GEOG 493/593: Digital Terrain Analysis
(CRN: 11565/15499, 4 credits)

Course Webpage: http://web.pdx.edu/~jduh/courses/geog493f16/
(Or go to http://web.pdx.edu/~jduh/ and select "Courses-> GEOG 4/593 (F16)"

Instructors: Geoffrey Duh (jduh@pdx.edu),
Office: CH 424H   Ph: 503-725-3159   Office hours: Tue, Thu noon-13:30
Course emailing list: digitalterrain@lists.pdx.edu
Lecture and Lab: Tue, Thu 14:00-15:50 at CH469
Pre-course survey: Click here to begin.

Course Objectives (syllabus in pdf format)
This course focuses on the theory and methods of the generation, compilation,
analysis, and applications of digital elevation data. Specific topics include GIS terrain
data models, photogrammetry and LiDAR DEM processing, terrain surface modeling,
digital terrain analysis, 3-D terrain visualization and animation, and watershed modeling.
The course includes computer exercises in the generation and processing of DEM using
GIS and image processing software packages including ArcGIS 3D Analyst, and ENVI.

Text and Readings
Required: No required textbook.
Articles: (pdf in I:\Students\Instructors\Geoffrey_Duh\GEOG4593\Readings folder.)
See the Readings section for a list of weekly readings.
Software documents: There are online software documents that will be used for both the
theoretical and practical components of the course. The instructor will provide
access instructions in class.

Grading
The instructor will grade graduate and undergraduate students based on
separate distribution curves. The components of a student's grade are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Class Participation (10%)
Attendance to this course is mandatory. If you miss more than two class periods
then you will be penalized five percent of your final grade per absence. PLEASE DO
NOT MISS CLASS. You are expected to take part in the discussions and if you are not
in class then you cannot. If you are repeatedly late you will be given an absence. The
labs are due by Thursday before class the week after they are assigned (see the course
schedule for the exact due dates). You can hand them in class or put them in the
instructor's mailbox at CH424.
All students are required to select a topic from a list provided by the instructor (see the "Student Discussion Topics" table below) and give a 10 minutes presentation on that topic to the class. You must prepare a powerpoint presentation, 4 discussion/quiz questions and their answers. Students who are responsible for the week's topics must email the questions to the course mailing list and the questions and their answers to the instructor by 5pm the day before the class (i.e., on Monday); provide the powerpoint file to the instructor at least 30 minutes before the class begins. The presentation should be mainly based on the assigned readings. I strongly encourage you to put additional relevant materials you find on the internet or from other references that might help students understand the topic.

**Exams (15%)**
There will be one in-class, closed-book mid-term exam and no final exam. Unscheduled in-class quizzes will be administered without notifications. Results of these quizzes will be counted toward class participation.

**Lab Component (40%)**
You will do practical exercises on the computers. If you do not finish the labs during the assigned time periods (usually every Thursday) the lab also has open hours. The practical exercises provide a way to acquire skills using GIS software packages and to apply the course concepts to real data. Lab exercises are due by the beginning of the next exercise. All exercises require a significant amount of time to finish. Make sure you pace your lab exercises appropriately to prevent from turning them in late. Please refer to the course schedule for specific due dates of the lab exercises.

**Project Component (35%)**
A term project is required for all students. Students could form project groups (maximum 2 members per group) to investigate a particular research problem using the software packages that we use in class. The project should involve some types of digital terrain analysis. The deliverable is a digital copy of Powerpoint presentation that student groups will present to the class. Each project group must submit a final paper that describes the project in a publishable style/format (see guidelines here). There are two stages to the project (their due dates are listed on the course schedule):

**Project proposal:** Each project group will submit a one page project proposal. It should include a project title, a research question, a list of the spatial and attribute databases you will use, and a conceptual description of the methods you will use. Please make appointments with the instructor to discuss your proposal if you have any questions. Here is a list of criteria for reviewing a proposal. You can use the list as a guideline for preparing your proposal.

**Oral presentation:** Includes the essential information described in the proposal, data sets used, the analyses performed, and display the maps and tabular output derived from the analyses (see presentation rubric).

**Deliverable:** Powerpoint slides and a final paper.
**Course Evaluation**

The university will process course evaluations online. There will be no paper evaluation. Students will be notified via PSU email at the beginning of week 10. Those who do not respond receive reminder emails the following week and again the day before the evaluations close. Students must check their PSU email accounts to receive the link to online course evaluation.

Click [here](#) for the information on the requests for academic accommodation, the policy on academic honesty, and the statement for Title IX Reporting Obligations.

**Student Discussion Topics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
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| 2 Oct 4 | * Basic aerial photography geometry  
* Determining the scale of a vertical aerial photograph  
* Relief displacement  
* Image parallax | - |
| 3 Oct 11 | * Image resolution and scanning resolution  
* Coordinate systems in digital photogrammetry  
* GCP and tie points for performing aerial triangulation  
* Interior orientation and exterior orientation | - |
| 4 Oct 18 | * Components of Airborne Laser Scanning (ALS) systems  
* Resolution of ALS  
* Lidar laser beam "returns" and point cloud  
* Lidar data attributes and LAS file format | - |
| 5 Oct 25 | * Hydro-flattening | - |
| 6 Nov 1 | No discussion topics | - |
| 7 Nov 8 | * Structure from Motion (SfM)  
* Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) / Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)  
* UAV/UAS applications | - |
| 8 Nov 15 | * Filling depressions (sinks) in a DEM  
* Flow direction and flow accumulation  
* Deriving runoff characteristics in ArcGIS (Hydrological Modeling Flowchart) | - |
| 9 Nov 24 | * Watershed delineation: Stream burning  
* Watershed delineation: Normalized excavation  
* Watershed delineation: AGREE | - |
## Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sep 27, Sep 29</td>
<td>Course Overview &amp; Digital Terrain Data Models (Weibel and Heller 1991) Slides * Naked Continent: See Antarctica De-Iced * 3D GIS - Making IT Work Harder than Ever</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oct 18, Oct 20</td>
<td>LiDAR (Gatziolis &amp; Andersen 2008) Slides</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct 25, Oct 27</td>
<td>Project Proposal Due (email to instructor before class) LiDAR Applications (USGS 2010) Working with Lidar Data in ArcGIS (link)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Nov 1, Nov 3</td>
<td>Midterm Exam ESRI online course - Surface Interpolation (see D2L Week 6)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Nov 8, Nov 10</td>
<td>Structure from Motion (SfM) &amp; UAV/UAS-Based Photogrammetry Slides Guest speaker: Debbie Blackmore FAA Slides, FlysUAS Slides ESRI online course: Derived surfaces and Viewsheds (see D2L week 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 15, Nov 17</td>
<td>Watershed delineation methods (Jenson and Dominque 1988) Slides</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 22, Nov 24</td>
<td>Advanced Watershed delineation methods (Baker et al. 2006) Slides</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 29, Dec 1</td>
<td>ESRI online course - 3D Building Modeling (see D2L week 10) Final project assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 5 (Mon)</td>
<td>Final Presentation &amp; Project Deliverables Due</td>
<td>Final presentation (10:15 ~ 13:00 at CH469)</td>
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Readings:
The readings PDF files can be found at:
I:\Students\Instructors\Geoffrey_Duh\GEOG4593\Readings

Week 1:

Week 2:

Week 3:

Week 4:

Week 5:

Week 6:
* ESRI Virtual Campus course: Introduction to Surface Modeling Using ArcGIS (see D2L week 6 instructions)

Week 7:
* ESRI Virtual Campus course: Deriving Rasters for Terrain Analysis Using ArcGIS (see D2L week 7 instructions)

Week 8:

Week 9:

Week 10:
* ESRI Virtual Campus course (see D2L week 10 instructions)
Title IX Reporting Obligations

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. As a member of the university community, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus in your D2L.

Academic Guidelines

Requests for Academic Accommodation

Students who have a learning disability that may affect their performance should contact the Disability Resource Center, Suite 116 Smith Memorial Student Union (phone: 503-725-4150, email: drc@pdx.edu, TTY or relay: 503-725-6504). If you have a documented disability and are registered with the Disability Resource Center meet with the instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. For more information see http://www.pdx.edu/drc/.

Policy on Academic Honesty

Any type of academically and ethically dishonest work (plagiarism, copying someone else's work, etc.) may result in an automatic "F" for the assignment and, when appropriate, a report filed with the Office of Student Affairs. The PSU Bulletin includes the following statement on Academic Honesty: "The Student Conduct Code, which applies to all students, prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty. These acts include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, buying and selling of course assignments and research papers, performing academic assignments including tests and examinations for other persons, unauthorized disclosure and receipt academic information, and other practices commonly understood to be academically dishonest." A digital copy of the PSU Bulletin is available at: https://www.pdx.edu/academic-affairs/psu-bulletin.