Instructor: Dr. Julie Cidell  
E-mail: jcidell@illinois.edu  
Office hours: W 1-3 or by appt.  
Office: CAB 251 (244-4665)  
Lecture: MW 11:00-11:50 (Lincoln Hall)

TA: Donald Planey  
TA E-mail: planey1@illinois.edu  
TA office hours: Th 2-3 or by appt.  
TA office: CAB 238  
Lab: Davenport 338

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the ways that existing and emerging technologies are transforming places and spaces and shaping the ways that we interact with the environment and with each other. The first part of the course focuses on the technologies of geography: geospatial technologies such as global positioning systems (GPS) and geographic information systems (GIS) that are becoming increasingly important tools in research, policy, and everyday life. Students will be introduced to these technologies and to the geographical concepts that underpin them.

The second part of the course will cover the geographies of technology: the spatial implications of new technologies such as cell phones, GPS, social networking websites, and Google Earth. Why does place still matter in a digital world? This includes contemporary debates on issues such as surveillance and privacy, environmental issues concerning electronics manufacture and disposal, and relationships between virtual and real-world communities.

Lab exercises for this course will provide hands-on experience in collecting and mapping geospatial information, interpreting digital imagery about the Earth’s environments, and thinking critically about the social and geographical implications of the digital Earth.

COURSE GOALS

1. Apply concepts of space, place, and scale to both real and virtual worlds.
2. Learn to think critically about maps, mapping, and technology.
3. Identify social & spatial impacts of existing & emerging geospatial & Internet technologies.
4. Evaluate contemporary debates related to the digital Earth.

READINGS

Readings should be done BEFORE THE CLASS FOR WHICH THEY ARE LISTED (schedule is below).

1) The required textbook is Human Geography: A Short Introduction, by John Rennie Short.
2) Other readings will be available through the course Moodle and are indicated as such on the schedule.
3) It's not a required reading, but buy a pack of index cards and bring one to each class.
GRADING

Final letter grades will be based on the following scale: 99-100%=A+, 93-98.9=A, 90-92.9=A-, 87-89.9=B+, 83-86.7=B, 80-82.9=B-, 77-79.9=C+, 73-76.9=C, 70-72.9=C-, 67-69.9=D+, 63-66.9=D, 60-62.9=D-, below 60=F. Grades will be based on four components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab Activities</td>
<td>14 labs, 15 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>2 exams, 100 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>1 cumulative exam, 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute papers</td>
<td>25 classes, 5 points each, drop 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>710 points</td>
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**Lab Activities** – Lab activities will be done during the lab period, where a separate syllabus will be handed out. Occasionally some additional work outside of class will be necessary. Project results and answers to questions must be turned in on Moodle before **9 A.M. on Monday**. Late labs will lose 1 point for each calendar day they are late (weekends included) unless you have made prior arrangements. Lab activities do not require familiarity with GIS, but basic computer skills are required, including Internet navigation. However, if you need help with any of the technical aspects at any time, don't hesitate to ask.

**Exams** – There will be three exams: two equally-weighted midterms, and a cumulative final worth twice as much. The exams will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. Exam questions will be developed from material covered during lecture, course readings, and in-class activities, including labs. You will be allowed to bring one sheet of paper to the exam with whatever you want *hand-written* on one side. Missed exams cannot be made up unless you have a documented excuse.

**Participation** – Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate in discussion and in-class activities. At the end of each lecture, you will write a “minute paper” using those required index cards, identifying a) the most important point of that day’s class and b) a question you have about the material. There will be NO OPPORTUNITIES to make up these points. However, the lowest five will be dropped (i.e., you can miss five and not have it affect your grade; if you’re missing more than 20% of the class, it’s probably going to affect your grade in other ways anyway.)

**EXPECTATIONS:**

I expect you to be to class on time, ready to listen with your cell phones off and not checking your e-mail or texting during class. I know it’s hard to go without any electronic contact for 50 minutes (believe me, my phone is the first thing I reach for once class is over), but give it a shot.

On a related note, **YOU SHOULD NOT USE YOUR LAPTOP DURING LECTURE**. Multiple studies have shown that a) taking notes by hand leads to better comprehension and retention of the material, b) laptops distract other students in the class when the user inevitably opens Facebook or YouTube, and c) students who don't use laptops in class do better on exams. (See reading assignment #1.) If you must use a laptop for taking notes, you are **required to sit in the Laptop Zone**. If you have questions or concerns about this policy, ask me.

Food and drink are not allowed in the computer lab during the lab portion of the class.
I expect you to ask questions if you have them, and not to let me go rushing on ahead if you don't understand something I've said. (Remember that if you have a question, it's likely that at other people do, too!)

On a less pleasant but necessary note: cheating or plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment and possibly for the entire course. As defined by the Council of Writing Program Administrators, "plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source." This includes:

- cut-and-pasting paragraphs from Wikipedia;
- turning in near-identical work as a classmate;
- changing a few words or the order of words but still presenting someone else’s writing and ideas as if they were your own; or
- using digital data or maps without labeling the source.

See me if you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, or check out http://www.wpacouncil.org/node/9. If you turn in something that's not your own work and writing, you'll get a zero on it. End of story.

Any student who may need extra assistance with regards to meeting the requirements of this course (e.g., learning or physical disability) is requested to speak to me as soon as possible so we can discuss how to ensure you get the most out of the class. Thanks!

**Course schedule**

**WEEK 1**

**Wed. (1/20)** Welcome and introduction  
*Read:* nothing!

**WEEK 2**

**Mon. (1/25)** The five themes of geography  
*Read:* Sana et al. (2013) "Laptop multitasking hinders classroom learning for both users and nearby peers." *Computers and Education* 62, 24-31 (on Moodle).

**Wed. (1/27)** The evolution of the technology and cultural context of map-making  
*Read:* Textbook, Chapter 2.

**WEEK 3**

**Mon. (2/1):** Maps as a way of seeing and knowing  

**Wed. (2/3):** How to lie with maps  
WEEK 4
Mon. (2/8): Where are you, and how do you know?

Wed. (2/10): Remote sensing: from pigeons to real-time data collection

WEEK 5
Mon. (2/15): What is GIS?

Wed. (2/17): Space-time geographies, Big Data and Cyber GIS (guest lecture)

WEEK 6
Mon. (2/22): Applications of GIS and remote sensing
Read: TBA (articles on Moodle)

Wed. (2/24): MIDTERM I

WEEK 7
Mon. (2/29): Intro to geographies of technology

Wed. (3/2): Where is the Internet?
Read: Textbook, Chapter 9.

WEEK 8
Mon. (3/7): Population geography: the digital divide
Read: Textbook, Chapter 3.

Wed. (3/9): Population geography: migration and diaspora
Read: Textbook, Chapter 10, pp. 188-195.

WEEK 9
Mon. (3/14): Environmental geography: energy and material inputs
Read: Textbook, Chapter 5.

Wed. (3/16): Environmental geography: pollution and e-waste

------------------SPRING BREAK------------------
WEEK 10
Mon. (3/28): Cultural geography: folk and popular culture
Wed. (3/30): Cultural geography: spatial patterns of language use
Read: Textbook, Chapter 10.

WEEK 11
Mon. (4/4): Population, culture, and the environment
Read: Textbook, Chapter 6.
Wed. (4/6): MIDTERM II

WEEK 12
Mon. (4/11): Economic geography: where stuff is made
Read: Textbook, Chapter 7.
Wed. (4/13): Economic geography: where stuff is consumed
Read: Textbook, Chapter 8.

WEEK 13
Mon. (4/18): Political geography: mapping and empire
Read: Textbook, Chapter 11.
Wed. (4/20): Political geography: territory and territoriality
Read: Textbook, Chapter 12.

WEEK 14
Read: Textbook, Chapter 13.
Wed. (4/27): Urban geography: getting around
Read: Textbook, Chapter 15.

WEEK 15
Mon. (5/2): Urban geography: connecting cities
Read: Textbook, Chapter 14.
Wed. (5/4): Geographies of the future

Final (comprehensive) exam: Wednesday, May 11, 1:30-4:30 P.M. Do NOT make travel plans before this date. There is NO conflict exam for this course.