

COURSE OUTLINE
GEOGRAPHY 4220: The GeoWeb and Geomedia
Winter 2017

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

Seminar times: Mondays 9:30am – 11:30am, **Room:** SSC 3010
Lab session: Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am, **Room:** SS 2240

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 the GeoWeb;
- Develop 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: Seminars and laboratory/group discussion periods.

Required and Recommended Reading: Distributed via OWL. See the schedule 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, 20%, due last class of term
- Final project presentation, 10%, last class of term
- Seminar attendance 5% and participation, 20%
- Reflection/response paper, 25%, 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

(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 Website: If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

for more information on these resources and on mental health. 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

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; Johnson and Sieber, 2012 ; Leszczynski, 2012
B. The GeoWeb - weeks 4-6		
4	The GeoWeb 1: VGI and citizen sensors	Coleman et al., 2009; Goodchild, 2007; Haklay et al, 2010
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 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 / 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 then 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 as well as applied graduate policy training and consulting work. 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 (2016). Among the most important things I do professionally is serve on the Board of Directors of London and Middlesex Housing Corporation, the largest social housing provider in the region.