

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**GEOGRAPHY 4220: The GeoWeb and Geomedia**  
**Winter 2014**

**Instructor:** M. Buzzelli  
**Office:** Rm. 2429 SSC  
**Office Hours:** TBA

**Seminar times:** Wednesdays 1:30 am - 3:20 pm                      **Room:** AH 101  
**Lab session:** Tuesdays 11:30-12:20 pm                                **Room:** AH 101

**The GeoWeb and Geomedia**

In a short period of time geospatial technologies have expanded beyond the expert domain and into everyday use. For example the so-called ‘locative media’ track elections in near-real-time through Internet-based interfaces. The Earth’s terrain is now viewable on the web at high resolution. Products and services can be searched on the Internet on the basis of location or proximity. And in the Web 2.0 world, georeferenced peer-to-peer content, such as still images and video, are being uploaded, used and redistributed all the time. These are all examples of the ways in which geographic information is increasingly produced, accessed, disseminated and used via the Internet. Through this Internet-based prism, the GeoWeb is fundamentally changing social networks, interaction, commerce and citizen engagement. Some argue convincingly that this necessitates a rethinking of the Geographical enterprise itself. This course critically examines the GeoWeb: it’s challenges and opportunities for communities, governments and NGOs, researchers, commercial organisations and others.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Develop your ability to identify current trends, opportunities and challenges in Web 2.0 and the GeoWeb in particular;
- Build your ability to critically analyse data in the GeoWeb;
- Develop skills of critical thinking, and oral and written communication skills

**Prerequisite:** Fourth year standing and prior courses in GIS or permission of the instructor.

**Format of the course:** A combination of seminars and research.

**Required and Recommended Reading:** Distributed via Sakai. See reading list below.

**Evaluation (late penalties apply):**

- Term project proposal, 10%, due last class prior to reading week
- Proposal presentation, 10%, last class prior to reading week
- Final project, 30%, due last class of term
- Final project presentation, 15%, last class of term
- Seminar participation, 15%
- Reflection/response paper, 20%, due 3 days after classes end

## Course policies and rules

**Academic dishonesty:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

### Other policies

1. University Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness:  
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
2. Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
3. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
4. Mobile telephones and any similar devices should be switched off during class. If you bring one to class, be sure to turn it off or you will be asked to leave. No text messaging during class.
5. Email ONLY within Sakai. The instructor does not use email outside of Sakai.

## Seminar topics

Week	Section and topic	Reading
A. Geographic information in everyday life - weeks 1-3		
1	Introduction - refresher on spatial thinking	Logan et al., 2010; Goodchild and Janelle, 2010
2	Geoweb and Geomedia in public discourse: Internet research exercise	Haklay et al., 2008; Johnson and Sieber, 2012; Leszczynski, 2012
3	GIS, IT convergence and neogeography	Olson, 1997; Sieber, 2004; Schwanen et al, 2006
B. The GeoWeb - weeks 4-6		
4	The GeoWeb 1: VGI and citizen sensors	Goodchild, 2007
5	The GeoWeb 2: GPS and mashups	Boulos et al., 2008
6	Ethics and privacy	Curry, 1997; Armstrong and Ruggles, 2005; Elwood et al., 2011
C. Geomedia and public participation - weeks 9-13		
7 to 8	'Critical' GIS	Harvey et al., 2005; Pavlovskaya, 2006; Schuurman, 2007
9 to 10	Qualitative methods and PPGIS	Bell and Reed, 2004; Elwood, 2006; Dunn, 2007
11 to 13	Knowledge mobilisation: text, voice and video	Kwan and Ding, 2008; Pain et al, 2006; Knigge and Cope, 2006; Hawthorne et al., 2008; Elwood, 2011

**Readings – all readings are made available on WebCT or distributed in class**

Armstrong, MP and A. Ruggles (2006). Geographic Information Technologies and Personal Privacy. *Cartographica* 40, 4, 63-73.

Bell, S. and M. Reed (2004). Adapting to the Machine: Integrating GIS into Qualitative Research. *Cartographica* 39, 1, 55-66.

Boulos, MNK, M. Scotch, KH Cheung and D burden (2008). Web GIS in practice VI: a demo playlist of geo-mashups for public health neogeographers. *International journal of health geographics* 7, 38, 1-16.

Curry, M. (1997) The Digital Individual and the Private Realm. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 87, 4, 681-699.

Dunn, C. (2007). Participatory GIS – a people’s GIS? *Progress in Human Geography* 31, 5, 616-637.

Elwood, S (2006). Negotiating knowledge production: The everyday inclusions, exclusions, and contradictions of participatory GIS research. *Professional Geographer* 58, 2, 197-208.

Elwood, Sarah. 2011. Geographic information science: Visualization, visual methods, and the geoweb. *Progress in Human Geography*, v 35, n 3, p 401-408.

Elwood, S. and ); Leszczynski, Agnieszka 2011. Privacy, reconsidered: New representations, data practices, and the geoweb. *Geoforum* v 42, n 1, p 6-15.

Goodchild, MF (2007). Citizens as voluntary sensors: spatial data infrastructure in the world of Web 2.0. *International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructures Research* 2: 24–32.

Goodchild, MF and D Janelle (2010). Toward critical spatial thinking in the social sciences and humanities. *GeoJournal* 75, 3-13.

Haklay, Muki , Singleton, Alex; Parker, Chris 2008. Web mapping 2.0: The neogeography of the GeoWeb. *Geography Compass*, v 2, n 6, p 2011-2039.

Harvey, F., MP Kwan and M Pavlovskaya (2004) Introduction: Critical GIS. *Cartographica* 40, 4, 1-4.

Hawthorne, T., J. Krygier and MP Kwan (2008). Mapping ambivalence: Exploring the geographies of community change and rails-to-trails development using photo-based Q method and PPGIS. *Geoforum* 39, 2, 1058-78.

Johnson, Peter A. and Sieber, Renee E. 2012. Motivations driving government adoption of the Geoweb. *GeoJournal* v 77, n 5, p 667-680.

Knigge L, Cope M, 2006, "Grounded visualization: integrating the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data through grounded theory and visualization" *Environment and Planning A* 38(11) 2021 – 2037.

Kwan, M., and Guoxiang Ding (2008). Geo-Narrative: Extending geographic information systems for narrative analysis in qualitative and mixed-method research. *The Professional Geographer* 60, 4, 443-465.

Leszczynski, Agnieszka 2012. Situating the geoweb in political economy. *Progress in Human Geography*, v 36, n 1, p 72-89.

Logan, JR, W Zhang, H Xu (2010). Applying spatial thinking in social science research. *Geojournal* 75, 12-27.

Olson, JM (1997). Multimedia in Geography: Good, Bad, Ugly, or Cool? *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 87, 4, 571 - 578.

Pain, R., R. MacFarlane, K. Turner, and S. Gill. (2006). "When, where, if, and but": Qualifying GIS and the effect of streetlighting on crime and fear. *Environment and Planning A* 38, 11, 2055–74.

Pavlovskaya M, 2006, "Theorizing with GIS: a tool for critical geographies?" *Environment and Planning A* 38(11) 2003 – 2020.

Schwanen, T. M Dijst and MP Kwan (2006). Introduction – The Internet, changing mobilities and urban dynamics. *Urban Geography* 27, 7, 585-589.

Schuurman, N. (2006). Formalization Matters: Critical GIS and Ontology Research. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 96, 4, 726 – 739.

Sieber, R. (2004). Rewiring for a GIS/2. *Cartographica* 39, 1, 25-39.