

# Elements of Cartography – GEOG 580 – AU09

## Instructor

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## Teaching Assistant

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## Course Description

*“Show me a geographer who does not need them [maps] constantly and want them about him, and I shall have my doubts as to whether he has made the right choice in life.”* Carl O. Sauer (1889-1975)

This is an introduction to the art, craft, and science of cartography. Modern technology has changed cartography from a largely manual pen-and-paper based craft to an interactive computer based process. The full implications of this transition remain to be seen but basic principles of cartographic communication will still remain important. Throughout this course we will emphasize important aspects of cartographic communication; map purpose, geographic phenomena and their measurement, data manipulation such as classification and generalization, and various map design issues such as color choice, typography, and layout.

*“Learning map craft is like learning to ride a bicycle. You cannot learn from a book. You take a bicycle, with an experienced friend to guide, encourage, and assist you, and you try...”* British War Office Information Handbook, ca 1945.

Much emphasis is put on hands-on experience for you to learn to apply visual and cartographic techniques to spatial information.

## Texts

### Required:

Slocum T. et al., 2009, Thematic cartography and geovisualization, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 561p.

Lectures will cover the most of the book topics but in a different fashion so the text serves as a true complement to enrich the lectures, and provide more detail. (The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is also OK but the new text is significantly re-organized and updated)

Goodes's World Atlas, 21<sup>st</sup> Ed., Rand McNally.

The atlas is used for illustration and for class exercises. It is also a valuable source for good design practice, one of the few things where I encourage copying work of others.

There is a bundle of these two items, ISBN-10: 032156197X , that should save you about \$20 off the total list price.

The New York Times, or other newspaper with good maps and graphics in their coverage of current events.

You will be asked to present to the class and discuss the design of maps on current events. This activity will be ongoing throughout the quarter. Free copies of NYT are available to students in the residence halls and student discounted personal subscriptions run ~\$20 for the quarter.

## Schedule

The most up to date schedule will always be posted on [Carmen](#) under Course info. Any significant changes to the schedule will be announced well in advance.

## Lectures

**Mondays and Wednesdays 08:30 AM — 10:18 AM in 0140 Derby Hall.**

Class material such as lecture notes, worksheets, handouts will be made available through [Carmen](#) under the heading Lectures.

During lectures we will often spend some time to work with sample problems and discuss practical applications. These activities are meant to build a deeper understanding of the subject matter but it also relies heavily on your active participation. You will also sometimes have work to prepare before classes or other types of homework assignments.

## Labs

Labs are also in **0140 Derby Hall** and follow directly after the lectures **Mondays and**

**Wednesdays 10:30 AM — 11:18 AM.** Details on the labs will be posted on Carmen under the Labs heading

## Grading Policy

Overall credits for the course are given approximately as follows:

<b>Lab Assignments</b>	~400 points (or ~40%)
<b>In-class work &amp; Homework</b>	~140 points (or ~15%)
<b>Term project and related work</b>	~215 points (or ~20%)
<b>Exams</b>	~200 points (or ~20%)

The credits given to each course component reflects my notion that I can only facilitate for you to acquire theoretical and practical knowledge. *Only you can learn* what we want you to.

Consequently, assessments relate mainly to your own learning, such as demonstrating practical use of the covered topic matter in lab, homework and an individual project.

Final letter grades will be assigned based on how many percent of total points available you have earned.

92.5 <= A
90.0 <= A- < 92.5
87.5 <= B+ < 90.0
82.5 <= B < 87.5
80.0 <= B- < 82.5
77.5 <= C+ < 80.0
70.0 <= C < 77.5
60.0 <= D < 70.0
F < 60.0

## Attendance, Timeliness & Examination Policy

*All course work (labs, homework, individual project work) are expected by the due date.* A late penalty of at least 10 percentage units will be taken off each day after the due date.

If you have a genuine reason (known medical condition, a pile-up of due assignments on other courses, ROTC, athletics teams, job interview, religious obligations etc.) for being unable to complete work on time, then some flexibility is possible. However, if in my judgment you could reasonably have let me know *beforehand* that there would likely be a delay, then a late penalty will still be imposed if I don't hear from you until *after* the deadline has passed. For unforeseeable problems, I can be more flexible.

Based on the Office of the Provost recommendations on the flu situation I encourage ill students to stay home and isolate themselves from others. In addition I will accept the "Explanatory Statement for Absence from Class" self-reporting form available online

(<http://shc.osu.edu/posts/documents/absence-excuse-form.pdf>) from the Wilce Student Health

Center as documentation of medical absence, and make reasonable efforts to provide for make-up work opportunities.

If there are ongoing medical, personal, or other issues that are likely to affect your work all semester, then please arrange to see me to discuss the situation.

**Lab Assignments:** You are welcome to discuss the labs amongst yourselves, in fact this is encouraged, but the final product you hand in *must be your own work* (see Academic Integrity Policy below). Details of the lab assignments will be posted on the course web site.

**In-class work & Homework:** Most classes have time allotted for discussions, in-class work and other activities. Your contribution in these and in class generally, will be noted, and used to determine part of your final grade, just showing up won't count a whole lot toward this component! Obviously, you will receive no credit for in-class work if you are not present.

During the quarter, there will be several homework assignments. The main purpose of the homework is to provide an opportunity to learn how to apply the things we cover during the lectures. Homework will be assigned during class, and usually due by the next class period. If you are having difficulty with assignments you should get help, whether from fellow students, from the course TA, or from me. Whatever you do, ask someone!

**Exam:** There will a continuous evaluation through lab, homework and in-class assignments. In addition there will be smaller exams/quizzes. These exams will be given in class, will cover material from the lectures and assignments, and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and problem solving questions. There will be no final exam; instead an individual project will assess your ability to apply all you have learned in a practical situation.

**Term project:** As an individual project you will produce a map of a topic that you choose. Many students take this as an opportunity to map out some aspect of their favorite hobby or interest. In this project you will go through the entire map-making process; from ideation, through data collection and design, to a final product. Further details of the individual project will be posted on [Carmen](#).

**There will be no make-up exams or labs except for *documented* medical or family emergencies.**

## Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#) and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

***What this really means is:*** If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, *I am obligated* by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. Please do not put yourself in that situation.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) can be found on the Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages ([oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html](http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html))

## Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.