

ENSC 321 Welcome and Pre-course Preparation

Welcome to ENSC 321 Geographic Information Systems. I am looking forward to working with you this semester. For us to get moving as soon as possible in week 1, it is important that you do the following prior to class if possible.

1. Please complete the course Readiness Assessment and return it as soon as possible (It was attached along with this checklist).
2. Make sure that you purchase a new copy of the recommended textbook (make sure it is the 2016 version for 10.3.x). *Only new copies will include the free 180-day student trial* to the software you will need to complete the course exercises and assignments. Here is a link to the bookstore: <https://bncvirtual.com/heritage>

GIS Tutorial 1: Basic Workbook - With Access (6TH)16

Author: Gorr, Wilpen L./ Kurland, Kristen S.

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2. Make sure that you have access to a computer that can run ArcGIS: [NECESSARY SPECIFICATIONS](#) (Click "Can I run it?" to assess your computer's capabilities). If you don't own such a computer and aren't able to buy one, **contact me immediately** to make arrangements to borrow one from the **Science Department**. *General laptops offered by Student Services are not likely to have the necessary specs.* In addition to ArcGIS software you will also require MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and a pdf reader such as Adobe pdf viewer. And of course you will need a web browser to access certain websites and attend Zoom meetings. Also, a computer mouse will make fine motor operations easier.
3. Please look for information soon in the **Course Resources** section on **how to download your new software and to download the course data files**. As soon as these are available, please follow the instructions and access ESRI Technical Support if you need to. This could take a couple days.

OK these are the key things to begin with! More portions of the course web page will be available soon. Looking forward to seeing you online the evening of August 25th! A Zoom meeting link will follow closer to our actual class date. Feel free to email me with any questions at Conley_J@heritage.edu.

Until soon,

Julie Conley