

GEOG 2132 – Digital Earth

Course Outline: Section 001 Winter 2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements

Stable internet connection	Laptop or computer
Working microphone	Working webcam
Zoom application installed	Google Earth PRO installed

Software required for Field Exercises (e.g. GoogleEarth, QGIS)

Recommended technical specifications:
<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html>

Western Zoom webpage, including privacy information:
<https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>.

2. Course Information

Delivery Mode online

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 5

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
January 11	February 13-21	April 12	April 13	April 14-30

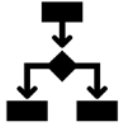
* January 19, 2021: Last day to add a second-term half course

March 15, 2021: Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
DESMOND MOSER	desmond.moser@uwo.ca	Tutorial Wed. 2:30-3:30PM

Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom during Wednesday Tutorial.

3. Calendar Description



This course uses online digital imagery and topography to access, analyze and interpret Earth surface landscapes and landscape change. Students are introduced to the use of digital landscapes, images and visualization software to explore and analyze the origin and development of selected landscapes in response to natural and human forces.

2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, 0.5 course

Antirequisite(s): n/a

Prerequisite(s): n/a

4. Textbook

All resources will be posted in OWL

A smartphone (Google Maps) is required for lab exercises

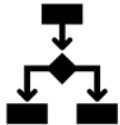
5. Course Objectives and Format

The objectives of this course are to teach the basics of geospatial analysis and mapping to understand landscapes using case studies around the globe and locally. Lectures will provide background and theory of processes. The main tool used is Google Earth)

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual asynchronous	see below	2 hrs	weekly
Virtual synchronous	Wed., 2:30-3:20	1 hrs	weekly

Asynchronous pre-work must be completed prior to synchronous sessions

Attendance at synchronous sessions is required. Missed work must be completed independently within 48 hours.



A recording will be provided for asynchronous lectures by end of day each Monday.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#). [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

6. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:



- ✓ Demonstrate a basic understanding of geomatics and geospatial reference systems
- ✓ Demonstrate informed awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and understanding of the processes that shape them spatially and over time.
- ✓ Perform basic field observation and data collection for mapping
- ✓ Technological skills (computer hardware, software) including use of geographical and data analysis software.

7. Course Content and Schedule*

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>LECTURE CONTENT</u>	<u>Tutorial Topic</u>
1	Jan 11	Introduction to geospatial analysis and geomatics	Google EarthPro
2	Jan 18	The Geoid, datums, reference systems (UTM)	UTM Coords
3	Jan 25	Global Positioning System	<i>Field Exercise 1</i>
4	Feb 1	Tectonics, Elevation, Seafloor topography	Ocean Floors
5	Feb 8	DEM's, Sea level, Glaciers, Volcanic terrains	Iceland
READING WEEK....			
6	Feb 22	Isostasy, Climate	Great Lakes NA
7	Mar 1	Deserts, Biomes and climate controls on landscape	Africa
8	Mar 8	Biophysical landscape change and humans 1	South America
9	Mar 15	Biophysical landscape change and humans 2	Asia
10	Mar 22	Introduction to GIS/ QGIS	QGIS
11	Mar 29	Independent Field Exercise #2 assigned	<i>Field Exercise 2</i>
12	Apr 5	Review and final quiz	

**This is a first-time offering of this course in an online format. Please be aware that lecture and tutorial topics and timing may be re-organized as necessary to achieve learning outcomes.*

8. Online Participation and Engagement

Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible

Weekly synchronous tutorials are mandatory. Participation will be facilitated by instructor and worth 20% of total grade.

9. Communication

Students should email their instructor using OWL “messages”

Students should check the OWL site every regularly.

A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements when lectures are posted.

For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to. You can read about

This course will use Zoom for weekly tutorials.

Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions

The discussion forums will be monitored by instructor

10. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Weekly Quiz (Owl)	Multiple choice	60%	Fridays, 11:55pm
Weekly Tutorial	Participation	20%	Wed. 2:30-3:30 pm
Field Exercises (2)	field data + report	20% (10% each)	tba

*Oral comprehensive exam (if necessary)

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the tutorials. All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified. Rubrics will be used to evaluate assignments and will be posted with the instructions.

After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click [here](#) for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty __20__ %/day

Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report

An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class. There will be no make-up tests.

* The weight of any missed quizzes will be transferred to a final, up to 20 minute, in-person, oral exam by ZOOM covering all course material.

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

11. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#) and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

12. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor.

13. Statements concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Please “arrive” to class on time
- Please use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless otherwise requested.
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting

The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, use the “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question

- Remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking
- Self-identify when speaking
- Remember to mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise)

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of Zoom-bombing a class or of other serious online offenses may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

14. Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

15. Western’s Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website.

More information about “Accessibility at Western” is available.

16. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

17. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

18. Important Dates

January 11: Classes resume

January 19: Last day to add a second term half course

February 15: Family Day – Department Office Closed

February 13 to February 21: Spring Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

March 15: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

April 2: Good Friday

April 12: Classes end

April 13: Study day

April 14 to April 30: Examination Period