-
72.9 – 70.0	C
69.9 – 60.0	D
<= 59.9	F

<p>Assignments</p>	<p>Write a reflection on any 4 selected presentations of 400-500 words. <b>The first two assignments need to be submitted by 20 Oct 2022.</b> These essays should address <b>all</b> of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presenter’s name and topic / title.</li> <li>• Briefly introduce the topic.</li> <li>• Essays need to be well written to achieve a good grade.</li> <li>• How is geospatial information being used in this work?</li> <li>• What was the most interesting aspect of the presentation to you?</li> <li>• What are the benefits of this research / work to society?</li> <li>• DO NOT copy/paste from websites!!!</li> <li>• Submit <b>pdf</b> file via Black Board under Assignments 1-4.</li> </ul> <p>You are encouraged to write and submit the assignment shortly after attending the presentation. Take notes during the presentation to assist in writing the essays.</p>
<p>Class Schedule</p>	<p>Please check Blackboard for updates to schedule and biographies of speakers.</p>
<p>Course Website</p>	<p>Blackboard will be used for this course. You can access the site at <a href="http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu">http://mymasonportal.gmu.edu</a>. Login and click on the “Courses” tab..</p>
<p>Rules and Expectations</p>	<p>In regard to honesty in work students will be expected to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Review the University integrity and honesty policies in the student handbook for guidelines regarding plagiarism and cheating (summarized below). I will gladly clarify my stance on any questionable or “grey area” issues you may have.</li> </ol> <p>Refrain from dishonest work as it will receive a minimum penalty of zero on the assignment and a maximum penalty of a zero for the course with a report to the Honor committee. <b>The GMU Honor Code requires that faculty submit</b></p>

	<p><b>any suspected Honor Code violations to the Honor Committee. Therefore, any suspected offense will be submitted for adjudication.</b></p>
Mason Honor Code	<p><b>The complete Honor Code is as follows:</b>  <i>To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:</i>  <b>Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.</b></p> <p><i>(From the Catalog – catalog.gmu.edu)</i></p>
Cheating Policy	<p>Any form of cheating on an activity, project, or exam will result in zero points earned.</p> <p>“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to, the following: reviewing others’ exam papers, having ANY resources utilized when not allowed, collaborating with another student during an individual assignment.</p> <p>If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor or utilize the GMU writing center.</p>
Plagiarism and the Internet	<p>Copyright rules also apply to users of the Internet who cite from Internet sources. Information and graphics accessed electronically must also be cited, giving credit to the sources.</p> <p>This material includes but is not limited to e-mail (don't cite or forward someone else's e-mail without permission), newsgroup material, information from Web sites, including graphics. Even if you give credit, you must get permission from the original source to put any graphic that you did not create on your web page. Shareware graphics are not free. Freeware clipart is available for you to freely use. If the material does not say "free," assume it is not.</p> <p>Putting someone else's Internet material on your web page is stealing intellectual property. Making links to a site is, at this time, okay, but getting permission is strongly advised, since many Web sites have their own requirements for linking to their material. <a href="#">Review the Honor Code here.</a></p>
Individuals with Disabilities	<p>Students with documented disabilities should contact the <a href="#">Office of Disability Services</a> (703) 993-2474) to learn more about accommodations that may be available to them.</p> <p>b) <i>(From the 2019-2020 Catalog – catalog.gmu.edu)</i></p>
Academic Integrity and Inclusivity	<p>This course embodies the perspective that we all have differing perspectives and ideas and we each deserve the opportunity to share our thoughts. Therefore, we will conduct our discussions with respect for those differences. That means, we each have the freedom to express our ideas, but we should also do so keeping in mind that our colleagues deserve to hear differing thoughts in a respectful manner, i.e. we may disagree without being disagreeable. <a href="http://oai.gmu.edu/">http://oai.gmu.edu/</a></p>
Student Privacy Policy	<p>George Mason University strives to fully comply with FERPA by protecting the privacy of student records and judiciously evaluating requests for release of information from those records.</p> <p>Please see George Mason University’s student privacy policy</p>

	<a href="https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/">https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/privacy/</a>
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