COURSE OUTLINE

GEOGRAPHY 4220: The GeoWeb and Geomedia
Winter 2019

Instructor: Prof. M. Buzzelli
Office: SSC 2429
Office Hours: TBA

Seminar and lab times: Mondays 9:30am – 12:30pm, **Room:** SSC 2322E

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. Georeferenced peer-to-peer content, such as still images and video, are being uploaded, used and redistributed all the time. And public discourse on issues of data security and privacy is growing. 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. 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.

A defining feature of this course is the group-based term-length research project. The project is set up as an experiential (or work-integrated) learning activity with the aim of connecting you to the expert community beyond campus but doing so from within the regular running of the course. The research project is completed for and with the course instructor along with an identified community expert (your 'community mentor') who will work with your group on a regular basis throughout the course. More details are provided in the first weeks of the teaching term.

Learning Objectives:
o   Develop your ability to identify current trends, benefits and challenges in the GeoWeb;
o   Develop your ability to critically analyse data in the GeoWeb;
o   Develop skills of critical thinking, and oral and written communication skills, including in group-work settings;
o   Work with a community partner for experiential learning skills and research impact

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

Format of the course: Seminars and laboratory/group discussion periods.

Required and Recommended Reading: Distributed via OWL. See the schedule below.

Assessments (late penalties apply):

o   Weekly individual readings summaries, 10%
o   Term group project proposal and presentation, 15%, due last class prior to reading week
o   Final project and presentation, 25%, due last class of term
o   Seminars: attendance, 5%; participation, 20%
o   Reflection/response paper, 25%, due at the end of term

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 (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf) .

For UWO Policy on **Accommodation for Medical Illness**:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources: http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
Student Development Services: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Other policies:
1.   Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
2.   Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
3.   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 electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.
4.   Email within OWL, and/or office hours, are the only ways to contact your instructor.

Seminar topics and schedule
(includes meetings times for group term projects with your community mentor)

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	Johnson and Sieber, 2012; Leszczynski, 2012
3	GIS, IT convergence and neogeography	Olson, 1997 ; Johnson and Sieber, 2012 ; Leszczynski, 2012
B. The GeoWeb - weeks 4-7		
4	The GeoWeb 1: VGI and citizen sensors	Haklay et al, 2010; Buzzelli et al., 2017
5	The GeoWeb 2: Citizen science, GPS and mashups	Boulos et al., 2008; Grira et al, 2009; Haklay, 2012
6	Ethics and privacy	Curry, 1997; Armstrong and Ruggles, 2005; Elwood et al., 2011
C. Geomedia and public participation - weeks 8-13		
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 / mobile knowledge: text, voice and video	Kwan and Ding, 2008; Pain et al, 2006; Knigge and Cope, 2006; Hawthorne et al., 2008; Elwood, 2011

About your professor
Michael Buzzelli, B.A. (Hons.), M.A., Ph.D., M.Ed., Associate Professor at the University of Western Ontario.

After completing graduate work at McMaster University, I held academic appointments at UBC and Queen's. I have been at Western since 2007. Along the way I have taught many undergraduate courses and supervised students at all graduate/postdoctoral levels. I have led several national and international research projects on a range of issues and developed and supervised applied graduate policy training programmes. My current work focuses on higher education system policy and planning, particularly with respect to teaching and learning.

In addition to these rewarding experiences, I have also held visiting appointments at the Universities of Melbourne (Summer 2007), Glasgow (Summer 2008), UBC (Summer 2011) and Bologna (January – June 2016). Among the most important I have done professionally is serve on the Board of Directors (including as Chair up to June 2018) of London and Middlesex Housing Corporation, the largest social housing provider in the region.