Geography 426: Thematic Cartography

Course Syllabus
SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Who: Instructor – Kirk Goldsberry, Teaching Assistant – Josh Stevens

What: Thematic Cartography - Maps are often the most effective way to visualize important geographic information. This course introduces thematic map design; our emphasis will be on the concepts and techniques that guide the design and production of thematic maps. The lectures offer a broad introduction to key statistical and cartographic concepts. The labs are designed to offer hands-on experience in cartographic representation, graphic design, and map production. The objective of the course is to effectively bridge the gaps between cartographic theories and cartographic practices.

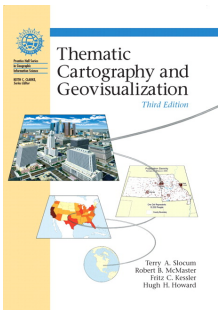
By the end of the quarter, you will know a lot about how and why maps are made. You will also have a really practical skill set that will enable you to communicate complex ideas in a visual manner.

When: Lectures – T, Th 10:20AM – 11:40AM, 126 Geography Building
Wednesday Lab – W 10:20AM – 12:10PM, 201 Geography Building
Thursday Lab – Th 3:00PM – 4:50PM, 201 Geography Building

Office Hours: Kirk - Thursday 8:00AM – 10:00AM, and by appointment, 121A Geography
Josh – Monday 10:00AM – 12:00PM, and by appointment, 201 or 23 Geography

Contact: Kirk - kg@msu.edu, Josh – stevensj2@gmail.com

Required Textbook: *Thematic Cartography and Geovisualization*, 3rd Edition, by Terry A. Slocum, Robert B. McMaster, Fritz C. Kessler, and Hugh H. Howard



Course Website: http://www.msu.edu/~kg/courses.htm

Required Media: You *must* have a USB thumb drive (flash drive) for the lab. You will be working between several different workstations. Thumb drives enable you to easily transfer your work between workstations and also are great for backing up your work!

Evaluation:	Exam 1	20%	February 24
	Exam 2	20%	April 14
	Lab Performance	40%	
	Final Project	15%	April 26
	Participation	5%	Attendance and Homework

Course Policies: I expect everyone to attend all lectures and labs. Attendance is not required at the lecture, but is required for the labs. The best way to do poorly in this class is to not attend the sessions. One good way to do well is to show up on time to every lecture and lab session. With a few exceptions labs are always due exactly one week after they are assigned (Wednesdays or Thursdays, start of lab). Lateness will cost you 10% each day, starting at the exact beginning of your lab session. This rule is not flexible. Please inform us in advance if you will miss a lab meeting or will have a personal situation that will affect your attendance or performance.

month	date	lecture topic	what's due?	what to read…
January	11	Course Introduction, Syllabus		Chapter 1
	13	Cartography, Graphic Design, Information Design		Chapter 2
		No Labs this week		
	18	Statistics and Graphics		Chapter 3
	20	Statistics and Graphics		
		Lab 1: Build a website		
	25	Principles of Symbolization		Chapter 5
	27	Visual Variables		
		Lab 2: Adobe Illustrator	Lab 1	
February	1	Visual Variables		Chapter 4
	3	Data Classification		
		Lab 3: Map the United States: black/white paper	Lab 2	
	8	Data Classification (continued)		Chapter 6
	10	**No Lecture**		Chapters 7 & 8
		Lab 4: Classification, Choropleths, Cancer	Lab 3	
	15	Color		Chapter 10
	17	Color on Thematic Maps 1		
		Lab 5: Adobe Flash Color Mixing	Lab 4	
	22	Color on Thematic Maps 2		
	24	**EXAM NUMBER ONE**		
		Lab 6: Flow Mapping - Paper	Lab 5	
March	1	Map Library: Thematic Maps in The MSU Collection		Chapter 11
	3	Elements of Cartography		Chapter 12
		Lab 6b: Flow Mapping - Interactive	Lab 6a	
	8	SPRING		
	10	BREAK!		
	15	Choropleth Maps		Chapter 13
	17	Choropleth Maps		Chapter 14
		Lab 7a: Travel Time Mapping	Lab 6b	
	22	Isarithmic Maps		Chapter 16
	24	Interpolation		
		Lab 7b: Travel Time Mapping II	Lab 7a	
	29	Proportional Symbol Maps		Chapter 17
	31	Schematic Maps		
		Lab 8: Proportional Symbol Mapping (Adobe Flash)	Lab 7b	
April	5	Bivariate and Multivariate Maps		Chapter 18
	7	Dot, Dasymetric Maps, and Map Animation		Chapter 21
		Lab: Final Project	Lab 8	
	12	No Class: AAG meeting		Chapter 15
	14	**EXAM NUMBER 2**		
		Lab: Work on Final Project: Warning – No lifeguard on duty	Data Sources	
	19	Rough Drafts: Peer Critiques	Rough Draft	
	21	Rough Drafts: Peer Critiques		
	26	Final Project Presentations I	Final Project	
	28	Final Project Presentations II		