

GPHY 358, GPS MAPPING SERVICE LEARNING (1 credit)

Fall 2017, Co-requisite GPHY 357

Are you interested in getting hands-on GPS mapping experience on a real project that benefits the community? If so, register for GPHY 358!

What is Service Learning?

Service learning at MSU is defined as a teaching method that utilizes student involvement in community service to meet instructional objectives of a course. Students apply information from a class in authentic settings while addressing real needs of the community that have been identified by the community. Service learning is not adding on “volunteer” activities to a course. The service activity is incorporated as part of the “out-of-class” work expected of each student registered in the course. Reflection is an essential element of a service learning course. It is a structured time for students to recount their experiences and the learning acquired in the community setting. It can be accomplished in a number of different ways, depending upon the instructor’s preference. Some common forms of reflection include writing in journals, answering specific questions posed through a class listserv, or classroom/small group discussions. (<http://www.montana.edu/engagement/academic-service-learning/designation.php>)

GPHY 358 Service Learning Projects

For 10 years, service learning projects have been incorporated into GPHY 357: GPS Fundamentals and Applications in Mapping. Students participating in the E-911 mapping project cooperate with the City of Bozeman GIS Dept. and use GPS and GIS to map high density housing developments to aid in emergency response. Students participating in the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI) canal mapping project cooperate with the Gallatin County GIS Dept. and local irrigators to inventory water resources in the Gallatin Valley. A new Trail Mapping project was added in 2016. Past student participants report enhanced learning and engagement in their project work. Working on a real-world project that benefits the community motivates students to do their best. The knowledge that their work will actually be used by someone makes it more meaningful. The opportunity to work with local professionals is an added bonus. And, students can include service learning projects in their resumes and portfolios.

GPHY 358 Service Learning Course

The class incorporates structured reflection activities, meetings with cooperators, field trips, and other activities in support of the projects. It will benefit students by providing sufficient time to thoroughly plan and implement their projects, and will also allow structured time for students and cooperators to reflect on their experiences and learning in an academic setting.

Section 1 (CRN 23407): Trail mapping in cooperation with Gallatin County GIS. Class meets Mondays 4:10–5:00 PM, starting September 11th.

Section 2 (CRN 23409): City of Bozeman projects, in cooperation with the City of Bozeman GIS department. Class meets Tuesdays 4:10–5:00 PM, starting September 5th.

Section 3 (CRN 24726): Canal mapping to update the Gallatin Valley inventory of water resources, in cooperation with the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI) and the Gallatin County GIS Department. Class meets Wednesdays 4:10–5:00 PM, starting September 6th.
Note: The second meeting (September 13th) will be a field trip to the canal we will be mapping, so it will be longer than the regular class meetings (about 3 hours). Please plan accordingly!

Not sure which project you are interested in? Both cooperators will be presenting their projects in class (GPHY 357) on Wednesday, August 30th. Last day to register for this class is Friday, September 1st.