

Tutorial Letter 101/3/2018

The interpretation of maps, aerial photographs and satellite images **GGH2603**

Semesters 1 & 2

Department of Geography

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please register on myUnisa, activate your myLife e-mail addresses and make sure that you have regular access to the myUnisa module website, GGH2603-2018-S1/S2, as well as your group website.

Note: This is an online module and therefore it is available on myUnisa. However, in order to support you in your learning process, you will also receive some study material in printed format.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Dear Student

Welcome to the module GGH2603, The interpretation of maps, aerial photographs and satellite images. This module introduces you to maps, aerial photographs and satellite images as sources of spatial data and information. The module focuses on the communication of spatial data and spatial information in order to assist with spatial problem-solving. The module also introduces you to a variety of techniques and tools that can be used to transform spatial data into spatial information to assist in decision-making.

This module is offered online in 2018. The learning material and activities for this module have been designed to be interactive and we hope that you will embrace the interactive nature of the content. Regular participation on myUnisa during the course of the semester will help you learn from everyone (including your lecturer).

Do not hesitate to contact your lecturer (via myUnisa, by e-mail or by telephone) if you are experiencing problems with the content of this tutorial letter or any aspect of the module. We sincerely hope that you find this module, as well as your online learning experience, interesting and rewarding, and we trust that you will complete the module successfully.

Because this is a fully online module, you will need to use myUnisa to study and complete the learning activities for this course. Visit the website for GGH2603 on myUnisa frequently. The website for your module is GGH2603-18-S1 (for the first semester) or GGH2603-2018-S2 (for the second semester).

1.1 Getting started ...

Owing to the nature of this module, you can read about the module and find your study material online. Go to the website at <https://my.unisa.ac.za> and log in using your student number and password. You will see [GGH2603-18-S1/S2] in the row of modules displayed in the orange blocks at the top of the webpage. Select the **More** tab if you cannot find the module you require in the orange blocks. Then click on the module you want to open.

You will receive this tutorial letter and a printed copy of the online study material for your module. While the printed material may appear different from the online study material, it is the same, as it has been copied from the myUnisa website.

We wish you much success in your studies!

2 OVERVIEW OF GGH2603

2.1 Purpose

Students, who have completed this module successfully, will have obtained the knowledge and skills needed to derive spatial data from maps, aerial photographs and satellite images. In this module you are introduced to a variety of skills and tools that can be used to transform spatial data into spatial information, which can be used to make decisions and assist in solving spatial problems.

This module aims to provide you with an understanding of each of these data sources and how the unique characteristics of these data sources affect their applicability to a variety of applications.

This module is delivered using myUnisa and the internet as well as peer group interaction.

2.2 Outcomes

For this module, you will have to master several outcomes:

- **Specific outcome 1:** Differentiate between the data sources needed to communicate spatial data and information, and identify the appropriate data sources that can be used to solve spatial problems within a given scenario.
- **Specific outcome 2:** Discuss the problems associated with the representation of reality and explain the importance of considering the nature of geographical data when representing reality.
- **Specific outcome 3:** Derive spatial data about human and natural phenomena from spatial data sources and transform this data into information to assist in decision-making related to spatial problems.
- **Specific outcome 3:** Communicate spatial information visually through the use of maps.

3 LECTURER(S) AND CONTACT DETAILS

3.1 Lecturer(s)

The primary lecturer for this module is Mr D R Calvert, assisted by secondary lecturer Mr NC Mashimbye.

	Mr DR Calvert	Mr NC Mashimbye.
Telephone number	+27 (0) 11 670 9471	+27 (0) 11 471 2107
Email	calvedr@unisa.ac.za	mashinc@unisa.ac.za
Office number on ground floor of Calabash Building (Florida Science Campus)	017	014

3.2 Department

You can contact the Department of Geography as follows:

Telephone number: +27 11 471 3689

Fax: +27 11 471 3216

3.3 University

To contact the University follow the instructions in the brochure **Study @ Unisa**. Remember to have your student number available whenever you contact the University.

Whenever you write to a lecturer, please include your **student number and module code** in the subject field to enable the lecturer to help you more effectively.

4 RESOURCES

4.1 Prescribed books

There are no prescribed books for this module.

4.2 Joining myUnisa

If you have access to a computer that is linked to the internet, you can quickly access resources and information at the University. The myUnisa learning management system is the University's online campus that will help you communicate with your lecturers, with other students and with the administrative departments at Unisa – all through the computer and the internet.

You can start at the main Unisa website at <http://www.unisa.ac.za> and then click on the myUnisa orange block. This will take you to the myUnisa website. To go to the myUnisa website directly, go to <https://my.unisa.ac.za>. Click on the **Claim UNISA Login** on the right-hand side of the screen on the myUnisa website. You will then be prompted to give your student number in order to claim your initial myUnisa details as well as your myLife e-mail login details.

For more information on myUnisa, consult the brochure **Study @ Unisa**, which you received with your study material.

4.3 Other resources – printed support material

Because we want you to be successful in this online module, we also provide you with some of the study material in printed format. This will allow you to read the study material even if you are not online.

The printed study material will be sent to you at the beginning of the semester, but you do not have to wait for it before you start studying – you can go online as soon as you have registered and find all your study material there. The material we will send you is an **offline** copy of the formal content for the online module. Having an offline copy will enable you to study for this module **WITHOUT** having to use the internet or to go to an internet café. It will save you time and money, and you will be able to read and re-read the material and start doing the activities.

Additionally, a study pack containing maps, aerial photographs and satellite images, and a CD will be sent to you. You will need this map pack to complete the second assignment in this module.

The printed study materials do not contain the contents of the internet sources or the contents of the **Additional Resources** documents mentioned in the learning units. The contents covered in the internet sources and the **Additional Resources** documents are essential to complete the assignments and the portfolio for GGH2603.

It is very important that you log in to myUnisa regularly to do the following:

- **Check for new announcements.** You can also set your myLife e-mail account to receive the announcement e-mails on your cellphone.
- **Participate in Discussion Forum activities.** When you do the activities for each unit, we want you to share your answers with the other people in your group. You can read the instructions and even prepare your answers offline, but you will need to go online to post your messages.
- **Do other online activities.** For some of the unit activities you will need to post something on the **Blog**, take a quiz or complete a survey under the **Self-Assessment** tool. Do not skip these activities because they will help you complete the assignments and the activities for the module.

We hope that by giving you extra ways to study the material and practise all of the activities, this system will help you succeed in the online module. To get the most out of the online course you **MUST** go online regularly to complete the activities and assignments on time.

Remember, the printed support material is back-up material for everything that is found online on myUnisa. It does not contain any extra information. **In other words, do NOT wait for the printed support material to arrive before you start studying.**

4.4 Library services and resource information

For brief information, go to www.unisa.ac.za/brochures/studies

For detailed information, go to <http://www.unisa.ac.za/library>. For research support and services of personal librarians, click on "Research support".

The Library has compiled numerous library guides:

- finding recommended reading in the print collection and e-reserves – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/undergrad>
- requesting material – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/request>
- postgraduate information services – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/request/postgrad>
- finding, obtaining and using library resources and tools to assist in research – http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/Research_Skills
- contacting the Library/finding us on social media/frequently asked questions – <http://libguides.unisa.ac.za/ask>

5 HOW TO STUDY ONLINE

5.1 What does it mean to study fully online?

Studying fully online modules differs completely from studying some of your other modules at Unisa.

- **All your study material and learning activities for online modules are designed to be delivered online on myUnisa.** Although we give you a printed copy to support your studies, the module is designed to be delivered online.
- **All of your assignments must be submitted online.** In other words, you may **NOT** post your assignments to Unisa using the South African Post Office.
- **All of the communication between you and the University happens online.** Lecturers will communicate to you by e-mail, and using the **Announcements**, and the **Discussion Forums**. You can also use all of these ways to ask questions and contact your lecturers.

5.2 The myUnisa tools you will use

All of the information about myUnisa tools is located under **Learning Unit 0** on the myUnisa website for this module. However, we thought it was important to highlight the tools that will be used for your formal assignments.

In this module we use only one type of assessment, namely assignments:

Written assignments must be typed and then converted to a **PDF** file and submitted online. Where you are expected to produce a map or any other graphics, you may hand draw these, scan and save as a graphics file (JPEG, TIFF, GIF, etc.), and then insert into your assignment.

The assignments are then routed to your lecturer, who will mark it. These typed assignments must be submitted using the **online Assignments tool on myUnisa**, as a **PDF file**. The instructions for submitting these assignments are given in learning unit 0.

Under **Discussions**, several other discussion forums are available where you can share ideas and post your opinions online.

You may also ask questions using the **Questions and Answers** tool. If your question is of general importance, your lecturer may publish it for the whole group to see.

6 ASSESSMENT

6.1 Assessment plan

We have given you a breakdown of assignments and the formal portfolio activities as they become due during the semester:

Semester 1					
Assignment number	Submission type	Unique number	Due date	Weight	
01	myUnisa PDF file submission	833057	2018/03/02	35% contribution to year mark	
02	myUnisa PDF file submission	766717	2018/04/06	65% contribution to year mark	
03 Portfolio	myUnisa PDF file submission	663034	2018/05/18	55% contribution to final mark	

Semester 2					
Assignment number	Submission type	Unique number	Due date	Weight	
01	myUnisa PDF file submission	817691	2018/08/17	35% contribution to year mark	
02	myUnisa PDF file submission	849127	2018/09/21	65% contribution to year mark	
03 Portfolio	myUnisa PDF file submission	897329	2018/10/19	55% contribution to final mark	

Because this is an online module, the assignments are not provided in this tutorial letter. Instead, the assignments can be found in the **“Assignments”** folder in the **Additional Resources**. These will be available to you from the start of the semester, however, please note that you will only be able to submit your assignment 1 week before the assignment due date. In other words, the submission tool will remain closed until 1 week prior to the due date of the assignment.

6.2 Year mark and final examination/portfolio

Your year mark for this module contributes 45% towards your final mark and consists of two assignments. Your portfolio mark for this module contributes 55% towards your final mark.

	Year mark	Portfolio mark
Contribution to final mark	45%	55%

You need to submit at least one of the two assignments for GGH2603 in order to become eligible to submit the portfolio assessment. The final date for the submission of assignments in semester 1 and 2 are 2018/04/06 and 2018/09/07 respectively. If you submit an assignment after these cut-off dates, it will not be considered. To pass GGH2603 you need an average percentage of 50% after your year mark and your portfolio mark (the mark you receive for your portfolio assignment) have been added according to their percentage contribution to the final mark. Since GGH2603 is an online module, no supplementary opportunities will be granted. If you receive a mark below 50% you have to repeat the subject in a future semester.

You will not write an examination for this module for the following reasons:

- Your final assessment task is called a portfolio and it is the focal point of this course.
- In your final portfolio, you are expected to reflect on content covered in the learning units on myUnisa.
- The purpose of the final portfolio is to assess whether you can apply the theory and techniques in GGH2603 to practical scenarios.
- The portfolio questions will be made available on myUnisa under the **Additional Resources** tool, in the folder “**Learning Unit 07**”, later in the semester. An announcement will be made notifying you that the portfolio has been released. Once the portfolio is available, you may begin working through and answering the questions. Please be aware of the submission date for the portfolio. Any portfolio’s received after the due date will not be marked and consequently given a mark of zero.

7 RESEARCH USING DATA FROM MODULE GGH2603

All students who register for this module should take note that the lecturer may or may not require information from you for research purposes. The information required may be from the assignments you complete or additional activities your lecturer may have asked you to take part in or comment on or the marks you achieved for your assignment or anything related to the teaching of the module you registered for. In all these instances the information provided by you will not identify you in any way. Your identify will remain anonymous and the information you provide will also remain confidential. The lecturer will not use your information in any way that is unethical or does not abide by the Unisa Policy on Research Ethics. The lecturer will also apply to the College Ethics Research Committee for ethics clearance to do research on specific data from the module after which approval will be obtained from the Research Permission Sub-Committee of Unisa to use Unisa student data. Through this research the lecturer will be able to improve and develop this module for future students. If you cannot consent to your lecturer using the information indicated above, please let your lecturer know via email.

8 CONCLUSION

Do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail if you are experiencing problems with the content of this tutorial letter or with any academic aspect of the module.

We wish you a fascinating and satisfying journey through the learning material and trust that you will complete the module successfully.

Best wishes!

D R Calvert & C Mashimbye – lecturers for GGH2603

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY