

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR GEOGRAPHIC EDUCATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

SKILLS FOR THE DIGITAL EARTH MOOC

March 30 to April 26, 2014 (4 weeks)

Cost per student: Free

Elmhurst College's Skills for the Digital Earth MOOC is a 4-week, online course designed to introduce how location technologies are used in society.

Ever stop to think about how important location is when using your smart phone? This educational MOOC begins with an elementary explanation of how society uses location in a myriad of disciplines. Geography, or rather, "where?" is important to all of us from various perspectives.

Within this MOOC, participants will learn what location technologies are used for, how the discipline developed and learn by doing via a series of scaffolded practical exercises. Online spatial software will be employed for any device using a browser which takes users through exercises and real world examples. It is appropriate for those with no prior experience with geographic information systems (GIS) software all the way to advanced users.

Skills for the Digital Earth will incorporate video lectures, interaction opportunities and discussion forums. Each module will feature a quiz and activities, and participants will receive a badge after each completed module to be used to demonstrate skills mastered. Instructions will be provided on the process of adding badges to your backpack in the course.

Register Here: <https://opencourses.desire2learn.com/d2l/custom/MOOC?ou=6926>

In this course, participants will:

- Demonstrate fundamental basic geographic concepts and be exposed to the geospatial workforce.
- Identify skills associated with the Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM).
- Display creative thinking skills, problem-solving, and decision making in geospatial technologies.
- Use geospatial tools and technology and apply some business fundamentals using GIS.
- Recognize employment opportunities in the geospatial industry.
- Demonstrate the use of basic computer skills.
- Demonstrate the use of business application software.
- Demonstrate the use and interpretation of spatial data and data sources.
- Demonstrate the core geospatial abilities which are consistent with those of someone working in the geospatial industry.

Modules and Badges:

Module 1: Fundamental Geography

Badge: Fundamental Geography Knowledge and Skills

- Demonstrate and apply fundamental geographic knowledge and concepts.
- Use ArcGIS Online to navigate an online map and use skills learned to create a functional map.

Module 2: Fundamental Computing Skills Associated with Geography

Badge: Fundamental Computing Skills of Geography

- Successfully identify the skills of navigation online, including file management.
- Recognize geographic communication skills.
- Recognize skills associated with e-publishing, use of spreadsheets, presentation software, and use of databases.
- Identify skills associated with fundamental computing as a means of communication in the discipline of geography and geospatial technologies.

Module 3: Creative Thinking

Badge: Creative Thinking in Fundamental Geography

- Recognize logic, deductive/inductive reasoning and problem management skills.
- Recognize geographic reasoning skills.

Module 4: Problem-Solving and Decision-Making in Geography

Badge: Problem-Solving and Decision-Making in Geography

- Identify problem-solving and decision-making principles.
- Identify the effective use of solution implementation and alternative solutions to a spatial problem.

Module 5: Geographic/Geospatial Tools and Technology

Badge: Geographic/Geospatial Tools and Technology

- Recognize skills with gathering, storing, transforming, and manipulating spatial data to produce a desired outcome.
- Evaluate other open source software and data sources.

Module 6: Business Fundamentals of Geography/Geospatial Environments

Badge: Business Fundamentals of Geography/Geospatial Environments

- Identify the application of business fundamentals in several disciplines using GIS.

Module 7: Abilities in the Geospatial Field - Advanced Digital Earth

Badge: Abilities in the Geospatial Field - Advanced Digital Earth

- Describe the fundamental concepts and applications of GIS&T, including problems and challenges of representing change over space and time.
- Identify and describe the basic elements of cartography, including map interpretation, design principles, map projections, coordinates, and scale.
- Describe the fundamental concepts and applications of remote sensing and global positioning systems.
- Describe and discuss sources of data (including primary and secondary), the process of creating data, different data models (specifically, raster and vector models), and the fundamental concepts of data quality and uncertainty.
- Explain location-based services (LBS) and identify LBS applications.
- Describe the use of overlaying, buffering, and other analysis techniques to analyze spatial and temporal relationships.
- Discuss the need for ethics and professionalism in GIS&T.
- Explain datums, ellipsoids, and geoids.

Completing the Course

- Upon successful completion of Modules 1-6, participants will be issued a certificate of completion. Upon successful completion of Module 7, participants will receive an additional certificate.
- Module 1-6's certificate of completion may be used as a waiver to GIS 100 Introduction to Geospatial Technologies, the first course in the Online Undergraduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems at Elmhurst College.
- Module 1-7's certificate of completion may be used as a waiver to AGS 500 Fundamentals of Geospatial Technologies, the first course in the Online Master's Degree or Graduate Certificate in Applied Geospatial Sciences at Elmhurst College.

For further information regarding this MOOC or any of the programs in the Elmhurst College School for Professional Studies, please contact:

School for Professional Studies

Elmhurst College

190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois, 60126

(630) 617-3300 / sps@elmhurst.edu

Lead Instructor

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For information regarding the National Geospatial Technology Center of Excellence (Geo Tech Center) or the Geospatial Technology Competency Model (GTCM), please contact the Geo Tech Center at:

National Geospatial Technology Center of Excellence
Jefferson Community and Technical College
1000 Community College Drive
Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A. 40272
(502) 213-GEOT
geotech@kctcs.edu

CUBAN CULTURE & SOCIETY: SUMMER K-12 TEACHER INSTITUTE IN CUBA

Havana, Cuba | June 21 - July 5, 2014

APPLICATIONS FOR THE PROGRAM ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

Cost: \$3,900.00

Tulane University's Stone Center for Latin American Studies is offering a unique summer study abroad program for K-12 teachers in Havana, Cuba in 2014. This two-week program provides the unique opportunity to work on developing lesson plans, earn academic credit while exploring the sights and sounds of a nation and people that remain obscured behind political rhetoric and misinformation. Recent economic changes on the island have provoked a series of social and cultural transformations that have left Cubans and the entire world wondering what could be next for the island and the Revolution. Don't miss the chance to witness some of these challenges and triumphs firsthand and get the opportunity to bring your experience back to your students in the classroom.

Those interested in applying must be a K-12 educator or librarian. There is no Spanish language requirement for this program. *Please note*: This program is only open to K-12 educators who are currently teaching, are pre-service teachers or are serving in a school or public library.

Complete applications (application form, copy of a sample lesson plan, copy of front page of passport, and two letters of recommendation) and a \$150 non-refundable deposit are due by *5:00 p.m. on March 28, 2014*.

For more information and an application please visit the website: www.stonecenter.tulane.edu/LARCinCuba

2014 STUDY CANADA- SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR K-12 EDUCATORS

Dates: June 26-July 1, 2014

Location: Ottawa, ON (3N) and Montréal, QC (2N), Canada

Cost: \$600 Registration Cost - Travel Support Available

Website: www.k12studycanada.org

About: Registration is now open to participate in "Study Canada", a 3 quarter credit/40 clock hour professional development course offered by Western Washington University that provides teachers with an excellent foundation for teaching about our northern neighbor. For the past 35 years, teachers, librarians, social studies supervisors and education faculty from across the U.S. have attended this renowned program to develop a better understanding of Canada, gain global perspectives of civic issues, and receive numerous resources for curriculum development. The program's subtitle, "A Capital View of Canada: Nations within a Nation", reflects the 6-day workshop's special focus on multiculturalism and its location in Canada's capital, Ottawa, and the country's second largest city, Montréal. Participants will not only learn from distinguished faculty and government officials but also experience Canada's culture, history and environment through unique activities not possible through regular tourism. The registration cost includes tuition for credits/clock hours (if needed), instruction, 5 nights' hotel accommodation, breakfast daily, most course activities and one-way transportation from Ottawa to Montréal, Quebec. The draft agenda, a detailed program guide and feedback as well as photos from previous workshops can be viewed online. To register, simply download the registration form and mail it with full payment to Western Washington University as instructed online. Check your eligibility for a \$200 travel award as well and, once you have registered, apply separately as instructed.

The US Department of Education (USDOE) supports the "Study Canada" program with funding from a Title VI grant. The program has been offered by WWU's Center for Canadian-American Studies, a USDOE-designated National Resource Center for Canada in the United States (in consortium with the University of Washington's Canadian Studies Center) since 1978. Outreach support for this program is also provided by the Raoul Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies at the Université du Québec à Montréal and the Government of Québec.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: A CHOICES LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PROGRAM FROM BROWN UNIVERSITY

CHINA ON THE WORLD STAGE

Dates: June 24-27, 2014

Application Deadline: Monday, March 17, 2014

About: Secondary-level geography teachers, as well as teachers who incorporate a significant amount of geography in their teaching, are invited to apply to the 2014 Geography Leadership Institute. The content focus of the institute will be China on The World Stage: Weighing the U.S. Response. The Choices Geography Leadership Institute is an opportunity to examine the Choices Program's award-winning materials and approach for teaching about contested international issues, and explore methods for introducing the Choices Program to other geography educators.

TURKEY: EXPLORING CURRENT CHALLENGES

Dates: July 7-11, 2014

Application Deadline: Monday, March 17, 2014

About: The Choices Leadership Institute is an opportunity to be immersed in the Choices Program's award-winning curriculum materials and approach, and plan strategies for introducing the Choices Program to participants' school districts and beyond. While using the Choices Program's forthcoming curriculum unit on modern Turkey as a content focus, participants will examine instructional strategies for engaging secondary students in the study of contested international issues, share best practices with other dedicated and innovative teachers, and explore methods for conducting effective professional development.

More information and an application can be found at:

www.choices.edu/pd/institutes/institute-2014-geo.php

ATTENTION WORLD TRAVELERS FROM THE NCGE COMMUNITY

NCGE author and alliance co-coordinator Herb Thompson has been invited by Holbrook Educational Travel to lead their 40th anniversary year trek to Antarctica! Many of us need to visit our seventh and final continent, but the high cost of such adventures has held us back. Not anymore! This is by far the most affordable itinerary I have ever seen and I'm happy to share this opportunity with those interested in a high quality, low capacity, and education-based trip to Antarctic Peninsula and the South Shetland Islands. Space for this amazing 13-day itinerary aboard the former NOAA vessel M/V Ushuaia is priced at \$6,695 per person, but limited to only fifteen participants in the ships least expensive cabin category. Please visit <http://www.holbrooktravel.com/dated-departure/thompsonantarctica2014> for details and please feel free to contact me at GeomanLVNV@aol.com for more information.

PUBLISH YOUR WORK IN AN NCGE JOURNAL

Submissions are currently being accepted for NCGE's Journal of Geography and The Geography Teacher. The Journal of Geography publishes innovative approaches to geography research, teaching, and learning. The Geography Teacher provides a forum for geographic educators and scholars to present innovative teaching strategies and essential content for the K-12 geography, AP Human Geography, introductory college geography, and preservice methods classrooms and courses. It is also a forum for discussion of state, national, and international trends in geography education. Click here to learn about how to submit a publication today.