

GIS-3015
MAP ANALYSIS
Florida State University (Fall 2008)

Instructor: Prof. Victor Mesev Class: HCB 103 M W F 12:20-1:10	Office Hours: M 2:00-3:00 T 10:30-11:30 W 1:10-2:00 Room: 323 Bellamy Building Email: vmesev@fsu.edu
Course supported by Blackboard	

Course Rationale:

Maps are the core foundations on which all geographical knowledge is built. They are also the one single means of communication that is implicit to geography and spatial reasoning. An understanding of maps provides the student with the *graphicacy* skills needed to complement literacy and numeracy in order to attain complete cognitive thinking and allow the student to explore the spatial interaction of all physical, social and economic distributions and processes. This course will investigate and demonstrate the “power” of maps for representing the world. Students will learn to spatially communicate events and patterns through scale, generalization and symbols; and even learn how maps can be manipulated to distort reality. In addition, the course will introduce digital mapping using geographic information systems, remote sensing and cartographic visualization.

Course Objectives:

- * Grasp the basics of map representation, including scale, projection, generalization and symbolization.
- * Appreciate and evaluate map communication and map exploitation.
- * Review an extensive list of environmental and human applications.
- * Explore the digital mapping revolution.

Required Book

Harvey, F. (2008) *A Primer of GIS: Fundamental Geographic & Cartographic Concepts*. Guilford Press.

Recommended Books

Monmonier, M. (1991) *How to Lie with Maps* University of Chicago Press. (cheap paperback)
Dorling, D. and Fairbairn, D. (1997) *Mapping: Ways of Representing the World* Prentice-Hall.
Robinson, A. et al. (1996) *Elements of Cartography* Wiley. [extensive coverage]
Monmonier, M. (2002) *Spying With Maps: Surveillance Technologies ...* University of Chicago Press.
More reading available during the course.

Contents

Topics to be covered include scale, projections, generalization, symbolization, topographic contouring, thematic categorization, accuracy, political exploitation, mental and cognitive reasoning, remote sensing, GIS, cartographic visualization, history and future of maps.

Evaluation

Final letter grade is derived from the following assessments:

Midterm 1: 20%; Midterm 2: 20%; Assignments and Quizzes: 30%; Exam: 30%

A (93-100) A- (90<93) demonstrate clear, perceptive, well-articulated understanding of all topics.

B+ (86<90) B (83<86) B- (80-83) signify general competence, relevance, and articulation in most topics.

C+ (76<80) C (73<76) C- (70<73) are average levels of understanding and good grasp of some topics.

D+ (66<70) D (63<66) D- (60<63) demonstrate below average competence, but some basic understanding.

F (<60) is a failing grade and is reflective of little or no understanding, missing work or poor writing style.

Class Assignments and Pop Quizzes

Assignments are practical in nature and require students to compile or evaluate maps. Each is designed to reinforce specific skills and techniques introduced in class. Expect regular assignments on scale, choropleth, symbology, contouring, and map design. In addition, quizzes will be offered to test student's cartographic and geographic knowledge.

Midterms and Exam

Material will come primarily from lectures and prescribed reading material. Each of the two midterms will use multiple-choice questions, which are designed to gauge the extent to which students have acquired a satisfactory grounding in basic map literacy, including facts and definitions.

The final exam uses short answers to assess students' ability to appraise techniques and critique alternate methodologies through: a) an understanding of class lecture materials and assigned readings; b) relevance; c) critical balance; d) alternate viewpoints from additional reading material; e) punctuation and writing structure; and f) personal viewpoints.

Class Participation

Class participation is important for communicating and substantiating information. Remember the worst question a student could ever ask is the one that is never spoken! Any missed lecture notes and assignments may be accessed through Blackboard.

Attendance and Late Class Assignments

Attendance is strongly advised and roll may be taken unannounced at any time throughout the semester. Assignments may only be submitted late with substantiated medical evidence.

Blackboard & Email Account

Lecture notes will be posted on Blackboard along with class announcements, details on assignments and tests. Students may contact the instructor through email (vmesev@fsu.edu). If you do not have an FSU email account you may acquire one on-line through FSU Academic Computing and Network Services (www.acns.fsu.edu).

Honor Code and Disabilities

All students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility 1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, 2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and 3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university.

Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code:

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/>

Americans with Disabilities Act

During the first week of classes, students needing academic accommodations should: 1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability resource Center (SDRC), and 2) Bring a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating your need for academic accommodations.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center (850) 644-9566 (voice); (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
SDRC@admin.fsu.edu; <http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.