Instructor: Rick Kos, AICP
Office location: WSQ-218C
Telephone: (408) 924-5854 (office phone, but email is a much better way to reach me)
Email: Richard.Kos@sjtu.edu
Office hours: Wednesdays (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.) and Thursdays (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
Appointments strongly preferred. Sign up here: https://goo.gl/pEvVod
Class days/time: Thursdays 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Classroom: WSQ-208
Class website: http://urbp278.pbworks.com
Prerequisites: No prior knowledge of GIS is required to take this course; however, there is a lot of material to cover and this will be a fast-moving and fairly technologically advanced course. As such, there are a few basic prerequisites:
1. Competence with the Windows operating system, including the storing, copying and management of multiple data types; managing multiple windows and applications; and discipline to save work frequently.
2. Familiarity with data entry, sorting, editing and filtering using Microsoft Excel.
3. A strong motivation to learn, explore and have fun with computer applications is essential. This course will require a significant amount of independent work and relies heavily on student initiative.
4. An e-mail account that you plan to check frequently. You will be asked to provide your email address on the first day of class in order to facilitate communications with the instructor.
Units: 4 units

Course Catalog Description
Examination of geographic information systems (GIS) applications to urban and regional planning topics. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Course Description
Geographic Information Systems, GIS, is a rapidly evolving technology involving the study of the spatial (geographic) location of features on the Earth’s surface and the relationships between them. Because the work of urban planners fundamentally involves the study of location and spatial relationships, today’s employers increasingly expect graduates of urban planning programs to possess a working knowledge of GIS. Environmental Systems Research Institute’s (Esri) suite of GIS software – ArcGIS 10 in particular – has
become the industry standard and is used by a majority of government agencies and private firms engaged in GIS activities. Specifically, employers are seeking professionals armed with a grasp of geospatial data types (vector, aerial imagery, satellite imagery, geodatabases, etc.), spatial analysis techniques and GIS project management skills in order to effectively study a host of multi-faceted urban planning topics.

My primary goal is to ensure that by completing the course you will possess the fundamental GIS skills valued by today’s employers. Quite a number of “alumni” from this course have secured internships and full-time jobs at agencies including the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, the Valley Transportation Authority and numerous municipal planning departments specifically because they demonstrated GIS expertise in their portfolios and during job interviews.

San José State University’s Urban and Regional Planning Department offers three courses specifically devoted to GIS: the course you are taking now, a follow-up Advanced GIS course, and a one-credit core course, GIS Overview: Urban Planning Applications. All three courses aim to build sought-after GIS skills through a comprehensive, real world-focused course of study in GIS. The introductory and advanced GIS classes are taught mainly as a combined lecture and computer laboratory course using Esri’s ArcGIS 10.4.1 software and a variety of hands-on exercises.

The majority of students interested in taking either elective course typically do not intend to pursue careers dedicated exclusively to the use of GIS; rather, they wish to learn just enough about the technology so it can be one of many tools available to them during their urban planning careers. As such, the GIS courses offered by the Urban and Regional Planning Department are as practical in nature as possible, favoring case studies and the hands-on use of ArcGIS software over theory and abstraction, and with a particular focus on the acquisition and analysis of real-world geospatial data typically used by urban planners.

The course strives to provide a balance between the "how-to" of using ArcGIS 10.4.1 and the "why" of GIS by explaining the roles GIS technology plays in analyzing local and regional (even global) problems. During the first two-thirds of the course, you will learn the specific steps necessary to navigate ArcMap and ArcCatalog, acquire and manage geographic data sets, develop effective cartographic techniques, and query the data to answer typical planning-related questions. For some exercises, you will use real GIS data from Bay Area cities, “warts and all”, in order to learn how to overcome typical problems encountered by GIS practitioners. The last third of the course will focus on the development, execution and presentation of a final GIS project on a topic that interests you.

Since the visual communication of quantitative data is a vital skill for urban planners, this final project will help you further develop your GIS skills by framing an urban planning issue that excites you, developing a set of high-quality GIS maps to illustrate the issue, and presenting a focused, 7-minute summary of your methodology and findings to your colleagues. A key objective of the final project is to provide you with a portfolio piece to present to current and future employers as evidence of your GIS abilities. I am continually impressed by the work that beginning GIS learners produce for their final projects!

I am looking forward to helping you learn ArcGIS 10.4.1 this semester. As we work together over the next few months, you will be encouraged to think about integrating GIS into your other San José State coursework and master's project. There are many avenues for assistance and to accelerate your understanding of GIS: in-class exercises and personal guidance from me, at least four office hours per week, assistance from my excellent teaching assistant Ana Rivera, and the ability to reach me via e-mail (I typically reply to clearly-worded messages very quickly). There is a lot of work to complete in this course, but I’m here to help you succeed – and we’ll have some fun, too. Again, my primary goal is to ensure that by completing the course you will possess the fundamental GIS skills valued by today’s employers.

**Course Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:
1. Describe how contemporary urban planners use GIS as a tool for the analysis and display of quantitative data such as demographic information from the US Census Bureau;
2. Utilize the core components and functionality of ArcGIS 10.4.1;
3. Prepare a professional-looking map with all necessary cartographic elements;
4. Conduct attribute and spatial queries with geospatial datasets;
5. Geocode address data and convert x-y coordinate data to map points;
6. Georeference a raster image to a vector base map to visualize urban change over time;
7. Create new geospatial datasets and edit existing datasets;
8. Utilize common geoprocessing tools to transform geospatial datasets into new ones.

Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) Knowledge Components
This course partially covers the following PAB Knowledge Components:

2b) Written, Oral and Graphic Communication: ability to prepare clear, accurate and compelling text, graphics and maps for use in documents and presentations.

2c) Quantitative and Qualitative Methods: data collection, analysis and modeling tools for forecasting, policy analysis, and design of projects and plans.

A complete list of the PAB Knowledge Components can be found at http://www.sjsu.edu/urbanplanning/courses/pabknowledge.html.

Required Course Text and Software
In keeping with the joint focus of this course on (1) developing ArcGIS skills and (2) the development of effective cartographic techniques, The GIS 20 Essential Skills, Second Edition is required and will serve as a reference throughout the course; it provides detailed, step-by-step instructions in the use of ArcGIS software.


The required textbook may be purchased at the Spartan Bookstore, online (at sites such as Amazon.com) or directly from the publisher. Note that if you purchase a used textbook online, you are responsible for obtaining the book from the seller in a timely manner.

ArcGIS 10.4.1 and Extensions will be used in this course. Each student will receive a free Education Edition of Esri's ArcGIS 10.4.1 software for use on a personal computer; it is a fully-functioning version and will expire one year after installation. Please note that ArcGIS software only runs on the Windows operating system. In order to run ArcGIS in Windows on a Mac, virtualization software is needed such as Apple's BootCamp, SWSoft's Parallels, or VMware Fusion.

Students are not required to install ArcGIS on their personal computer since the labs in WSQ208 and “mini-lab” (in the Planning Department lounge area) are available to all students to complete class assignments and homework. If you choose to install the software on your own computer, you are responsible for installing and maintaining it by properly following Esri’s installation instructions, which the instructor will provide. It is HIGHLY recommended that your personal computer have at least 4 GB of RAM installed, since ArcGIS is a very memory-intensive application. Ideally, more than 4 GB of RAM is best if your computer supports it.

If you do plan to use your personal computer to complete assignments started in class, a USB flash drive with at least 2 GB of capacity is strongly recommended for saving your in-class work and transferring it to your personal computer.
Recommended Readings and Materials

*Designing Better Maps: A Guide for GIS Users,* is optional but strongly recommended since it provides a great number of useful and effective design techniques and considerations that you can use to produce professional-quality maps.


Other recommended readings on data visualization, GIS applications, and cartography include:


Fundamentals for Success in this Course

I will make every effort to help you succeed in this course so that you can use ArcGIS 10.4.1 confidently and successfully in your future career endeavors. Naturally, it is your responsibility to complete all assignments and to take advantage of the many learning opportunities this semester. Your final grade will reflect your overall commitment to learning; highest grades correlate with student efforts that exceed expectations. Here are some tips to help you succeed this semester:

**Maintain a fast pace:** This will be a fast-moving and somewhat technologically advanced course, but concepts and instructions will be explained as clearly as possible. If you wish to evaluate your readiness for this course at the outset, please see me as soon as possible.

**Computer competencies:** Competence with the Windows operating system is expected, including the storing, copying and management of multiple data types; managing multiple windows and applications; and techniques for saving work frequently. Familiarity with data entry, sorting, editing and report generation using Microsoft Excel is also expected.

**Enjoyment of Learning:** A strong motivation to learn, explore and have fun with computer applications is essential. This course will require a significant amount of independent work and relies heavily on student initiative. A sense of humor with computer “headaches” is helpful, too!

**Seek Help Effectively:** Since GIS practitioners and urban planners are problem-solvers at their core, it is important that you adopt a problem-solving mindset in this course. Asking for assistance this semester is encouraged and signals to me that you are engaged in your work, motivated by excellence and positively challenged by the assignments. Asking for help will never be perceived as a liability in my class. However, when seeking assistance, it is important for you to (1) clearly communicate the problem and (2) demonstrate that you have attempted to solve the problem on your own and are ready to clearly articulate your attempts. Also, I am very happy to help you with your work outside of the classroom during office hours.
hours or via email. If we work together via email, it is vital that you send me as much information as possible to help diagnose the problem. It is not sufficient to write to me and vaguely state, “I can’t get this to work” and expect useful assistance without also including relevant screen captures and a description of the solution steps you’ve tried. In general, I will be very responsive to queries that meet these criteria and much less so for “lazy queries”, which I probably will not have the inclination to address quickly. This approach mirrors professional practice since supervisors expect valued employees to be proactive in solving problems.

**Focus and Respect:** I fully understand the temptations and distractions we all face today with email, websites, Twitter, Facebook and text messages vying for our attention, but lab computers may not be used for getting other work or e-mail done. Out of respect for everyone in a focused learning environment, I will be ruthless in getting everyone to turn computer monitors off when not being used for course exercises. If you have to "get something else done" during the class period, please do it elsewhere. Mobile phones need to be in silent mode, or turned off.

**Professional Conduct:** I conduct this course in a manner that mirrors professional practice in order to help you develop valuable workplace skills. We all need to be in agreement that the following standards will apply, as listed in the two sections below.

**Instructor Responsibilities**

- To create a physically and intellectually safe and stimulating environment for learning
- To assist students as much as possible with their individual and collective learning goals
- To help resolve conflicts that hinder learning by answering student questions clearly and promptly, or to research answers and reply to the student as soon as possible
- To treat students with respect and kindness, using encouragement and humor to foster learning
- To arrive at the start of each class session fully prepared and organized, with clear learning objectives and a schedule for the day’s tasks ready to go
- To evaluate and grade student work fairly and accurately while providing constructive feedback

**Student Responsibilities**

- To attend each class session and to arrive punctually, bringing all needed materials
- To treat other students and the instructor with absolute respect, supporting fellow students whenever possible with their learning objectives, and minimizing distractions in class
- To complete all assignments on time and professionally according to the requirements listed in this syllabus
- To fully read and understand all aspects of this syllabus and to carry out the requirements herein
- To actively and consistently participate in class discussions and question-and-answer sessions
- To demonstrate self-reliance and self-direction in setting and completing learning objectives
- To accept responsibility for working collaboratively in the learning process

**Course Assignments and Grading Policy**

Your grade for the course will be based on the following assignments and other components. All relevant materials and assignment details will be posted to the course website.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment (assignment descriptions follow this table)</th>
<th>Percent of Total Course Grade</th>
<th>Course Learning Objectives Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A – ArcGIS and Map-Making Basics</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B – Geocoding Address Data</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C – Georeferencing Rsater Images to a Vector Base Map</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D – Editing in ArcGIS; Geoprocessing and Model Builder</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E – Applied GIS: City of Mountain View Mapping</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F – Applied GIS: Final Independent Course Project (One-credit engagement unit)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation – Consistent, active, well-prepared, and measureable engagement in lectures and reading discussions, small team tasks, and presentations in class</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment A will introduce students to the principles of working with GIS data in ArcGIS, including using essential ArcMap tools, creating basic maps and layouts, and creating thematic maps. The principles of creating professional-looking maps for urban planning purposes will be reinforced. This assignment will allow students to work with the type of demographic analysis maps commonly used by urban planners, thereby building valuable workplace-ready skills.

Assignment B covers the important core GIS skill of geocoding. Students will learn fundamental geocoding data input requirements, limitations, and best practices and then geocode business addresses in San Francisco.

Assignment C introduces students to raster georeferencing and map projections. To practice the former skill, students will systematically examine and georeference two images of central Sacramento to a detailed base map as well as an 1880s map of San Francisco’s Chinatown neighborhood. Students will also explore concepts related to coordinate systems and map projections that undergird all geographic analysis.

Assignment D covers the process for editing data in ArcGIS Desktop. Students will complete Chapter 11 in the textbook and then undertake a series of editing tasks. Independently The assignment also covers the important core GIS skill of geoprocessing. After completing Chapter 14 in the textbook, students will solve geospatial queries using seven important geoprocessing tools in ArcToolbox and data from the City of Santa Cruz, CA. Additionally, students will utilize ArcGIS Model Builder to visualize, save, and manage geoprocessing workflows.

Assignment E allows the students to apply the core GIS skills covered in previous lessons. To do so, students will be given a mapping project using data from the City of Mountain View, CA and will be asked to prepare three detailed community maps that mirror the instructor’s professional practice in this community.

Assignment F involves the conceptualization, development, and execution of an independent GIS project. Tasks include preparing draft and final project descriptions, the development of a concept map, and the production of a summary report and poster map. Students will present their project findings to the class on
the final day of the course. Completion of Assignment F will constitute the professional engagement unit for this course since the tasks, in all respects, will mirror the process by which urban planners with GIS skills undertake a professional GIS project.

Five quizzes, some of which will be "open book" and others which will not, are designed to reinforce the material covered during class lectures and in homework assignments.

**Calculation of Final Course Letter Grade**

I will calculate the final letter grade for the course by weighting the grade for each assignment according to the percentages in the table above. To do this, I first convert the letter grade for each assignment to a number using a 4-point scale (A+ = 4.33, A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.0, B- = 2.67, C+ = 2.33, C = 2.0, C- = 1.67, D = 1, and F = 0).

I then use these numbers and the weights for each assignment to calculate a final, numerical grade for the course based on a 4-point scale. That number is converted back to a letter grade (A = 3.85+, A- = 3.50 – 3.84, B+ = 3.17 – 3.49, B = 2.85 – 3.16, B- = 2.50 – 2.84, C+ = 2.17 – 2.49, C = 1.85 – 2.16, C- = 1.41 – 1.84, D+ = 1.17 – 1.40, D = 0.85 – 1.16, F = 0 – 0.84).

**Other Grading and Assignment Issues**

I understand that grades are important to students on both a personal and professional level. They are a measure of your achievements in class and your progress towards meeting the course learning objectives. I also understand that there tends to be a great deal of “grade anxiety” in a university setting. The best way that I can help students with these matters is to be as clear as possible about grading criteria and weightings in this syllabus, so that you can plan accordingly. Please understand that I am a very thoughtful, careful, thorough and fair grader of student assignments and it is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. You are encouraged to review your graded assignments with me at any time to discuss my comments and suggestions for improvement. See the course website for a link that goes into more detail about how I grade assignments.

I’ve been called a “tough grader”, and it’s true! High grades must be earned and all grades reflect my comprehensive estimation of a student’s effort - just as our efforts in a professional work environment are judged accordingly and considered by supervisors for promotions and pay raises. For example, I reserve a grade of “A” only for exceptional work, as a way of honoring students who go “above and beyond” when completing course assignments. After all, the strict definition of an “A” grade is “exceptional”, not “average” or even “above average”.

**Final Examination or Evaluation**

Assignment F, described earlier in the syllabus, will constitute the final examination for this course. The same assignment also serves as the one-credit "engagement unit" for this course.

**Course Workload**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit class, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week in addition to time spent in class and on scheduled tutorials or activities. Special projects or assignments may require additional work for the course. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. For this class, you will have to undertake additional activities outside the class hours such as [add detail for your class]. Details on how to complete
these activities will be provided [add explanation for your class: i.e., in this syllabus or on handouts distributed in class later in the semester].

**Participation in Class and Attendance**

Student participation in class discussions is a vital component of this course and students should make every attempt to attend all classes and actively participate in discussions. In cases where a student misses a significant number of lectures or does not actively participate in discussions, this will impact the final course grade. According to University policy F69-24, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

**Completing Assignments on Time and Professionally**

Assignments are due at the date and time specified on each assignment handout. In only rare instances will late assignments be accepted, as described below. Late assignments will receive a one-letter grade deduction for each day an assignment is late. For example, if the assignment would normally receive a grade of “B” but is submitted one day late, it will receive a final grade of “C”.

I realize that life happens. If you expect not to be able to complete an assignment on time, it is important for you to contact me at least 24 hours prior to the due date and, if appropriate, the other students in a group (for group project work). You must also provide a date and time by which the late assignment will be submitted. If you do not communicate an anticipated late assignment within this time frame or if the late assignment is not received on the date promised, the assignment will receive a grade of zero. The grading policies described earlier in the syllabus will still apply. A maximum of two late assignments that adhere to this policy will be accepted; all subsequent late assignments will receive an automatic grade of zero. Sorry, no exceptions to these policies will be granted, in fairness to the majority of students who submit their assignments on time.

Since this course focuses on the development of professional skills used by urban planners, the presentation of submitted materials will be considered as part of the assignment's grade. All assignments must include the student's name, date, course number, assignment number and other items as directed by the instructor. Neatness, clarity and organization do count. As in a professional setting, typed submissions are expected; handwritten assignments are not acceptable. Printing assignments on the clean sides of already-printed paper is neither professional nor acceptable (though the resource conservation intent is appreciated, of course). Assignments not meeting these fundamental practices of professional presentation will generally receive a one-half to one-point deduction in the grade.

**University Policies**

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/”

**Plagiarism and Citing Sources Properly**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense both in the university and in your professional work. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying: you have stolen someone else's ideas, and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In severe
cases, students may also fail the course or even be expelled from the university.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in draft or final work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some common examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- Using a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote without identifying the language as a quote by putting the text in quote marks and referencing the source.
- Paraphrasing somebody else's theory or idea without referencing the source.
- Using a picture or table from a webpage or book without reference the source.
- Using data some other person or organization has collected without referencing the source.

The University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. See in particular the following pages:

- Overview of plagiarism at www.indiana.edu/~istd/overview.html
- Examples of plagiarism at www.indiana.edu/~istd/examples.html
- Plagiarism quiz at www.indiana.edu/~istd/test.html

If you still have questions, feel free to talk to me personally. There is nothing wrong with asking for help, whereas even unintentional plagiarism is a serious offense.

Citation style

It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning uses Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013, ISBN 780226816388). Copies are available in the SJSU King Library. Additionally, the book is relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy.

Please note that Turabian’s book describes two systems for referencing materials: (1) “notes” (footnotes or endnotes), plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. In this class, students should use the “notes” style since I feel that it creates a less distracting experience for your reader than the parenthetical-reference style.

Library Liaison

The SJSU Library Liaison for the Urban and Regional Planning Department is Ms. Toby Matoush. If you have questions, you can contact her at toby.matoush@sjsu.edu or 408-808-2096.

About the Instructor: Rick Kos, AICP

I am very much looking forward to working with you this semester and expect that you will learn quite a bit in our sixteen weeks together. We'll have some fun along the way, too. My goal is to teach you introductory and intermediate-level GIS skills clearly, with minimal jargon and maximum time using the software to help you remain competitive in today's labor market.

Throughout my career using GIS, I have never strayed far from my roots in urban and regional planning and this combination of experience is what I am excited to share with you. I take pride in providing personal, one-on-one attention to the needs of my students and strongly encourage you to take advantage of all opportunities to meet with me during class and during office hours.

My formal training is in environmental planning and urban design (B.S., Rutgers University, 1985) as well as regional planning and New Urbanism (Masters, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1995). In the late
1980s, I worked as a planner in Middlesex County, New Jersey, reviewing subdivision and site plan proposals for compliance with county regulations. In the 1990s, I served two rapidly growing North Carolina municipalities in a dual role as town planner and GIS coordinator (the latter being a role I created for both towns), so I am equally conversant in the language of both disciplines. From 1996 - 2000, I served as Senior Town Planner for Huntersville, North Carolina, the fastest-growing town of its size in the state at the time. The New Urbanist principles mandated by the Town’s development regulations applied to both greenfield and infill sites. Since the regulations were design-based (i.e. non-Euclidean), they required me to make frequent subjective judgments on the visual qualities of streets, the orientation of proposed buildings to public spaces, and the relationship of buildings and land uses to one another. I thoroughly enjoyed defending the principles of traditional town planning, often to developers and citizens that were not particularly receptive to deviations from the conventional suburban planning model.

After relocating to the Bay Area in 2000, I worked with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in Oakland as a GIS Analyst. The Bay Area Lifeline Transportation Map that I completed for MTC was chosen from among thousands of entries for inclusion in Esri’s 2003 Map Book. This annual publication showcases innovative uses of Esri’s GIS software to solve real-world problems. The Lifeline Map locates disadvantaged neighborhoods and thousands of geocoded essential destinations (e.g. grocery stores, daycare centers, clinics) within the nine county region, along with existing public transit services. The spatial analyses enabled by this mapping work allowed transportation planners to locate gaps in transit service so that decision-makers could direct funding to alter bus schedules, connections, and routing for improved neighborhood connectivity.

From 2003 to 2007 I served as GIS Manager for Design, Community & Environment, a planning and design firm in Berkeley. I managed all aspects of the firm’s GIS practice and took great pride in keeping hundreds of data layers organized across multiple projects, ensuring that the firm’s metadata was up-to-date, training staff to use ArcGIS and ArcCatalog, and managing the production of hundreds of maps for General Plans and EIRs throughout California.

Currently, I am a digital cartographer with WorldLink, based in the Presidio of San Francisco. I am helping to create an engaging geobrowser application called Interactive Earth that is designed to excite school-age children about geography and in becoming world citizens. I am also a part-time GIS instructor with the GIS Education Center affiliated with City College of San Francisco. I have co-authored a book titled GIS for Economic Development with Professor Mike Pogodzinski of the SJSU Economics Department, released in late 2012 by Esri Press. I also engage in a number of freelance GIS projects, including transit planning analyses for Mobility Planners, LLC.

This will be my 26th semester teaching at San José State and, I must admit, it is my favorite job of those listed above. Welcome! Let’s work hard and have fun! I’m here to help you succeed with GIS.
URBP-278: INTRODUCTION TO GIS FOR URBAN PLANNING
SPRING 2017 COURSE SCHEDULE

The following course outline describes the general approach we will take this semester, but please bear in mind that specific details are subject to change with reasonable notice. I will communicate changes via email and verbally in class. The course is generally divided into three parts:

**PART 1:** (Jan. 26 – Apr. 13) GIS for Urban Planning; Mastering ArcGIS 10.4.1
**PART 2:** (Apr. 20 – May 4) Applying Your Skills: City of Mountain View Mapping Project
**PART 3:** (May 5 – May 18) Applying Your Skills: Independent GIS Final Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part One: GIS for Urban Planning; Mastering ArcGIS 10.4.1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>Course/Syllabus Overview, What is GIS and ArcGIS? How do today's urban planners use GIS and what spatial literacy skills are employers looking for? We'll start to make your first map today.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 02</td>
<td><strong>Skill Set 1: ArcGIS 10.4.1 Basics</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Let's go! ArcGIS menus and tools, downloading data, preparing data for mapping, creating geodatabases. Unimaginably fun.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 09</td>
<td><strong>Skill Set 2: Attribute and Spatial Queries</strong></td>
<td><strong>Assignment A (ArcGIS and Map-Making Basics)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The real power of a GIS – using tabular and location information to address specific spatial questions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td><strong>Skill Set 3: Geocoding and GPS Point Mapping</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turn addresses and latitude/longitude coordinate pairs into points on maps, thus enabling geospatial analysis. Magical and fun!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td><strong>Skill Sets 4 and 5: Professional Map Design Techniques; Working with Census Data</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Working with thematic/categorical maps, joining data to maps, attribute tables, using U.S. Census data in ArcGIS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 02</td>
<td><strong>Skill Sets 6 and 7: Map Projections and Georeferencing Raster Images to Vector Base Maps</strong></td>
<td><strong>Assignment B (Geocoding Address Data)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Coordinate systems and map projections underlie all geospatial analysis and thus we need to cover it. Georeferencing involves giving “new life to historic maps” – totally cool.</td>
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<td>Mar 09</td>
<td><strong>Skill Set 8: Geoprocessing</strong></td>
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<td>Baking bread is a process – you undertake a series of steps to convert raw ingredients to delicious bread. Similarly, geoprocessing implements specific processes to transform GIS data into new information. We'll cover Model Builder, too – representing geoprocessing using an executable flow chart!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Assignment Due</td>
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<td>Mar 16</td>
<td><strong>Skill Set 9: Editing in ArcGIS</strong></td>
<td>Assignment C (Georeferencing)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>How do you create new data “from scratch” in ArcGIS? How do you edit tables and map features? Let’s find out.</td>
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<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>--- QUIZ #4 ---</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In-Class Map Design Challenge!</td>
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<td>Mar 30</td>
<td><strong>No Class Today: Spring Break</strong></td>
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<td>Apr 06</td>
<td><strong>Skill Set 10: Finalizing a GIS-Based Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Assignment D (Editing and Geoprocessing)</td>
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<td>After you make a beautiful map, how do you generate a summary report? How do you share your map with a group of colleagues? How do you go about publishing your map? Let’s find out.</td>
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<td>Apr 13</td>
<td>--- QUIZ #5 ---</td>
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<td>Random GIS topics as time permits: exporting ArcMap documents to Adobe Illustrator; dabbling with QGIS; exporting to KML, advanced labeling, exploring Esri Community Analyst.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Mountain View Mapping Project</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Part Two: Applying Your Skills – City of Mountain View Mapping Project</strong></td>
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<td>Apr 20</td>
<td><strong>In-Class Work Session: Mountain View Mapping Project</strong></td>
<td>Assignment F Part 1 (Draft of Final Course Project Description)</td>
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<td>You’ll replicate three maps that I had to produce as a GIS consultant to the city. By the time you are finished on May 11th you will feel both undeniably exhausted and incredibly empowered by what you’ve accomplished.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 27</td>
<td><strong>In-Class Work Session: Mountain View Mapping Project</strong></td>
<td>Assignment F Parts 2 &amp; 3 (Final Course Project Description and Hand-Drawn Concept Map)</td>
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<td>May 04</td>
<td><strong>In-Class Work Session: Mountain View Mapping Project and Course Final Project</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Part Three: Applying Your Skills – Independent GIS Final Project</strong></td>
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<td>May 11</td>
<td><strong>In-Class Work Session: Final Course Project</strong></td>
<td>Assignment E (Mt. View Mapping)</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td><strong>Final Class Meeting</strong> (attendance required)</td>
<td>Assignment F Part 4 (Final Course Project Report, Poster Map and Class Presentation)</td>
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<td>- Final Project Presentations</td>
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<td>- Final Project Report Due</td>
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<td>- Final Project Poster Maps Due</td>
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<td>- End of Semester Pizza/Potluck Party!</td>
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