GIS Capstone Project

Course Information

Instructor: Ramachandra Sivakumar (siva@design.gatech.edu)
Course Prefix and Number: CP 6596 - 01
Term: Fall 2026

Course Description

The GIS Capstone Project is a required course for the MS-GIST degree. It is designed to apply concepts, knowledge, and technical skills to a real world problem. Capstone project serves as a bridge between academic learning and practical applications and prepares students for a successful professional career. Students work directly with an advisor on their chosen topic to complete a major professional or research project. The course builds on the one credit Capstone preparation class completed in preceding Spring semester.

Course Learning Outcomes

By enrolling in this course, students will:

1. Learn to conduct background research for chosen topic
2. Learn to review and compile a body of literature
3. Gain experience in compiling data, designing research methodologies, conducting data analysis, and ethical approaches
4. Learn to develop cartographic and analytical visualization methods
5. Learn to write technical reports

Required Course Materials

No textbooks or materials are required. Instructor may provide references as needed.

Grading Policy

Student grades will be based upon continuous evaluation over the full summer. Points will be accrued on satisfactory completion of tasks outlined as per deadlines.

A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; F = <60%

Grading Rubric:

- Course participation 5%
- Background and Literature Research 15%
- Methodology, Analysis, and Interpretation 25%
- Bi-Weekly Progress Reporting 10%
- Results and Findings 5%
- Final Presentation 10%
- Interactive Online Portfolio (or) Informative Academic Digital Poster 10%
- Project Written Report 20%

Extensions and Late Submissions

Late submissions are not allowed and will be penalized by 10%. Extensions are given for illness, approved Institute activities or religious observances.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend classes and participate in discussions. Two absences are allowed. Absences beyond must be approved by the instructor.

Academic and Research Honesty/Integrity Statement

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review the student Code of Conduct and the Academic Honor Code, especially Appendix A: Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code.

Students are expected to perform research in an ethical and responsible manner. All Doctoral and Master's Thesis students are required to take the Responsible Conduct of Research training, and it is expected that students abide by the principles taught in that training while performing research.

Allegations of scientific or scholarly misconduct are handled in accordance with the procedures outlined by the Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific or Other Scholarly Misconduct.

Core IMPACTS

Not applicable.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Expectations of Students

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Expectations of Advisors and Advisees articulates some basic expectations that you can have of your advisor and that they can have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek.