



In response to Jordan Carmona's review of Esri MOOCs in the [July/August issue](#) of THE GIS PROFESSIONAL.

Dear Jordan,

Thanks so much for your entertaining and valuable review of the two recent Esri MOOCs you joined. We could not be more pleased with your clever and effective writing or your honest and accurate comments. We did want to share some reactions to a few of the issues you raised.

You enrolled in and both Cartography. and The Location Advantage at the same time. While individuals with lots of time on their hands may want to tackle more than one MOOC at a time, anyone with full time commitments may want to stick to one at a time (whether it's an Esri MOOC or one from other provider or an online course in a degree or certificate program). We are reviewing the suggested weekly time requirements for our MOOCs; we agree that 2-3 hours is perhaps best described as a minimum commitment. By the way, we "pair" our MOOCs based not on how they may complement one another, but on something sadly practical: the availability of our MOOC team members.

You noted that course dialogs were mostly unidirectional, from instructor to student. We are working hard to include more interaction into our MOOCs. The course forums are open 24/7 and we are pleased to hear from a good number of students that the conversations hosted there were among the most valuable parts of the course. We are tweaking the forum interface to allow for better searching and tagging; this becomes especially important when 18,000 students are participating in a course offering, as was the case with Cartography. this past spring.

You identified a number of differences between The Location Advantage, our second MOOC from 2015, and Cartography., our fifth MOOC from 2018. The MOOC team has learned quite a lot in the intervening years and incorporated new ideas, techniques, and tapped other Esri teams. Much credit goes to the Esri Creative Lab staff, which directed, produced and edited the short films you saw in Cartography. We didn't have access to that sort of set and talent back in 2015. We are currently revisiting our early MOOCs to determine how to update them. In September are beginning production on an update to our first MOOC: we are developing season two of Going Places with Spatial Analysis.

We hope you'll join us for another Esri MOOC soon! Here's what's coming up:

2018 Third and Fourth Quarter MOOCs

- **Do-It-Yourself Geo Apps: Sept 5 – Oct 3, 2018 (four weeks; all content opens on the first day)**
John Shramek, who helped develop and has been teaching The Location Advantage MOOC, will teach this offering. While much of the course has not changed and focuses on building apps without any programming, John enhanced the exercises to introduce students to Survey 123 and Operations Dashboard. <http://arcq.is/2kqHWz6>
- **Cartography.: Sept 5 – Oct 17, 2018 (six weeks; new content opens each week)**
This is the second offering of the course from Ken Field, Edie Punt, John Nelson, Wes Jones and Nathan Shephard. Student feedback suggests this course, which highlights ArcGIS Pro's cartographic features, is also a great introduction to the software. <http://arcq.is/2teM7VN>

- **Earth Imagery at Work: Oct 31 - December 12, 2018 (six weeks; new content opens each week)**
Kevin Butler leads students through scenarios highlighting how imagery is used in a variety of disciplines including disaster response, agriculture and commercial business. Students are often surprised at how many imagery exploitation tools are available in ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Pro. <http://arcg.is/2jMPFoQ>

2019 First and Second Quarter MOOCs

- **Going Places with Spatial Analysis February 6 - March 21, 2019 (six weeks; new content opens each week)**
Linda Beale, the very first Esri MOOC instructor returns for "Season Two" of this spatial analysis course. Students will use Insights for ArcGIS and tackle new hands-on exercises. <http://arcg.is/2kUAeRi>
- **Do-It-Yourself Geo Apps: February 6 - March 6, 2019 (four weeks; all content opens on the first day)**
- **Cartography.: April 10 - May 23, 2019 (six weeks; new content opens each week)**
- **Earth Imagery at Work: April 10 - May 23, 2019 (six weeks; new content opens each week)**

We appreciate you sharing your Esri MOOC experience with others and look forward to your next review, article or column on geospatial topics.

David DiBiase, Director of Education, Esri
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