

URPL 969 - Applied GIS Workshop: Rethinking New Orleans After Hurricane Katrina

Spring 2006 -- 3 credits

David Hart, Coastal GIS Specialist, University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute
Email: dhart@aqua.wisc.edu Phone: 608-262-6515

Lecture - Wednesday 1:00-2:15 pm - 208 Old Music Hall
Lab - Friday 1:00-2:15 pm - URPL Computer Lab.

On August 29th, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the central Gulf Coast. The storm killed over one thousand people in Louisiana and flooded 80% of the structures in New Orleans. A mandatory evacuation was ordered while governments drained the city, repaired levees, and restored critical infrastructure. The long-term human impacts of the catastrophe will be harder to assess. Local officials fear that many of the nearly half-million city residents may not return. The planning profession has a critical role in rethinking and rebuilding the city and region. The creative thinking of planners working in collaboration with other disciplines from engineering to sociology is needed to shape the future of New Orleans. An opportunity exists to rebuild the city in a sustainable and more socially equitable manner. This workshop allows students to use GIS to offer ideas and recommendations on how to rebuild New Orleans. It provides opportunities to learn about the environmental setting and culture of New Orleans; review the literature on coastal hazards, disaster recovery, and sustainable development; conduct a GIS needs assessment; plan and design GIS applications, acquire and integrate spatial data; conduct sophisticated GIS analyses; and communicate ideas in a forum that will help decision-makers as they shape the future of one of America's greatest and beloved cities.

An introductory course in GIS or cartography is recommended. Enrollment limit: 20 students

David Hart, AICP is the GIS Specialist for the University of Wisconsin Aquatic Sciences Center where he applies GIS to Great Lakes coastal issues such as natural hazards and community planning. Before moving to Madison in 1993, David was a Senior City Planner with the New Orleans City Planning Commission and project manager for the Orleans Parish Multipurpose Land Information System. He has authored several articles on flooding and subsidence in the New Orleans region.

