GSP 316: Cartography

Instructor: Dr. Amy Rock
Office: Founders Hall 134

Description
This course will explore the art and science of cartography, using tools available in Arc GIS. Computers make creating maps easier, but sound cartographic principles must still be applied to achieve meaningful results. Students will develop the skills necessary to develop professional-looking maps for publication or research and learn various techniques to create the best map for the task at hand.

Course Objectives
During this course, students will:

• Understand the basic principles of visual representation of data and apply cartographic theory to communicate the data effectively.
• Gain competency in the cartographic tools of ArcGIS and the design process for computer generated maps.
• Apply critical thinking and communication skills to prepare visualizations which meet a variety of needs, and reflect sound cartographic ethics.
• Interpret, evaluate and constructively critique maps with the goal of increasing competency, understanding and appreciation of map design.
• Acquire competency with major geospatial data sources, and be able to acquire and prepare data to communicate visually with a range of audiences.

Assigned Texts
• Principles of Map Design, by Judith A. Tyner
• Other readings may also be assigned during the semester.

Participation and Access
As this is a web-based class, it is your responsibility to access the course via a suitable computer and internet connection. The instructor and university assume no responsibility for computer crashes or failure on your part to complete any aspect of the course as scheduled. You may work ahead through the chapters and assignments, but be aware of examination close dates, and plan accordingly. If you require assistance accessing the course, please contact the Help Desk (help@humboldt.edu).

This class is a combination of assigned readings and online presentations. Not all details will be covered by the presentations; therefore it is essential that you complete the assigned readings. Likewise, not all material covered in the presentations will be in your textbooks. Your attention to detail will directly affect your grade, as will your participation in group discussions.

The discussions are intended to facilitate your understanding of the material. Because this is an online course, interaction with classmates you may never see requires more effort on your part. To receive full credit for discussions, you must participate in a meaningful way to the group postings. Profanity or otherwise offensive postings will not be tolerated, and will result in an F for the course.

Discussions will be monitored by the instructor, but do not anticipate a response to every posting. You and your group members should work to help each other understand the material. The instructor may make comments to clarify or redirect the discussion as needed. If you have questions or concerns to address specifically to your instructor, please contact me via e-mail.

Computer Requirements
<update with specifications and details on installation and support for required software>
**Course communications**

This syllabus and other course materials will be posted to Moodle. Some assignments may be completed there as well. Any changes to the schedule will be posted in the Announcements section. Make sure you are checking your Humboldt email, as messages will be sent there.

Your best bet for communicating with me is by direct email. Please do not wait until the end of the semester if you are struggling with concepts or skills. This information is cumulative, and your future success depends on your current comprehension.

**Evaluation and Grading**

Examinations and assignments are listed in the course outline below, and are subject to change. Changes will be announced in class, and posted on the course website. Additional assignment due dates will be announced when the assignments are given. You are responsible for knowing when your work is due – any changes to due dates will be posted on the class website. All grades will be posted in Moodle.

Assignments will typically be given on the first class meeting of the week, and be due by the start of the first class meeting of the following week for critique, unless otherwise noted. Late work will be accepted up to one week past the due date, at a penalty of 50% of earned points. Beyond one week, late work will not be accepted. Maps which are not presented for critique will be counted as late.

Your grade will be composed of lab exercises, two exams, reading quizzes, a final project, and class participation. You will only be permitted to make up an exam or quiz with an excused absence. An excused absence means that you have a) notified me in advance and received confirmation from me that your notice has been accepted or b) provided a written medical excuse. You must still make arrangements to take the test, and my willingness to be flexible improves with the amount of advance notice I receive. Failure to be aware of due dates because of class absence does not constitute an excuse – see above.

While the participation component is not large, it can bring a borderline grade to the positive side. Participation does not mean being the first one to speak up when a question is asked, but rather thoughtful and measured contribution to the class discussions and critiques.

**Additional Information**

**Academic honesty:** Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty. For more information, visit: Academic Honesty Policy or HSU Catalog

**Students with Disabilities:** Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in House 71, 826-4678 (voice) or 826-5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. Student Disability Resource Center

**Add/Drop policy:** Students are responsible for knowing the University policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. Schedule Adjustments (Adding or Dropping)

**Emergency evacuation:** Please review posted classroom evacuation signs, and review http://www.humboldt.edu/emergencymgmtprogram/evacuation_procedures.php for information on campus Emergency Procedures. During an emergency, information can be found on campus conditions at: 826-INFO or www.humboldt.edu/emergency.

**Course Schedule:** The course schedule is posted to Moodle, and is subject to change. Please see Moodle for the most current version.