School of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Term 2, 2020  
GMAT4220  
GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SCIENCE

### COURSE DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units of Credit</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact hours</td>
<td>6 hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Wednesday, 14:00 – 16:00 online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Wednesday, 16:00 – 17:00 online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>Thursday, 12:00 – 15:00 online</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Coordinator and Lecturer**  
Samsung Lim  
email: s.lim@unsw.edu.au  
office: CE411

### INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

GMAT4220 is designed for students to learn principles, algorithms, techniques and applications in geospatial “Science” whereas GMAT3220 is to learn introductory level Geographic Information Systems in order to understand the basic principles of GIS.

### HANDBOOK DESCRIPTION

See link to virtual handbook -  

### OBJECTIVES

This course aims to provide the theoretical and technical principles that need to be understood to work effectively and critically with GIS. Topics in the course include concepts and definitions of spatial systems, coordinate systems, mapping and spatial issues with maps, data structures including vector, raster and surface modelling, components of the technology, database management in the context of spatial data, database design, data acquisition techniques including digitizing, scanning, field survey and remote sensing, data conversion process, visualization of geo-spatial data, cartography, colour and 3D views, analysis of geospatial problems, spatial analysis and display, customizing and performing advanced analysis using macro languages and integrating with other software, using the World Wide Web to disseminate information.

This course provides an environment that fosters in our students the following attributes is listed:

- the skills involved in scholarly enquiry : Significant  
- an in-depth engagement with relevant disciplinary knowledge in its interdisciplinary context : Significant  
- the capacity for analytical and critical thinking and for creative problem solving : Significant  
- the ability to engage in independent and reflective learning : Significant  

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• the skills to locate, evaluate and use relevant information (Information Literacy) : Significant
• the capacity for enterprise, initiative and creativity : Significant
• an appreciation of and respect for, diversity : Significant
• a capacity to contribute to, and work within, the international community : Some
• the skills required for collaborative and multidisciplinary work : Significant
• an appreciation of, and a responsiveness to, change : Significant
• a respect for ethical practice and social responsibility : Some

TEACHING STRATEGIES
This course is based on lectures and hands-on labs. Lectures are designed to teach generic algorithms and fundamental theory, lab exercises are for students to learn basic techniques and practical applications. This course is multi-disciplinary. Mathematics, statistics, and computer skills (ArcGIS and Matlab) are seriously involved in the course activities. There is a specified textbook, but many references are available in the library. Students are required to read corresponding chapters of references in order to have better understanding of lectures.

Private Study
- Review lecture material and textbook
- Do set problems and assignments
- Join Moodle discussions of problems
- Reflect on class problems and assignments
- Download materials from Moodle
- Keep up with notices and find out marks via Moodle

Lectures
- Find out what you must learn
- See methods that are not in the textbook
- Follow worked examples
- Hear announcements on course changes

Workshops
- Be guided by Demonstrators
- Practice solving set problems
- Ask questions

Assessments
- Demonstrate your knowledge and skills
- Demonstrate higher understanding and problem solving

Laboratory Work
- Hands-on work, to set studies in context

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES
After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Outcome</th>
<th>EA Stage 1 Competencies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Develop simple GIS data models and their own GIS applications using the models.</td>
<td>PE1.1, PE2.1, PE2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Answer what steps they would take to limit the introduction of errors.</td>
<td>PE1.2, PE1.6, PE2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Explain the assumptions behind trend surface analysis and show how these may seriously affect the quality of the results.</td>
<td>PE1.3, PE2.1, PE2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Compare ordinary point Kriging and thin plate splines as methods for interpolating elevation data to make a DEM.</td>
<td>PE1.4, PE2.2, PE3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Devise a suitable set of spatial analysis operations for deriving the best location.</td>
<td>PE1.5, PE2.4, PE3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For each hour of contact it is expected that you will put in at least 1.5 hours of private study.
COURSE PROGRAM

Term 2 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Lecture Content</th>
<th>Demonstration Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01/06/2020</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS and Map projections</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS and Map projections</td>
<td>*Introduction to ArcGIS and Map projections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/06/2020</td>
<td>Vector and Raster</td>
<td>Vector and Raster</td>
<td>*Digitisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 2)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/06/2020</td>
<td>GIS Data Acquisition and Image Registration</td>
<td>GIS Data Acquisition and Image Registration</td>
<td>*Image Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 3)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>22/06/2020</td>
<td>Inverse Distance Weighting and Natural Neighbours</td>
<td>Inverse Distance Weighting and Natural Neighbours</td>
<td>*Interpolating DEM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 4)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29/06/2020</td>
<td>Kriging</td>
<td>Kriging</td>
<td>*Kriging</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Week 5)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>06/07/2020</td>
<td>*Flexibility week for all courses (non-teaching)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Week 6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13/07/2020</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis Using Raster Data</td>
<td>Spatial Analysis Using Raster Data</td>
<td>*Spatial Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 7)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>20/07/2020</td>
<td>Database and SQL</td>
<td>Database and SQL</td>
<td>*Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 8)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>27/07/2020</td>
<td>Statistical Approaches to Error Propagation</td>
<td>Statistical Approaches to Error Propagation</td>
<td>*Data Format Conversion and Errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 9)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/08/2020</td>
<td>Topology</td>
<td>Topology</td>
<td>Assignment Work: LIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Week 10)</td>
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</table>

ASSESSMENT

The main objective of the assignments is to put students in a situation where they should work as a GIS expert and analyse the given GIS data and report the outcomes to their hypothetical "boss" who is in charge of action but isn’t necessarily familiar with technical GIS skills. Therefore students should work without step-by-step instructions from their boss on how to process the data. In fact, they are required to develop their own data processing strategies/skills and apply them to the assignments.

Details of each assessment component, the marks assigned to it, the criteria by which marks will be assigned, and the dates of submission are set out below.

- On-site lab assessment (3% each x 8) 24% Weeks 1-5, 7-9
- Assignment: LIS 30% Report due 4pm Friday Week 10
- Final Exam 46%

The final grade for this course will normally be based on the sum of the scores from each of the assessment tasks. The final exam is worth 46% of the final mark. The class work is worth 54% of the final mark. A mark of at least 10% in the final exam is required before the class work is included in the final mark.

Students who perform poorly in the on-site lab assessments are recommended to discuss progress with the lecturer during the semester.
Details of each assessment component, the marks assigned to it, the criteria by which marks will be assigned, and the dates of submission are set out below.

Assessment criteria
Assessment of on-site lab work (3%) will be based on the following criteria:

- No output 0%
- Partial output 1%
- Full output but with incorrect results 2%
- Complete results 3%

Assessment of LIS report (30%) will be based on the following criteria:

- Written presentation 6%
- Review of other work 6%
- Quality of project work 6%
- Results 6%
- Interpretation & conclusions 6%

Marking criteria for the assignment report
The approach used in marking is based on Biggs’ (2003) Structure of the Observed Learning Outcome (SOLO) taxonomy (Table 1). There is also a set of words that describe the grades and marks (Table 2). Reading these tables should aid your understanding of what the lecturer is looking for in your report in relation to the specific marking criteria.

Table 1. Biggs’ SOLO taxonomy. This is a hierarchical taxonomy, listed from lowest to highest level. Achieving a higher level implies exceeding the lower levels. There is also no direct translation between grades and SOLO levels, as it depends on the level of the course and the nature of the assignment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Verb examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prestructural</td>
<td>Misses the point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unistructural</td>
<td>Identify, do simple procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multistructural</td>
<td>Enumerate, describe, list, combine, do algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relational</td>
<td>Compare/contrast, explain causes, analyse, relate, apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extended abstract</td>
<td>Theorise, generalise, hypothesise, reflect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Grade and mark interpretation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Mark</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Distinction</td>
<td>85+</td>
<td>Work of exceptional quality showing clear understanding of the subject matter and appreciation of issues; well formulated; arguments sustained; maps and diagrams where relevant; relevant literature referenced; marked evidence of creative ability; solid intellectual work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distinction</td>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>Work of very high quality showing strong grasp of subject matter and appreciation of dominant issues, though not necessarily of the finer points; arguments clearly developed; relevant literature referenced; evidence of creative ability; solid intellectual work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit</td>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>Work of solid quality showing competent understanding of subject matter and appreciation of main issues, though possibly with some lapses and inadequacies; arguments clearly developed and supported by references, though possibly with minor red herrings and loose ends; some evidence of creative ability; well prepared and presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>Adequate answers; reasonably relevant and accurate. Sufficient to merit a bare pass to safe pass mark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>&lt;50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### References


In terms of Biggs' SOLO taxonomy, a High Distinction is Extended Abstract, while a Pass is Multistructural. More generally, to achieve a pass you must implement the models as instructed and show that you understand what you have done. To achieve a High Distinction you must have implemented some innovations of your own (gone beyond the instructions). Very well written reports that clearly show an understanding of what has been done, but that contain no innovations, will receive a maximum grade of Distinction.

Throughout your assignment report you are expected to demonstrate an understanding of:

1. the meaning of your results,
2. the rationale for doing it,
3. potential sources of error and their impact on your conclusions.

The lecturer will also be looking for:

1. **Clarity**
   
   Clear, simple, grammatical language used. All terms are explained.

2. **Argument and structure**
   
   Is the argument clearly and logically developed through the report? Are the points in the appropriate sequence (do your points build on previous points presented)?

3. **The wider scope**
   
   Do you place your work in the context of the broader, peer reviewed, literature? You should have no fewer than ten references.

4. **Map composition and diagrams**
   
   Are they clear and do they display the desired information? Are they used to support your arguments and not purely as decorative material? Do your maps have a scale bar, north pointer and legend? Are appropriate and consistent colour schemes used?

5. **Innovation**
   
   This is the degree to which you go beyond the instructions given in the lab handouts, for example assessing the sensitivity of the model to parameter variations or implementing better models.

6. **Referencing**
   
   Appropriate use of the Harvard referencing system. There are several formatting variations with the Harvard system. Have a look at a sample of journals to get an idea, for example the International Journal of Geographical Information Science. I do not mind which one you use so long as it is consistent throughout the report. One exception to this is that you do not list all authors in the main text where there are three or more authors (e.g., Use “Border et al., 1999” rather than “Border, Taylor, Waugh, and Ponting, 1999”). Such a long style is awkward and unwieldy when there are more than three authors. However, you must list all authors in the reference list at the end of the document. Please see [http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/ref.html](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/ref.html) for a good introduction, albeit their use of inverted commas for book and journal titles is tedious and unnecessary. It is far easier to use a system that does not require them. Please also note that the EndNote bibliography management software is freely available to UNSW Staff and students. See [http://www.it.unsw.edu.au/services/procurement/software/](http://www.it.unsw.edu.au/services/procurement/software/).
Learning how to use this software will make writing assignments much easier, and will solve most of your problems with referencing formats (so long as your database is correct). Most online databases now allow you to export references directly into EndNote, so constructing a database is reasonably simple.

Be careful when using web sites as a source of information. If they summarise another piece of work, then you should read and cite the original piece of work (the primary reference). This applies to lecture notes – DO NOT USE LECTURE NOTES AS REFERENCES. Use the references provided in them. In general, you should not use web sites unless they are an official publication. Wikipedia is a good example here. It is an excellent resource for locating further information, but it is not a primary reference. The same principle applies to any printed encyclopaedia.

Supplementary Examinations for Term 2 2020 will be held on Monday 7th September – Friday 11th September (inclusive) should you be required to sit one. You are required to be available during these dates. Please do not make any personal or travel arrangements during this period.

PENALTIES

Reports may be submitted at any time prior to the due date. Late submission will get 10% deduction of the assignment mark for each day late – up to a maximum of seven days. After seven days, the assignment will receive zero.
## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Learning outcomes assessed</th>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
<th>Due date and submission requirements</th>
<th>Deadline for absolute fail</th>
<th>Marks returned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 8x lab exercises</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>GIS skills</td>
<td>Basic GIS techniques and practical applications</td>
<td>Weeks 1-5, 7-9. Show the results to the lab supervisor</td>
<td>After 7 days</td>
<td>Immediately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Black Bart assignment</td>
<td>40 hours</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Spatial analysis</td>
<td>Writing skills, analytical and laboratory work</td>
<td>Electronic copy report due 4pm Friday Week 10</td>
<td>After 7 days</td>
<td>After 3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Final exam</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>GIS knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Theory, concepts, definitions, and components of GIS</td>
<td>Centrally managed</td>
<td>Centrally managed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RELEVANT RESOURCES

Textbook:


References:


DATES TO NOTE

Refer to MyUNSW for Important Dates available at:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/dates

PLAGIARISM

Beware! An assignment that includes plagiarised material will receive a 0% Fail, and students who plagiarise may fail the course. Students who plagiarise are also liable to disciplinary action, including exclusion from enrolment.

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s work or ideas as if they were your own. When it is necessary or desirable to use other people’s material you should adequately acknowledge whose words or ideas they are and where you found them (giving the complete reference details, including page number(s)). The Learning Centre provides further information on what constitutes Plagiarism at:

https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism

ACADEMIC ADVICE

For information about:

- Notes on assessments and plagiarism;
- Special Considerations: [student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration](https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration);
- General and Program-specific questions: [The Nucleus: Student Hub](https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/civil-engineering/student-resources/policies-procedures-and-forms/academic-advice)

Refer to Academic Advice on the School website available at:

https://www.engineering.unsw.edu.au/civil-engineering/student-resources/policies-procedures-and-forms/academic-advice
### Program Intended Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PE1: Knowledge and Skill Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE1.1 Comprehensive, theory-based understanding of underpinning fundamentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE1.2 Conceptual understanding of underpinning maths, analysis, statistics, computing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE1.3 In-depth understanding of specialist bodies of knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE1.4 Discernment of knowledge development and research directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE1.5 Knowledge of engineering design practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE1.6 Understanding of scope, principles, norms, accountabilities of sustainable engineering practice</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PE2: Engineering Application Ability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE2.1 Application of established engineering methods to complex problem solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2.2 Fluent application of engineering techniques, tools and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2.3 Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE2.4 Application of systematic approaches to the conduct and management of engineering projects</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PE3: Professional and Personal Attributes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PE3.1 Ethical conduct and professional accountability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.2 Effective oral and written communication (professional and lay domains)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.3 Creative, innovative and pro-active demeanour</td>
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<tr>
<td>PE3.4 Professional use and management of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.5 Orderly management of self, and professional conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE3.6 Effective team membership and team leadership</td>
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</table>