

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

# SPST654

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## Course Summary

**Course :** SPST654 **Title :** Planetary Mapping

**Length of Course :** 8

**Prerequisites :**[leave blank] **CreditHours:**3

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## Description

### Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the concepts and techniques used for mapping Earth and other planets. This includes the fundamentals of remote sensing and the applications of geographic information systems in terrestrial and extraterrestrial environments.

### Course Scope:

This course is intended for students in space studies who will use the products of GIS and remote sensing in their work, and who may go on to work directly with these technologies.

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## Objectives

CO-1. Explain how spatial data is used to represent features on a planet's surface.

CO-2. Describe the different types of spatial data and their advantages and disadvantages.

CO-3. Summarize various methods of spatial data creation.

CO-4. Understand the basics of classifying and interpreting remotely sensed spatial data in a planetary studies context.

CO-5. Use the components of a geographic information system.

CO-6. Apply different methods of spatial analysis appropriate for planetary studies using a GIS.

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# Outline

## **Week 1: Introduction to Planetary Mapping**

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### Learning Objectives:

LO-1: Understand the history and scope of planetary mapping and its relationship to remote sensing.

LO-2: Describe the characteristics of electromagnetic radiation relevant to remote sensing.

### Reading:

Campbell and Wynne, Chapters 1 and 2

### Assignment:

Week 1 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 2: Remote Sensing Basics**

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### Learning Objectives:

LO-1: Understand how aerial photos and digital images are used to capture planetary features.

### Reading:

Campbell and Wynne, Chapters 3 and 4

### Assignment:

Week 2 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 3: Imagery and Imagery Interpretation**

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### Learning Objectives:

LO-1. Apply the elements of image interpretation to planetary imagery.

LO-2. Understand the importance and uses of planet observing satellites.

### Reading:

Campbell and Wynne, Chapters 5 and 6

### Assignments:

Week 3, due Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Week 3 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 4: Applications**

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Learning Objectives:

LO-1. Identify specific planetary science applications of remote sensing.

Reading:

Campbell and Wynne, Chapters 10 and 18

Assignments:

Week 4: Midterm Assessment, due Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Week 4 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 5: Introduction to GIS**

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Learning Objectives:

LO-1. Describe the basic components of a geographic information system.

LO-2. Demonstrate basic familiarity with the use of geographic information systems.

Reading:

GIS Commons, Chapters 1 and 6

Assignments:

Week 5, due Sunday 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Week 5 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 6: Vector and Raster Data**

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Learning Objectives:

LO-1. Understand the process of vector and raster data creation.

LO-2. Use the components of a geographic information system to manipulate vector and raster data.

Reading:

GIS Commons, Chapter 2

Assignments:

Week 6, due Sunday 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Week 6 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 7: Applying GIS to Mapping Planets, 1**

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Learning Objectives:

LO-1. Understand the ways in which spatial and attribute data may need to be processed before use.

LO-2. Use the components of a geographic information system to analyze planetary data.

Reading:

GIS Commons, Chapters 3 and 4

Assignments:

Week 7, due Sunday 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Week 7 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

## **Week 8: Applying GIS to Mapping Planets, 2**

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Learning Objectives:

LO-1. Use the components of a geographic information system to manipulate data relevant to planetary mapping.

LO-2. Understand how use GIS to produce outputs.

Reading:

GIS Commons, Chapter 5

Assignments:

Week 8, due Sunday 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Final Project, due Sunday 11:59 PM Eastern Time

Week 8 Discussion, Initial post by Wednesday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, peer replies by Sunday, 11:59 PM Eastern Time

# **Evaluation**

## **Discussions Assignments:**

Discussion Week #1 is MANDATORY for all students and late assignments cannot be accepted. This is a requirement for all courses at APUS and no exceptions can be made.

We can learn as much from each other and academic investigation as we will from the material. It is the purpose of the Discussions to develop our understanding of the weekly

readings and discussion topics. This participation is required. Each week all students should respond to the discussion topics indicated in the Discussions area to express their understanding of the issue and ability to research academic information to add to the discussion.

Students are expected to provide a substantial comment of several well-written paragraphs in each session and a similar comment or reflection in reply to at least two other students' contribution. Statements such as "I agree" or "good post" will not count as a reply. Please be familiar with the University's policy on plagiarism and academic honesty as well. While formal academic citations are not required in discussion posts, links to sources used should be provided. After the first week, initial posts are due on Wednesday of the assigned week and all responses must be complete by Sunday of the assigned week.

**Assignments:**

The assignments include five relatively short hands-on GIS and remote sensing assignments, and a more detailed midterm remote sensing knowledge review and final project. Details about these assignments can be found in the Assignments section.

Discussions	20%
Assignments	40%
Midterm Assessment	15%
Final Project	25%

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# Materials

**Book Title:** Introduction to Remote Sensing, Fifth Edition  
**Author:** James B. Campbell and Randolph H. Wynne  
**Publication Info:** Guildford Press  
**ISBN:** 978-1-60918-176-5  
Available from the Trefry Library

GIS Commons  
Michael Schmandt  
<https://giscommons.org/>

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# Course Guidelines

## Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

## Tutoring

- [Tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com) offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours\* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

## Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 10% of the grade for each day late, up to a maximum of 50%.

Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

## Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

## Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

## Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

## Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

## Communicating on the Discussion

- Discussions are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the discussion. The purpose of the discussions is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.

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- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

## Identity Verification & Live Proctoring

- Faculty may require students to provide proof of identity when submitting assignments or completing assessments in this course. Verification may be in the form of a photograph and/or video of the student's face together with a valid photo ID, depending on the assignment format.
- Faculty may require live proctoring when completing assessments in this course. Proctoring may include identity verification and continuous monitoring of the student by webcam and microphone during testing.

# University Policies

## [Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation's military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.