

**NRM F338 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems**  
**Fall 2021, 3 credits, CRN: 77355 (F01), 73541 (FXA), 73542 (FXB)**

**General Information:**

**Time:** Lecture: TR 9:45 – 11:15 am  
Lab: T 2 – 5 pm (F01; FXA); W 11:15 am – 2:15 pm (FXB)  
**Place:** Irving I 201 or Zoom  
**Instructor:** Santosh Panda, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environment  
Ph: 474-7539; [skpanda@alaska.edu](mailto:skpanda@alaska.edu)  
Office: O’Neill Building 368  
(office hours: TR: 11:15 am – 12:15 pm /by appointment)

**Teaching Asst.:** Ms. Rachel Allen

Email: [rlallen6@alaska.edu](mailto:rlallen6@alaska.edu)  
Office: Zoom or O’Neill 359 (Office hours: Thu. 1 – 2 pm)

**Course type:** Combined Lecture/Lab

**Technology requirements:** Esri ArcGIS Pro software. Students will get access to this software from 3 sources: 1) have it on their personal computer, 2) through OIT virtual lab space, and 3) access to a computer lab in O’Neill 359.

**Course Description:** Geographic data concepts including mapping systems, data sources, editing data, GIS analysis and computer mapping. GIS applications in natural resources management.

**Instructional Methods:** Lecture, discussion, and lab exercises

- Quiz (along with general course information and handouts) will be shared by email.
- Lectures and labs will be the primary mode of instruction. Some lectures will be supplemented with computational examples to prepare students for quiz.
- All lectures will be recorded and shared with only enrolled students.

**Course Goals:** This class covers introduction to various geographic data and science concepts and application of geospatial methods in the field of natural resources, geography, biology, and geosciences. It includes analyses of points, lines, polygons, raster, and 3D data in ESRI ArcGIS Pro software. We will analyze feature data (points, lines, and polygons) during the first-half of the course, and raster and 3D elevation data during the second-half of the course.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Successful completion of the course will allow students to:

- Be proficient in handling geospatial data in Esri ArcGIS Pro program
- Be proficient in the application of Geoprocessing tools in Esri ArcGIS Pro program
- Use GIS analysis to solve geospatial problem in the field of natural resources, geography, biology, and geosciences
- Develop a workflow that builds on the concept of the GIS analysis to move from raw data to a quantitative representation of information in map format
- Communicate GIS results through maps, graphs, and ArcGIS StoryMap

## **Evaluation:**

Grades are based on the points (and point percentage) that are attributed as follows:

Weekly quizzes, 20 points each  
One mid-term exam, 100 points  
One final exam, 100 points  
Weekly lab completion, 20 points each  
Active participation in lectures and labs (bonus 5%)

## **Grading criteria:**

A (A+: > 94%, A-: > 90%)  
B (B+: > 80%, B-: > 70%)  
C (C+: > 60%, C-: > 50%)  
D (D+: > 45%, D-: > 40%)

## **Course Policies:**

- Attendance: All students are expected to attend and participate in all lectures and labs.
- Participation and Preparation: Students are expected to come to class with assigned reading and other assignments completed as noted in the syllabus.
- Late quiz will be accepted with a 5% penalty per day late.

**Special Needs:** Every qualified student is welcome in my classroom. As needed, I will work with you, disability services, veterans' services, rural student services to find reasonable accommodations in my class. Students with learning or other disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to visit the Disabilities website at <https://uaf.edu/disabilityservices/> and make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (474-5655). Please meet with the instructor so that the appropriate accommodations and supports to assist in meeting the goals of the course can be made in collaboration with the Office of Disability Services.

**UAF Honor Code:** As a UAF student, you are subject to the student Code of Conduct. The university assumes that the integrity of each student and of the student body as a whole will be upheld. It is your responsibility to help maintain the integrity of the student community. For additional information, contact the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities or web <https://uaf.edu/csrr/>. The UAF Honor Code (Student Code of Conduct) defines academic standards expected at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

**Title IX Information:** Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX), and minors have additional protections. As required, if I notice or am informed of certain types of misconduct, then I am required to report it to the appropriate authorities. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you report to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for reporting include:

1. You may access confidential counseling by contacting the Student Health and Counseling Center at 474-7043; <https://uaf.edu/chc/>

2. You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-7300; <https://uaf.edu/titleix/contact.php>
3. You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.

University of Alaska is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).

Effective communication: Students who have difficulties with oral presentations and/or writing are strongly encouraged to get help from the UAF Department of Communication's Speaking Center (907-474-5470, [speak@uaf.edu](mailto:speak@uaf.edu)) and the UAF English's Department's Writing Center (907-474-5314, Gruening 8<sup>th</sup> floor).

**COVID-19:** Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website: <https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf/uaf-students>. Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site:

<https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/>.

#### **Student Academic Support:**

- Speaking Center (907-474-5470, [uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu), Gruening 507)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, [uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu), Gruening 8th floor)
- UAF Math Services, [uafmathstatlab@gmail.com](mailto:uafmathstatlab@gmail.com), Chapman Building (for math fee paying students only)
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120, <https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/>)
- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List ([https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM\\_364e19011717281.pdf](https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf))

#### **Student Resources:**

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, [uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu), Whitaker 208)
- Student Health & Counseling [**6 free counseling sessions**] (907-474-7043, <https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php>, Whitaker 203)
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (907-474-7317, [uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu), Eielson 110)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, [asuaf.office@alaska.edu](mailto:asuaf.office@alaska.edu), Wood Center 119)

**Nondiscrimination statement:** The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex

discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).

For more information, contact:

UAF Department of Equity and Compliance  
 1760 Tanana Loop, 355 Duckering Building, Fairbanks, AK 99775  
 907-474-7300  
[uaf-deo@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-deo@alaska.edu)

**Additional syllabi statement for courses including off-campus programs and research activities:**

University Sponsored Off-Campus Programs and Research Activities

We want you to know that:

1. UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: [www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination](http://www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination).
2. Incidents can be reported to your university's Equity and Compliance office (listed below) or online reporting portal. University of Alaska takes immediate, effective, and appropriate action to respond to reported acts of discrimination and harassment.
3. There are supportive measures available to individuals that may have experienced discrimination.
4. University of Alaska's Board of Regents' Policy & University Regulations (UA BoR P&R) 01.02.020 Nondiscrimination and 01.04 Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination Under Title IX, go to: <http://alaska.edu/bor/policy-regulations/>.
5. UA BoR P&R apply at all university owned or operated sites, university sanctioned events, clinical sites and during all academic or research related travel that are university sponsored.

For further information on your rights and resources [click here](#).

**Course Calendar:**

The course will proceed by weekly topics:

Week 1	What is GIS? Introduction to ArcGIS Pro
Week 2	Basic geodesy, GPS, and measuring distance, area, depth, time
Week 3	Coordinate system and projection
Week 4	Data and file formats for feature collections
Week 5	Analyzing attribute data
Week 6	Creating and editing vector GIS data
Week 7	Containers and database for vectors and rasters
Week 8	Mid-term (10/12/21)
Week 9	Digital elevation models
Week 10	Georeferencing a raster image
Week 11	Supervised classification
Week 12	Geospatial analysis and spatial joins
Week 13	Map layout and cartography
Week 14	Wrap up
Week 15	Final exam (12/7/21)