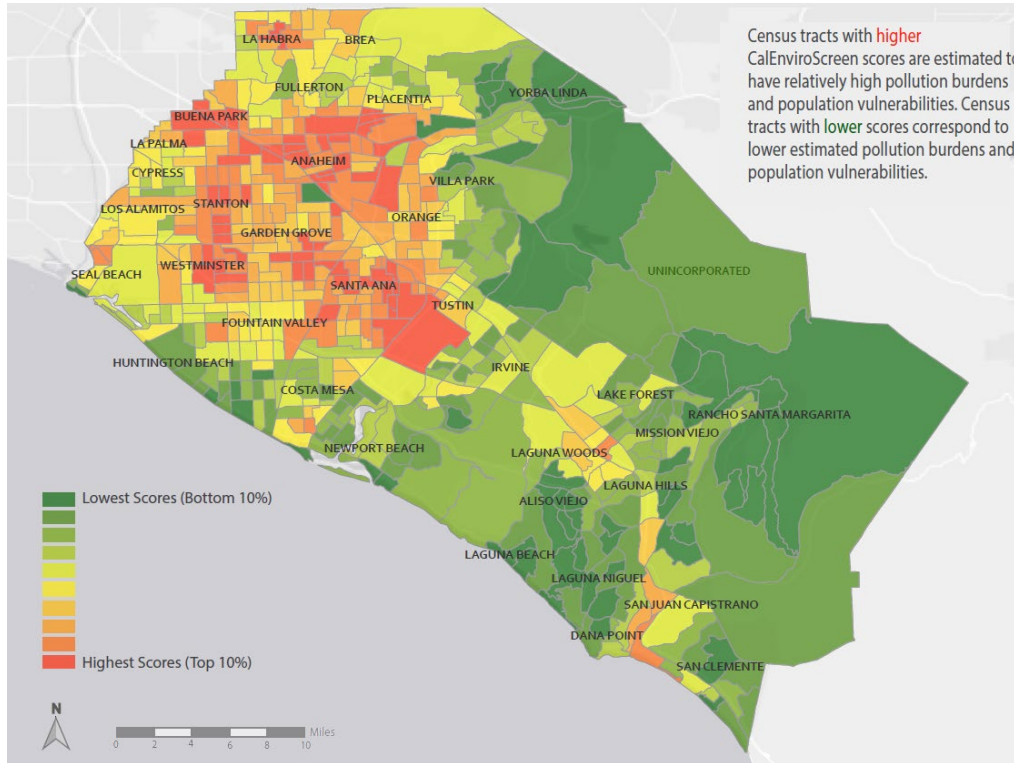


# UPPP 120 Intro to GIS for Planning and Policy

Fall 2021, TuTh 2:00-3:20pm, ALP 3600

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Geographic Information Systems (GIS) help us understand social issues with a spatial dimension by visualizing and analyzing spatial data, including where features are (geographic coordinates) and what they are like (attributes). This introductory course provides students with the skills to interpret, visualize, and communicate geographic information. In addition, we apply a critical cartography lens by analyzing how the stories we tell with maps both reflect and shape power and inequality. Students increase their critical spatial awareness through theoretical readings and case studies, while also gaining practical skills in data manipulation, creation, and visualization through hands-on tutorials. For the final project, students explore how racial, gender, and economic inequality intersect with student life via digital “story maps” of UCI’s campus and its surrounding communities.

Adopting an active learning approach, this class combines lectures, tutorials, and skills development applications. Each week, students should expect to:

- Complete a theoretical reading, which will be the subject of a quiz
- Practice map making skills via tutorials
- Create, visualize, and interpret original data

*This course is the first of three required for the GIS degree specialization for Urban Studies majors.*