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 Web 2.0 and the GeoWeb in particular;
- Build 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: A combination of seminars and research.

Required and Recommended Reading: Distributed via Sakai. See reading list 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, 30%, due last class of term
- Final project presentation, 15%, last class of term
- Seminar participation, 15%
- Reflection/response paper, 20%, 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. Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf).

Other policies
1. University Policy on Accommodation for Medical illness: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm)
2. Retain a copy of all submitted assignments (in case of loss) and graded assignments.
3. Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.
4. 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 text messaging during class.
5. Email ONLY within Sakai. The instructor does not use email outside of Sakai.

Seminar topics

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Section and topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A. Geographic information in everyday life - weeks 1-3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction - refresher on spatial thinking</td>
<td>Logan et al., 2010; Goodchild and Janelle, 2010</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Geoweb and Geomedia in public discourse: Internet research exercise</td>
<td>Haklay et al., 2008; Johnson and Sieber, 2012; Leszczynski, 2012</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>GIS, IT convergence and neogeography</td>
<td>Olson, 1997; Sieber, 2004; Schwanen et al, 2006</td>
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<td><strong>B. The GeoWeb - weeks 4-6</strong></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The GeoWeb 1: VGI and citizen sensors</td>
<td>Goodchild, 2007</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>The GeoWeb 2: GPS and mashups</td>
<td>Boulos et al., 2008</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Ethics and privacy</td>
<td>Curry, 1997; Armstrong and Ruggles, 2005; Elwood et al., 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>C. Geomedia and public participation - weeks 9-13</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7 to 8</td>
<td>'Critical' GIS</td>
<td>Harvey et al., 2005; Pavlovskaya, 2006; Schuurman, 2007</td>
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<td>9 to 10</td>
<td>Qualitative methods and PPGIS</td>
<td>Bell and Reed, 2004; Elwood, 2006; Dunn, 2007</td>
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<td>11 to 13</td>
<td>Knowledge mobilisation: text, voice and video</td>
<td>Kwan and Ding, 2008; Pain et al, 2006; Knigge and Cope, 2006; Hawthorne et al., 2008; Elwood, 2011</td>
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Readings – all readings are made available on WebCT or distributed in class


