We actually learned less in this course compared to other courses I’ve taken at this level. Many topic areas were presented in class and labs, but we felt a strong disconnect to what was being taught in class to what was being explored in the lab. Perhaps more explanation to what the lab components were actually asking of students and what the outputs and results mean would have been tremendously beneficial to our learning in this course.

We learned about storage structures and R-tree’s, because we had in-class exercises in it and we went over it in a few different classes. We also learned that a computer scientist is different than a computer programmer. We have different backgrounds than many of the students in the class, centered more on society, public safety, conservation, and theory. We understand computer models and logic, but to an extent. Also it takes some time for us to absorb the computer content so at times, we felt the class went fast and had a lot of information.

Suggestions for the next class, if it is offered in the future, should be taken into consideration. Although the topics of the course are “from Google earth to spatial computing”, we believe the class should be offered for computer science students and not to MGIS students, because the GIS aspect of the class was very basic. Our expectation and assumption about the course topic was that there would be a mobile component to the course and that as students; our goal would be to build a mobile application. Although there was the possibility to create that sort of project, without proper lessons and labs leading up to that, the possibility diminished greatly. We believed that the course would be geared towards teaching us how to do these sorts of things, rather than the assumption that we already knew the vast majority of how to do them.

We think if the course was more hands-on, that we would have benefited from it more. If you show and tell different ways and methods to do something, it does not get absorbed. But if we’re involved and working on the problem and working toward a solution, then we learn better. We are both visual learners, as well as a hands on learners. We liked that we went over spatial news each week. We felt it was good to review what is happening in the world in emerging spatial technology.