

Proposed Course
Spatial Analysis for Anthropologists
Course Level: 600

Course Rationale

Within the Department of Anthropology this course will serve as a 600-level method and theory course. It is designed to be of interest to all anthropology graduate and advanced undergraduate students who are currently engaged in, or contemplating, the collection and analysis of spatially referenced data. Students will gain an understanding of the various methodologies for collecting and processing spatial data, including the use of global positioning systems, basic cartography, and the use and application of geographic information system (GIS) software and related programs. This course will train students in research design, with a specific focus on the collection and analysis of data pertaining to human and primate subjects, and also archaeological and paleoanthropological remains. For undergraduates and graduates, the course will serve as a 5-credit elective requirement for the major.

This course will add to a suite of courses offered by the Department of Anthropology that emphasize quantitative analysis. As it is not solely an archaeological, bioanthropological, or cultural anthropological focused course, it will reach a broad audience of students, and provide more opportunity for training in research design and data analysis. As the Department of Anthropology and the College of Social and Behavioral Science at The Ohio State University seek to strengthen the emphasis on quantitative approaches to social sciences, this course will meet the needs of many future students.

Relationship to Other Courses

This course will not be related to other courses that are currently offered by the department of anthropology.

Pre-Requisite (For Undergraduates Only)

Geography 607 (Fundamentals of Geographic Information Systems)

Off-Campus Field Experiences

There will be no off-campus field experiences.

Budget

This course will utilize the Anthropology Computing Laboratory, which has been established in room 4040 in Smith Laboratory. This classroom seats 29 students, and provides a computer and monitor for each student. ArcGIS site licenses (available from the Center for Mapping, OSU) and security keys will be purchased in order to make each computer a GIS workstation. The total cost for these licenses and keys will be \$1370. Funds for these costs will be obtained from sources within the university.