

## **SSCI 588, Remote Sensing for GIS**

### *Syllabus*

**Units:** 4

**Term — Day — Time:** Summer, 2017, Online

**Location:** Online

**Instructor:** Su Jin Lee, Ph.D., GISP

**Office:** AHF B55K

**Office Hours:** Wed. 12-1 p.m. PT, and Fri. 1-2 p.m. PT, and  
by appointment

**Contact Info:** [sujinlee@usc.edu](mailto:sujinlee@usc.edu), 213-740-2845

<http://bluejeans.com/5165650654>

**GIS Library Help:** Sherry Mosley

**Office:** VKC B40A

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact Info:** [smosley@usc.edu](mailto:smosley@usc.edu), 213-740-8810

**Link:** <https://libraries.usc.edu/ask-a-librarian>

**IT Help:** Richard Tsung

**Office:** AHF 146

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Contact Info:** [spatial\\_support@usc.edu](mailto:spatial_support@usc.edu), 213-821-4415

## **Course Scope and Purpose**

This course is a required course for the Geospatial Intelligence Graduate Certificate program and an elective course for the Geographic Information Science & Technology (GIST) Graduate Certificate program and Geospatial Leadership Graduate Certificate program as well as the GIST M.S. programs. This course explores some of the ways in which remote sensing systems provide geospatial information that is relevant, accurate, timely, accessible, available in an appropriate format, and cost-effective. Recent developments in Earth observation such as imaging radar, LiDAR and hyperspectral sensors are increasing the wealth of information that can be generated from remotely sensed data sources. As a consequence, numerous new GIS applications that rely on advanced remotely sensed data sources have emerged at local, regional and global scales.

This a graduate level course, so you should expect this class to be both academically robust and intellectually challenging. As graduate students, you are expected to engage with the information you are learning and to explore the heady cauldron of ideas, opinion, and analysis that describe our collective effort to thoroughly interrogate the subject at hand. Learning arises from active engagement with the knowledge found in our reading materials and with one another. As in any graduate-level class, the instructor's role is that of a guide who keeps you on this path of discovery and you will find that you will learn much from your fellow classmates. The challenge for us is to replicate such an academic experience within the milieu of "online learning".

All course materials will be organized through Blackboard. The main theoretical concepts will be provided through course notes and assigned readings. Hands-on practical exercises will use various software products accessible over the Internet. Assignments will give students an opportunity to internalize and apply the concepts and theory learned from readings. Some assignments require student interaction, all will benefit from it.

## **Learning Objectives**

When you have completed this course, you will be able to:

- Explain the principles of remote sensing and the technical characteristics and constraints of Earth Observation missions.
- Design, implement and critically evaluate methods of digital image processing ranging from preprocessing to image classification, field data collection and accuracy assessment.
- Generate geographical information by processing digital remotely sensed data and critically evaluate its use for human security and/or environmental applications.

- Critically evaluate the opportunities and available methods for integrating remote sensing and GIS.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Co-Requisite (s):** None

**Concurrent Enrollment:** None

**Recommended Preparation:** SSCI 581: Concepts for Spatial Thinking

## **Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required**

We have several technologies that will facilitate our course work and our interactions, despite our dispersed locations. These include:

Blackboard – All course materials and correspondence will be posted on the course Blackboard site. As a registered student, you will find this course will show up in your available classes no later than 12:00 noon, PST on the first day of classes. It is here that the day-to-day flow of the course will be recorded.

Discussion boards – On the Blackboard site, we will post a number of discussion threads related to various course topics. These threads are very important in terms of providing support to each other while working on class exercises to share hints and helpful tips, as you would do in a classroom setting. I will check the discussion threads periodically and offer occasional comments. Please send your course instructor an email directly if you have a question or concern that requires my immediate attention.

Live meetings and presentations – We will use a browser-based service called Bluejeans to create synchronous, interactive sessions. With voice and webcam capabilities, Bluejeans can be used to share presentations and even our desktops between two or more people.

Individual meetings – While Bluejeans can be used for one-on-one meetings, we generally find it easier to use the free VOIP and chat technology for individual chats.

SSI server and tech support – This course will utilize the SSI Servers to provide you with your own virtual desktop. You can access the SSI Server at: <http://spatial.usc.edu/index.php/software/>. If you are unable to connect to the server or experience any type of technical issues, send an email to SSI Tech Support at [spatial\\_support@usc.edu](mailto:spatial_support@usc.edu) and make sure to copy (cc) me on the email. SSI Tech Support is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT). A variety of geospatial software platforms (ArcGIS, e-Cognition, Idrisi, etc.) are provided online via the SSI Server; hence, you do not need to install it on your own computer. Instead, every student must satisfy the following technology requirements:

- (1) a computer with a fast Internet connection;
- (2) a functional webcam and a microphone for use whenever a presentation or meeting is scheduled; and
- (3) a modern web browser, Firefox recommended, to access the SSI Server (in the event you want or need to).

## Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Textbooks – There are two required texts for this course. The first book by Campbell can be purchased from the USC Bookstore or online outlets such as Amazon and the second book by Warner and Campagna can be purchased from either the USC Bookstore or Clark Labs (<http://www.clarklabs.org/>). We will need the Campbell book from the first day of classes and the second book by Warner and Campagna very soon thereafter.

- Campbell, J.B., 2011. *Introduction to Remote Sensing*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York, Guilford Press.
- Warner, T.A. and Campagna, D.J., 2014. *Remote Sensing with IDRISI®: A Beginner's Guide*. Hong Kong, GeoCarto International.

These textbooks will be supplemented with Course Notes and a mixture of readings from academic journals, professional reports, and authoritative websites.

Readings – The following book chapters and journal articles will be posted to Blackboard under Course Documents:

- Boyd, D.S. and Danson, F.M. (2005) Satellite remote sensing of forest resources: Three decades of research development. *Progress in Physical Geography* 29: 1-26.
- Gilliespie, T.W., Chu, J., Frankenberg, E., and Thomas, D. (2007) Assessment and prediction of natural hazards from satellite imagery. *Progress in Physical Geography* 31: 459-470.
- Strahler, A.H., Woodcock, C.E., and Smith, J.A. (1986) On the nature of models in remote sensing. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 20: 121-139.
- Price, J.C. (1994) How unique are spectral signatures? *Remote Sensing of Environment* 49: 181-186.
- Townshend, J.R.G., Huang, C., Kalluri, S.N.V., DeFries, R.S., and Liang, S. (2000) Beware of per-pixel characterization of land cover. *International Journal of Remote Sensing* 21: 839-843.
- Lees, B. (2008) Remote sensing. In Wilson, J.P. and Fotheringham, A.S. (eds) *Handbook of Geographic Information Science*. Oxford, Blackwell Publishing: 49-60.

- Rashed, T., Weeks, J.R., and Gadalla, M.S. (2001) Revealing the anatomy of cities through spectral mixture analysis of multispectral satellite imagery: A case study of the Greater Cairo region, Egypt. *Geocarto International* 16: 5-16.
- Burnett, C. and Blaschke, T. (2003) A multi-scale segmentation/object relationship modeling methodology for landscape analysis. *Ecological Modelling* 168: 233-249.
- Rochon, Gilbert L., Joseph E. Quansah, Souleymane Fall, Bereket Araya, Larry L. Biehl, Thierno Thiam, Sohaib Ghani, Lova Rakotomalala, Hildred S. Rochon, Angel Torres Valcarcel, Bertin Hilaire Mbongo, Jinha Jung, Darion Grant, Wonkook Kim, Abdur Rahman M. Maud, and Chetan Maringanti. (2010) Remote Sensing, Public Health & Disaster Mitigation. *Geospatial Technologies in Environmental Management, Geotechnologies and the Environment* 3: 187-209.

## Description and Assessment of Assignments

Your grade in this course will be determined on the basis of several different assessment tools:

Resume Assignment (1 worth 2 points) – We require all current students to post and maintain a public resume, short biography and recent photo on our shared GIST Student Community Blackboard site. With your permission, your photo and resume will be posted to the Spatial Sciences Institute website and your resume will be included in the GIST Resume Book. The latter is compiled annually and along with our web presence used to promote our programs and more importantly, your skills, experience, and professional aspirations.

Reading Assignments (7 worth 21 points) – Each student is required to complete seven reading assignments for this class. The reading assignments will focus on the theory portion of the course as presented in the weekly readings. The objective of the reading is to help you evaluate and integrate the information you have acquired from the course readings. Some of these will involve discussions and collaborative work and some will be individual efforts. In the event you complete more than seven reading assignments, I will use your seven highest scores to calculate your course grade.

IDRISI® Tutorials (9 worth 27 points) – These will be scheduled throughout the semester and will require you to work through individual chapters of the Warner and Campagna (2014) workbook during the weeks they are assigned. To demonstrate that you have completed each chapter, you will turn in a quick copy of some digital output or brief text answers from the final part of the exercise such as a .jpg of the map produced at the final step.

Exercises (2 worth 10 points) –To demonstrate your understanding of the basic concepts and skills learned in the class, you will complete two exercises that will integrate key concepts and ideas and take some independent thought.

Project Presentation (1 worth 10 points) –This assignment will require some independent thought and synthesis and allow you to explore a case study of your choice. The results will be presented over Bluejeans in Week 13 with the help of a PowerPoint slideshow.

Reports (2 worth 30 points) –The first report (10 points) will provide you with an opportunity to describe the data capture options and challenges for a project of your choice from a list of projects spanning a variety of application domains. The second report (20 points) will take one or other of two forms depending on your student status. Students enrolled in the GIST M.S. Program will have the option to prepare a prospectus for a thesis project and outline some of the methods and geospatial data sources that could be used in such a project. The remainder of the students (and any GIST M.S. students choosing not to select this option) would be afforded the opportunity to integrate all that they have learned in the semester in a specific application that I will designate when the guidelines for the final reports are distributed.

### Grading Breakdown

Careful planning and a serious, consistent commitment will be required for you to successfully navigate the various deliverables in this and other GIST courses. The table below summarizes the SSCI 588 course assignments and their point distribution:

| Assignments          | Number    | Points Each | Total Points |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Weekly Assignments   |           |             |              |
| Exercises            | 2         | 5           | 10           |
| IDRISI Tutorials     | 9         | 3           | 27           |
| Reading Assignments  | 7         | 3           | 21           |
| Resume Assignment    | 1         | 2           | 2            |
| Project Components   |           |             |              |
| First Report         | 1         | 10          | 10           |
| Project Presentation | 1         | 10          | 10           |
| Second Report        | 1         | 20          | 20           |
| <b>Totals</b>        | <b>22</b> | <b>-</b>    | <b>100</b>   |

### Assignment Submission Policy

Unless otherwise noted, assignments must be submitted via Blackboard by the due dates specified in the Course Schedule below and on the assignment instructions.

Unless otherwise noted, all Reading Assignments and Tutorials are due by 11:59 pm PT on Fridays. Project components have different due dates as indicated on the Course Schedule below. Your attention to on-time assignment submission is essential if I am to meet my goal to return comments on your submitted assignments before the next one is due. Sometimes this is impossible, so I will post a notice on anticipated delays if needed.

Strict penalties apply for late assignments as follows:

- All assignments will be penalized 2 points up to FOUR days late. No points will be given for submissions more than FOUR days late. Note that all assignments worth 3 points will receive 0 point if submitted late.
- Additionally, no written work will be accepted for grading after 5 pm PT on the last day of classes.

## **Communications**

This is a distance learning course, so most of our interactions will be asynchronous (not at the same time). All materials to be handed in will be submitted via Blackboard. It is each student's responsibility to stay informed about what is going on in our course. In addition to email about time-sensitive topics, any important announcements will be posted on the Announcement page in Blackboard. Be sure to check these each time you log onto Blackboard.

In addition, I will send via email through Blackboard any notices that are time sensitive. Please be sure that you read as soon as possible all e-mail sent from Blackboard or from me. Check now to make sure that mail sent from both the USC Blackboard accounts and my private domain ([sujinlee@usc.edu](mailto:sujinlee@usc.edu)) does not go into your junk mail.

While I am usually online and will probably respond to emails from students relatively quickly, I will endeavor to respond to all email within 24 hours of receipt, aiming for no more than 72-hours delay. In the rare case when I expect to be offline for more than 72 hours, I will post an announcement on the Blackboard site.

**Workload** – This is a four credit, one semester course. Students should expect to spend 12-15 hours per week completing the work in this course.

## Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

|  | Topics                                      | Readings and Assignments  | Deliverables/ Due Dates  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>5/17  | <b>Remote Sensing Principles</b>            | Campbell, Ch. 1 & 2<br>Resume Assignment                                      | No deliverables  |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>5/22  | <b>Image Acquisition – Passive Sensors</b>  | Campbell, Ch. 3, 4, 5 & 6<br>Reading Assignment 1<br>IDRISI Tutorial 1        | Resume Assignment<br>Monday, 5/22  |
| <b>Week 3</b> 5/30*<br>*Monday, 5/29 is a university holiday   | <b>Image Acquisition – Active Sensors</b>   | Campbell Ch. 7, 8 & 9<br>Reading Assignment 2                                 | Reading Assignment 1:<br>Friday, 5/26<br>IDRISI Tutorial 1:<br>Friday, 5/26                                  |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>6/5   | <b>Image Resolution</b>                     | Campbell Ch. 10<br>Reading Assignment 3 & 4<br>IDRISI Tutorial 2 & 3          | Reading Assignment 2:<br>Friday, 6/2   |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>6/12  | <b>Analysis – Preprocessing</b>             | Campbell Ch. 11<br>Reading Assignment 5<br>IDRISI Tutorial 4<br>Exercise 1    | Reading Assignment 3 & 4:<br>Friday, 6/9<br>IDRISI Tutorial 2 & 3:<br>Friday, 6/9                            |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>6/19  | <b>Image Classification</b>                 | Campbell Ch. 12<br>Reading Assignment 6 & 7<br>IDRISI Tutorial 5              | Reading Assignment 5:<br>Friday, 6/16<br>IDRISI Tutorial 4:<br>Friday, 6/16<br>Exercise 1:<br>Friday, 6/16   |
| <b>Week 7</b><br>6/26  | <b>Field Data &amp; Accuracy Assessment</b> | Campbell Ch. 13 & 14<br>Reading Assignment 8<br>IDRISI Tutorial 6<br>Report 1 | Reading Assignment 6 & 7:<br>Friday, 6/23<br>IDRISI Tutorial 5:<br>Friday, 6/23                              |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>7/3*<br>*Tuesday, 7/4 is a university holiday | <b>Hyperspectral Remote Sensing</b>         | Campbell Ch. 15<br>Reading Assignment 9<br>IDRISI Tutorial 7                  | Reading Assignment 8:<br>Friday, 7/7<br>IDRISI Tutorial 6:<br>Friday, 7/7<br>Report 1:<br>Friday, 7/7        |
| <b>Week 9</b><br>7/10  | <b>Integrating GIS and Remote Sensing</b>   | Notes<br>Reading Assignment 10<br>IDRISI Tutorial 8                           | Reading Assignment 9:<br>Friday, 7/14<br>IDRISI Tutorial 7:<br>Friday, 7/14                                  |
| <b>Week 10</b><br>7/17   | <b>Gallery of Applications 1</b>            | Campbell Ch. 17 & 18<br>IDRISI Tutorial 9<br>Exercise 2                       | Reading Assignment 10:<br>Friday, 7/21<br>IDRISI Tutorial 8:<br>Friday, 7/21<br>Presentation:<br>Friday, 8/4 |



|   |                                  |  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Week 11</b><br>7/24  | <b>Gallery of Applications 2</b> | Campbell Ch. 19 & 20<br>Report 2<br>Project Presentation | IDRISI Tutorial 9:<br>Friday, 7/28<br>Exercise 2:<br>Friday, 7/28 |
| <b>Week 12</b><br>7/31  | <b>Gallery of Applications 3</b> | Campbell Ch. 21  | Project Presentation:<br>Friday, 8/4                              |
| <b>Week 13</b><br>8/7<br>*Friday, 8/11 is<br>the last day of<br>class | <b>Project Presentation</b>      | None   | Project Presentation:<br>Monday, 8/7<br>Report 2:<br>Friday, 8/11 |

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety>. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> describes reporting options and other resources.

### Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs*

[http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home\\_index.html](http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html) provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

### **Resources for Online Students**

The Course Blackboard page and the GIST Community Blackboard page have many resources available for distance students enrolled in our graduate programs. In addition, all registered students can access electronic library resources through the link <https://libraries.usc.edu/>. Also, the USC Libraries have many important resources available for distance students through the link <http://libguides.usc.edu/distancelearning>. This includes instructional videos, remote access to university resources, and other key contact information for distance students.