



Syllabus

Course Description

The main goal of this course is for the student to prepare and present a rational, persuasive and professional-caliber proposal for his or her geodesign capstone project. This course is the first step in the culminating experience for the M.P.S. in Geodesign degree and requires the student to formulate a plan for how s/he will apply the geodesign framework to a real-world, problem-based challenge of his/ her own choosing.

Competency will be expressed through the detailed research process, a strong -level of writing proficiency and skill at sharing the project proposal during a presentation to advisers and peers. Each student will also peer-review and critique the presentations of other capstone project proposals.

Course Evaluation

The final grade for GEODZ 596A will be determined by how well these key criteria are addressed:

- Exhibited creativity and initiative in originating the capstone project topic and then developing it.
- The capstone project proposal contributes to the advancement or application of the geodesign framework design process.
- Student was receptive to and engaged in critique, and was responsive to advisor suggestions.
- Student showed progress and improvement throughout the course in developing an original capstone project concept.

Course Policies

Deferred Grades: If you are prevented from completing this course within the prescribed amount of time, it is possible to have the grade deferred with the concurrence of the instructor. To seek a deferred grade, you must submit a written request (by email or US post) to your instructor describing the reason(s) for the request. It is up to your instructor to determine whether or not you will be permitted to receive a deferred grade. If for any reason the course work for the deferred grade is not complete by the assigned time, a grade of "F" will be automatically entered on your transcript.

Academic Integrity: It almost goes without saying that "successful completion" of this course involves doing one's own work. Unfortunately, there have been rare instances in which individuals have attempted to pass off other students' assignments as their own. To minimize such incidents, I make it a habit of stating the academic integrity policy up front.

Penn State defines academic integrity as "the pursuit of scholarly project in an open, honest and responsible manner." Academic integrity includes "a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception." In particular, the University defines plagiarism as "the fabrication of information and citations; submitting other's work from professional journals, books, articles, and papers;

submission of other student's papers, lab results or project reports and representing the work as one's own." Penalties for violations of academic integrity may include course failure.

You will find Penn State's academic integrity policy here. <http://student.worldcampus.psu.edu/your-courses-how-to-guide/policies/academic-integrity> (link is external))

Accommodating Disabilities

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services Web site at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/> (link is external).

Disclaimer: Please note that the specifics of this Course Syllabus can be changed at any time, and you will be responsible for abiding by any such changes. Changes will be posted to the course website.