



# EDU C492

## Best Earth Ever!

### Google Geotools in the Classroom

The Center for Teaching Excellence  
University of Virginia's College at Wise

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Office Hours: Online course, please email  
Grading: 3 hour undergraduate college credit

#### I. Course Description:

The Best Earth Ever is an online course which introduces Google Earth and Google Maps as engaging platforms for instruction. The obvious use is for geographical studies, but capabilities of Google Earth provide ample opportunities for students from many disciplines to both explore and develop content on the virtual globe. The secondary learning goals are for develop a technical skill set which can be used by teachers to acquire and manipulate digital content and to use the content to purposefully and effectively guide student learning activities.

#### II. Course Structure and Objectives:

1. Promote the use of Google Earth as an engaging instructional tool which may be used across a range of grades and disciplines.
2. Expand the knowledge and skill set of teachers in working in digital environments including:
  - a. Using cloud based collaborative systems to collect, archive and share instructional resources. (Google Apps for Education)
  - b. Develop basic skills to acquire, edit and share digital images.
  - c. Use Web based video resources by linking or embedding video content.
  - d. Increase an ability to locate and share appropriate Web resources
3. Consider how the integration of technology impacts pedagogical considerations
  - a. Develop strategies and organizational structures with support student projects and activities
  - b. Evaluate the appropriateness of technology choices and the advantages/disadvantages of a particular choice.
  - c. Identify barriers to the use of technology and develop plans to circumvent them.
  - d. Design activities which require students to think on higher levels of Bloom's taxonomy and which develop or use critical thinking skills.
4. Provide an opportunity participate in an online professional development community.
  - a. Participate in a supportive asynchronous learning environment.
  - b. Develop the ability to independently find and apply digital resources to teaching
  - c. Tactfully analyze and critique the instructional activities and instructional ideas of the professional peer group.
  - d. Use blogs, journals and wikis to comment and elaborate on topics relevant to projects and instruction.