GEOG 4110/5100  
Special Topics in Geography: GIS in the Social and Natural Sciences  

Summer 2016 (Maymester)  
May 9 - 26  
M-F 9:00 - 12:00  

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Prerequisites:  
Familiarity with file management tasks in Windows, confidence in working with software tools. Students are encouraged to set up their own laptops with software provided (ArcGIS with student licenses).  

This course is designed as an introductory class to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) suitable for students (graduate and undergraduate) from Geography, Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Geology, Ecology/Biology, Anthropology, Economy, Education or Sociology who are interested in learning about GIS tools and their underlying principles and how to apply GIS to analytical and mapping-related tasks. Students will get basic skills for working in a GIS environment without formal prerequisites in Cartography or Statistics. I will introduce basic theoretical and practical elements of GIS and GIScience that are important to get started on a GIS project, handling and managing geospatial data, creating maps and conducting GIS analysis. Students will work in ArcGIS and QGIS software on tasks typically encountered in the social and natural sciences.  

We will meet in the KESDA computer lab in the Geography building. The format of class meetings will alternate between lecture/demo/in-class exercise components and computer exercises. This way concepts discussed in lecture will be directly put in practice to better understand underlying mechanics, results, problems and important implications resulting from decisions made based on such results.