

GGG 310: Introduction to Digital Cartography

Fall 2017

Course Syllabus

Class Time:
M 1:30 – 4:10 p.m.
Exploratory Hall 2310

Instructor:
Timothy Leslie
Associate Professor
tleslie@gmu.edu

Text:
None Required

Contact:
Office: Exploratory Hall 2207
Phone: 703-993-4336
Office Hours: By appointment / Email

Course Objectives

Cartography encapsulates both the art of and science governing map creation, and this course, at its core, is about the creation and production of maps. Through this course, a successful student will:

- Demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of representation forms, map types, and spatial processes that geographers and other researchers model to understand spatial phenomena
- Develop an understanding of the concepts regarding scale, projections, symbolizations, classifications, colors, typography, within the context of effective spatial communication
- In a final project, implement cartographic concepts in such a way as to effectively communicate a thematic message

These objectives will be completed through the objective imparting of knowledge from teacher to student, the development of skills through lab-based practice, and the practice of map critique. We will work through the process of communicating spatial messages effectively by developing an understanding cartographic guidelines and accepted design practices. Additional focus will be placed on strategies to guide product design toward intended audiences, tasks, and contexts.

Expectations

This is an upper-division undergraduate course, and as such I expect preparation and participation. High grades are given not just for completing the assignments, but for completing them *well* – the attention to detail in the ‘last 10%’ is what will differentiate scores.

I also expect you to be able to access the electronic resources of the University. Blackboard will be used for the distribution of lectures and assignments. I will occasionally use e-mail to distribute messages related to class, so you should either regularly check your Mason e-mail, or have it forwarded somewhere you do check. Many lab assignments will require several hours to complete, and you are encouraged to use the departmental computer lab (Exploratory 2102),

which is available 24/7 (unless reserved). **PDFs of lectures and assignments will be through the online Blackboard at <http://mymason.gmu.edu>.**

Grading

Your grade will be assessed in the following manner:

30%	Lab Modules	20%	Final Exam
10%	Final Project	20%	Weekly Activities
20%	Midterm Exam		

Grades generally follow 90/80/70/60 with plus/minus being within 3 percent of the cutoffs. I reserve the right to alter the exact boundaries at the end of the semester. **Important:** Students that do not have a passing grade in the lab portion of class will fail the entire course.

Academic Integrity

The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. GMU has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) Labs are to be done individually; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, give full credit; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. Plagiarism in the creation of an artistic product is just as serious as in the duplication of text. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct, and ignorance is not an excuse.

Diversity

George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

Extra Credit:

Opportunities for extra credit will be rare. My one standing offer for extra credit is that students who find readings or similar content superior to that provided in the course can earn extra credit points by e-mail me the content along with an explanation as to why their submission is superior to the existing content.

Disability Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and *immediately* contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474 if you have not done so, <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS, and I am perfectly willing to accommodate your needs into our instructional journey.

Tentative Schedule

This weekly schedule is the likely course of the semester. It is subject to change as needed to fit pedagogical needs. Exam dates are unlikely to change.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
<i>28-Aug</i>	Defining and Evaluating Maps
<i>4-Sep</i>	No Class, Labor Day
<i>11-Sep</i>	Map Design
<i>18-Sep</i>	Color
<i>25-Sep</i>	Choropleth Maps
<i>2-Oct</i>	Proportional Symbol Maps
	The Final Project
<i>10-Oct</i>	Text
<i>16-Oct</i>	Midterm Exam
<i>23-Oct</i>	Classification, Maps with Needs
<i>30-Oct</i>	Projections, Flows, & Uncertainty
<i>6-Nov</i>	Infographics & Maps
<i>13-Nov</i>	Isarithmic Maps, What is Deception?
<i>20-Nov</i>	No Class - Online Engagement
<i>27-Nov</i>	Final Exam
<i>5-Dec</i>	Summary / Draft Projects Due
<i>19-Dec</i>	No Class, Final Maps Due @ 1:30pm