

Geography and Geoinformation Science 551.1

Thematic Cartography

Spring 2015

Tuesdays 4:30 PM – 7:10 PM, Exploratory Hall 2310

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Sven Fuhrmann

Exploratory Hall 2204

Phone: 703-993-2289

Email: sfuhrman@gmu.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 7:30PM – 8:30PM, Wednesdays 9:30AM-10:30AM and by appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Analyzes nature of perceptual organization and visual systems in thematic map communication portrayal, graphic handling, and data analysis.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

This course is a lecture-discussion-lab mixed class. Class time will be split between discussion of readings on cartography, lectures about cartographic concepts, and lab time applying these concepts into praxis. In the lab, students will learn using Adobe Illustrator® to make maps.

LAB ACCESS

All enrolled students have computer lab access to Adobe Illustrator in lab EXPL 2102.

MATERIALS

Required Text

Lab Manual: Adobe Illustrator Creative Cloud Revealed (2015), Chris Botello, Delmar - Cengage Learning, ISBN-13 978-1-305-26261-4

Recommended References

Additional recommended reading material will be made available on Blackboard or handed out during lecture. Some sources are listed below; others may be added during the semester.

Other Materials

Students will also require a 32GB USB Drive (or larger) for storage of their lab project materials.

George Mason Online account

It is essential that you activate your George Mason computer account, since we will be using Blackboard for communication and assignment purposes.

CLASS POLICIES

General Class Policies

This class will consist primarily of:

- Weekly reading and homework assignments
- Self-initiated study and knowledge development
- Written assignments
- Project assignments
- A final project

Knowledge and Effort

This course requires significant computer file management skills and the ability to work within a Windows computer environment without assistance. You are **expected to spend considerable time developing thoughtful products**, conducting limited research to feed into your written assignments, as well as participate with others in the class and lab. Students must demonstrate a mature, professional, and conscientious effort toward class work and participation.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class. This course introduces considerable material and requires many hours of work. Please do not fall behind your reading or assignments. Poor attendance will result in a poor final grade.

Additionally, students are expected to arrive on time. Because of the size of this class, students entering the classroom late disturb the class activities. **Be present and be punctual.**

Late Work

Late work will only be graded if it is **submitted within 5 working days of the due date**. Please note that each late day, including Saturday, will be subject to a 10% reduction in the final assignment grade. For example, an assignment that is due on Thursday but submitted on Tuesday is 4 days late. Thus, the final mark of the assignment will be reduced by 40%.

If Blackboard is not working the day that assignments or labs are due, the due date is extended until Blackboard becomes available. To be certain, please contact your instructor or teaching assistant for further guidance.

Cell Phones

All cell phones need to be turned off during class and during examination periods.

Video and/or Audio Recording

Video and/or audio recording and distribution of lecture content is not permitted and require consent of the lecturer.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

University ADA Statement and Policy

Students with special needs (as documented by the Office of Disability Services) that will require compensatory arrangements must contact the instructor no later than the fourth class period to discuss specific arrangements and logistics. Students who have not already done so will be required to contact the Office of Student Disability Services located at SUB I, Room 2500 (703.993.2474). George Mason University is dedicated to providing these students with

necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom. The full ADA-compliant policy is available online at: <http://ods.gmu.edu/>

Academic Testing for Students with Disabilities

Students who are approved for testing accommodations have the option of using the Office of Disability Services exam lab to take in-class tests or quizzes with their accommodations. Any student who schedules a test with ODS must schedule tests during the in-class scheduled test time (or seek an exception from the instructor) and are expected to take the test at ODS. If a student schedules to take a test with ODS but decides that they will take the test in the classroom, the student will be responsible for notifying ODS and the instructor prior to the class start time.

University Academic Honesty Policy

Learning and teaching take place best in an atmosphere of intellectual fair-minded openness. All members of the academic community are responsible for supporting freedom and openness through rigorous personal standards of honesty and fairness. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the very purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Specific sanctions for academic dishonesty are outlined in George Mason Student Handbook. More information: <http://oai.gmu.edu>

MasonLive/Email (GMU Email)

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. See: <https://masonlivelogin.gmu.edu/login>

Patriot Pass

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web, Virtual Computing Lab, and WEMS. More information: <https://password.gmu.edu>

University Policies

Students must follow the university policies. See: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>.

Responsible Use of Computing

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. See: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing>.

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.” <http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/>

GRADING AND EXAMS (INCL. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS)

Grades will be based on the following table:

Activity	Percent	A+	100%
Final Project (A final project that needs to be submitted via Blackboard by the given deadline)	40	A	93-99%
		A-	90-92%
		B+	87-89%
Lab Grade (The lab grade represents the submitted lab assignments)	40	B	83-86%
		B-	80-82%
Class participation (Readings and discussions)	20	C+	77-79%
		C	73-76%
		C-	70-72%
		D	60-69%
		F	<60%

NOTE: Your final percentage will round to the nearest whole number, e.g., 89.2=89 but 89.6=90.

Mid-Term Exam

None

Final Exam

None – However we will meet for a final project presentation on Tuesday, 5/12/1015 at 4:30pm.

Important Dates

January 20 – First day of classes

February 10 – Last day to drop with a 33% tuition penalty

February 20 – Final Drop Deadline (67% tuition penalty)

March 9 – March 15 – Spring Break (no classes)

May 4 – Last day of classes

May 12 – Final Projects are due (Class presentation during final exam timeslot)

May 12 – Final Presentation (4:30PM – 7:15PM)

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE – GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT MATTER

NOTE: This outline is subject to modification. Students will be notified of any changes. Students are encouraged to download the lecture slides from Blackboard.

Date	Topic	Exercises / Lab Assignments
1/20/2015	Syllabus & Course Policies Map Aesthetics	
1/27/2015	Thematic Cartography, Maps, Map Design	Lab1
2/3/2015	Geographic Data	Lab2
2/10/2015	Principles of Color	Lab3
2/17/2015	Typography and Maps	Lab4
2/24/2015	No class	Reading Assignment
3/3/2015	Projections and Coordinate Systems	Lab5
3/10/2015	Spring Break	
3/17/2015	Data Classification / Choropleth Mapping	Lab6
3/24/2015	Proportional Symbol Maps / Cartograms	Lab7, Final Project Proposal Due (part of the final project grade)
3/31/2015	Special Use Maps, Map Critique	Lab8
4/7/2015	Art and Cartography	Lab9, Data Check Due (part of the final project grade)
4/14/2015	Modern Geovisualization	Lab10
4/21/2015		Final Project
4/28/2015	Final Project Critiquing	Final Project
5/12/2015	Final Project Presentation	