Class Information:
Meeting Time: Tuesdays 5.30-8.30
Location: 422 Snell Library
Instructor: Professor Jacob Stowell, Ph.D.

Contact Information:
Office: Churchill Hall 429
Office Phone: 617.373.4246
Google Voice: 415.685.3269
Email: j.stowell@neu.edu
Office Hours: 12:30-2:00 Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Myunghoon Roh
Office: TBA
Office Phone: 401.215.4507
Email: roh.m@husky.neu.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Required Text:
The website that accompanies the text is:
http://www.mappingcrime.org

Recommended Text:

Additional Readings:
A number of additional readings/articles will be assigned throughout the course. This material will made available to you through Blackboard.
Course Description and Objectives:

The main goal of this course is to provide students with an understanding of how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used by law enforcement agencies. This course is designed as a very practical and “hands on” introduction to various GIS techniques. It is useful to think of the methods we will cover in this class as tools that will provide a more complete understanding of crime locations, and how criminological theory and geographic information together can be used to help develop crime prevention/reduction strategies. Over the course, you will read about the strengths and limitations of various criminological perspectives, how they may be used to inform enforcement decisions, and learn how to use GIS applications to create maps that convey a clear message regarding the spatial distribution of a given criminal behavior.

Although this class will cover the use of mapping software and data manipulation techniques, no prior knowledge of GIS is expected. We will review the topics in class, and the lab exercises will provide an opportunity to strengthen your understanding of the course material. Learning these new skills will require both patience and practice on your part. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay current on the readings, take detailed notes, and ask questions if you are unsure about a topic. Success in this class is predicated on these principles. If you do not stay current with the readings, course participation, and mapping exercises, your grade will certainly suffer.

Course Grading:

There will be 400 possible points in this course. The point totals break down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab Exercises:</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam:</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes:</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>400</td>
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Lab Exercises:

As mentioned previously, learning the art and science of crime mapping will require both patience and practice on your part. The lab exercises that accompany the text are designed as a very practical introduction to different GIS methodologies. It is useful to think of the methods we will cover in this class as tools that will allow you to examine the spatial distribution of crime and to create high quality maps that convey a clear message to their intended audience. Over the course of the semester, you will complete a number of exercises, which are clearly described in the course workbook. In order to receive full credit for a lab, you will need to complete the “Chapter Exercise” described at the end of each lab, as well as to answer each of the “Chapter Review Questions.” A quick note about your responses to the questions, they should be entirely in your own words. It is not acceptable for you simply to copy and/or paste text from the textbook or the workbook in your answers.

Examinations:

The midterm and final exams will consist of multiple choice and essay questions, taken from the material covered in the course readings and labs. The questions on the exam differ from those covered in the discussion questions in that they will ask you to think critically about and to apply the
information you have read.

**Reading Quizzes:**

Throughout the semester, a series of quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. The dates of the quizzes will not be announced ahead of time. The content will be taken largely from the course readings (including the mapping exercises) and lectures. The motivation for the quizzes is for students to engage the substantive material between lectures and as a means of stimulating class discussion. There will be no opportunity to make-up missed quizzes without appropriate documentation for the absence.

**Grading:**

Final letter grades will be based on total points achieved during the course. Letter grades will be determined in the following way:

- **A**: 93-100% of possible points
- **A-**: 90-92% of possible points
- **B+**: 87-89% of possible points
- **B**: 83-86% of possible points
- **B-**: 80-82% of possible points
- **C+**: 77-79% of possible points
- **C**: 73-76% of possible points
- **C-**: 70-72% of possible points
- **D+**: 67-69% of possible points
- **D**: 63-66% of possible points
- **D-**: 60-62% of possible points
- **F**: 0-59% of possible points

**Grade Changes:**

Every semester a student visits my office and begins the discussion by letting me know that they “need a B+ to get into law school” or “is there any way I could give them a better grade?” My philosophy regarding grade changes is simple: the final grade you receive is the one you earn. That is, the grade you receive is based solely on your performance on the course assignments/exams. I will, however, gladly submit a grade change form to the university if I make an error in the calculation of your final grade. Finally, documentation regarding extenuating circumstances is required before I will issue an incomplete grade for the course.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are expected to do their own work in this class. Students found cheating (or plagiarizing) on any exam or assignment will receive a “0” for that assignment or exam. I will also report such cases to the appropriate University office for investigation. Below is a link to the University’s official policy on academic dishonesty:

HYPERLINK