GEOG*2420 The Earth from Space
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENT AND GEOMATICS
COURSE OUTLINE- Fall 2021 (Provisional)

1. Instructor Ben DeVries
2. Email bdv@uoguelph.ca
3. Office hours TBA
4. Prerequisite 0.50 credits in Geography and/or Earth Science

5. Overview
This course is one of two foundational courses (the other being GEOG*2480 Mapping and GIS) in the Geomatics stream of courses offered by the Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics. The Earth from Space provides an introduction to the fields of remote sensing and photogrammetry, focusing on the history of the disciplines and the basic data sources, techniques, and fields of application. It provides the necessary background for GEOG*3420 Remote Sensing of the Environment.

6. Course Description
This course provides an introduction to airborne and satellite Earth Observation systems and data. Topics include physical principles of remote sensing, air photo interpretation, photogrammetry, types of Earth Observation satellites and environmental applications of remote sensing. Lab exercises focus on specific applications of remote sensing image interpretation and analysis in natural habitats and in rural and urban settings.

7. Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Understand the history and foundational theories behind the field of Earth Observation
- Gained a basic knowledge of the main Earth Observation systems, technologies and data sets
- Analyze imagery data using open-source GIS software
- Understand photogrammetric techniques and practices
- Identify key application areas in Earth Observation
- Practice communicating concepts through formal written and visual forms

8. Course Organization and Presentation
GEOG*2420 will be taught in a face-to-face setting in the Fall 2021 semester. While most lectures will be held in person, occasional lectures may be pre-recorded and shared with students ahead of the scheduled lecture time. Students registered with the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and require alternative modes of instruction (e.g., live-streamed or recorded lectures and remote lab instruction) should contact me and/or their SAS representatives to make arrangements.

9. Text and Other Resources
There is no required text for this course. Some required readings may be provided via the Courselink site for this course, and will be announced throughout the course. There are many introductory Remote Sensing textbooks. One recommended text for this course is:
10. Method of Evaluation

The evaluation for this course will consist of a mid-term and final exam and lab assignments. The lab material constitutes an integral part of this course, since this is where students receive hands on work with airborne and satellite imagery, and must apply the techniques they have learned in lectures. Labs must be submitted to the teaching assistant by the beginning of the lab section in the week they are due, with a late penalty of 10% of the total assignment grade per day. Concepts covered in the lab may be included on both the mid-term and final exams.

11. Grade Distribution

- Lab Assignments: 40%
- Mid Term Exam: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

12. Lecture and Lab Topics

A detailed schedule of lecture and lab topics will be released at the beginning of the courses. Tentative topics include:

- Introduction to airborne and satellite remote sensing systems
- Principles of electromagnetic radiation
- Spatial, spectral, radiometric and temporal resolution
- Aerial image interpretation
- Photogrammetry
- Multispectral, hyperspectral, thermal and microwave remote sensing
- Applications of airborne and satellite remote sensing

Lab assignments will cover some material discussed in lectures, but will emphasize practical applications of remote sensing. In some cases, additional concepts may be introduced to build upon topics discussed in lectures. All assignments will be done using open-source GIS software (mostly QGIS). Assignments are due at the beginning of lab sessions the week after they are assigned. Material covered in labs may also be included in the mid-term and final exams.

13. Laboratory Exercises

Five equally-weighted laboratory exercises are planned for the Fall 2021 semester, worth a total of 30% of your final grade. Laboratory exercises will be assigned by your graduate teaching assistant (GTA) during your regular lab time. Your GTA will provide specific details about the timing and procedure for submitting each lab, but assignments are normally submitted on the due date at the start of your regular lab time. Late lab assignments will be penalized (see When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement).

Labs will be held in a face-to-face format. If an alternative arrangement is needed, please contact me and/or your SAS representative as soon as possible.

14. Lecture Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 02:30PM – 03:50PM, ROZH Rm 102
15. Laboratory Times
- 0101 Mon 03:30PM – 05:20PM, Hutt Rm 231
- 0102 Wed 02:30PM – 04:20PM, Hutt Rm 231
- 0103 Wed 12:30PM – 02:20PM, Hutt Rm 231
- 0104 Fri 09:30AM – 11:20AM, Hutt Rm 231

16. Laboratory Fee
There are no laboratory or printing fees associated with this course. All lab assignments are to be submitted in digital format to folders that will be set upon the Courselink page for this course.

17. Exam Format
There will be one mid-term and one final exam in this course. The dates of these exams will be announced at the beginning of the course. The exams will be closed-book format and will be held in a face-to-face setting.

18. Disclaimer
Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/) and circulated by email.

19. Illness
The University will not require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for the fall 2020 or winter 2021 semesters.

20. Territorial Acknowledgements
We acknowledge that the University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and more recently, the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer our respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours as we strive to strengthen our relationships with them.

Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we learn and work.

21. E-mail Communication
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

22. When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement
Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day (not including weekends). After the graded assignment has been handed back to the class no grade can be assigned on late work.

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.
23. Drop Date
The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, December 4th, 2020. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar.

24. Copies of out-of-class assignments
Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

25. Accessibility
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: http://www.uoguelph.ca/csd/

26. Academic Misconduct
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. An example of academic misconduct that might occur in this course is a student copying an answer or using a map/image from another student. Students must create their own digital files for computer-based exercises. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

27. Recording of Materials
Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

28. Resources
The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.