

MAPS and SOCIETY

Fall 2013, Online Section, Dr. Ian Muehlenhaus



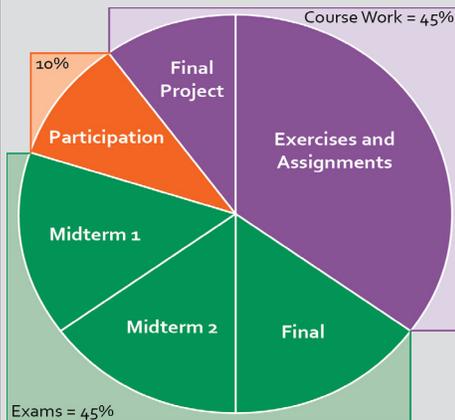
IMPORTANT INFO

WEEKLY CALENDAR

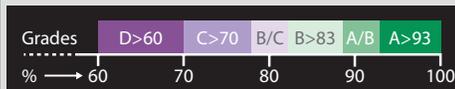
Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri
	9:25-10:50		11-11:30	
1:00-2:30	11-12			

Office Hours 2020 Cowley Hall

Grade Breakdown



Grade Distribution



WEBSITES & RESOURCES

Course Website: www.uwlax.edu/d2l
Twitter: www.twitter.com/uwl_maps
GMaps Tutorial: <http://goo.gl/1tKWie>
Ian's Email: imuehlenhaus@uwlax.edu
Textbook: online readings

INTRODUCTION TO GEO 102

Maps have played a central role in human societies since the beginning of time. As you will learn in this course, maps are not neutral representations of reality but powerful tools of communication. Like all tools, they can be used for good and evil. Regardless, maps exert an enormous amount of influence on a society's political structure, economic system, and imagination of the larger world. Maps are often used to highlight spatial data in informative ways or to help people get from work to the nearest bar. They are also used on a daily basis to track and kill people or to ostracize whole segments of society (i.e., redlining) and forcefully rip apart ethnic groups. This semester we will be studying maps ad nauseam and analyzing their myriad roles in society.



COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

You are probably wondering what this course is about; the name is quite vague. In a nutshell, it is about maps, mapmaking, and map use. **Maps** are a form of visual communication used for a variety of purposes. **Mapmaking** is a form of power; it provides those designing maps the ability to not only explain an environment but shape it. **Map use** is dependent upon human cognition, personal experience, and individual needs.



There are **three chief learning objectives** this semester. **First**, you will learn about how maps work. What they are, who decides what goes on them, and how humans interpret them.

Second, you will learn how mapmaking has evolved, how the power to make maps has changed over time, and how digital technology is changing what can be done with maps. **Third**, you will be introduced to the myriad ways that maps are used to shape society.

BORING INFO (i.e., THE FINE PRINT)

Do not plagiarize! Cheaters will suffer severe consequences and depending on the egregiousness of the crime, may receive an F in the class.

Read what I ask you to. Not reading will hurt your grade in this course.

Log-in often. I have taught this course four semesters in a row, so please listen to me on this: if you log-in and try to sit through a bunch of the lectures in a binge session, you will do very poorly. Come in on a regular basis.

Please do not email assignments. I do not accept late assignments unless you had an out of body experience, and even then, I will require a note confirming said experience from whomever was with you while you were not here.

If you would like to dispute a grade or test score, see me as soon as possible.

If you have a documented disability, please contact both myself and the Disability Resource Services Office (165 Murphy Library, 785-6900) at the beginning of the semester. Please visit: www.uwlax.edu/drs for more information.

Incomplete grades are only given in rare circumstances. "Forgetting" to log in for weeks does not suffice.

IAN'S QUICK BIO

Ian is from Duluth, MN. He teaches map design, cartography, Web mapping, and regional geography.



His current research is on persuasive maps. He has also authored a new textbook, *Web Cartography*. Geo 102 is one of his favorite classes to teach!

Twitter: @iMuehlenhaus

Contact Info: imuehlenhaus@uwlax.edu // www.ian.muehlenhaus.com // Office: 2020 Cowley Hall // Tel: 608-785-6675

Mods	Things to Complete	Due Dates (i.e., complete by...)
Pre-Start	Read the <i>Welcome</i> news post	Complete everything by:
	Pre-Assessment Quiz	5 pm, Sunday, September 8, 2013
	Syllabus Quiz	
1	View all recorded lectures	Complete everything by:
	Read posted articles	5 pm, Sunday, September 22, 2013
	Complete assignment 1	
2	View all recorded lectures	Complete everything by:
	Read posted articles	5 pm, Sunday, October 13, 2013
	Complete assignment 2	
Exam	Midterm 1	5 pm, Sunday, October 20, 2013
3	View all recorded lectures	Complete everything by:
	Read posted articles	5 pm, Sunday, November 10, 2013
	Complete assignment 3	
4	View all recorded lectures	Complete everything by:
	Read posted articles	5 pm, Sunday, December 1, 2013
	Complete assignment 4	
Exam	Midterm 2	5 pm, Sunday, December 8, 2013
Project	Final Project Due	5 pm, Friday, December 13, 2013
Exam	Final Exam	5 pm, Sunday, December 15, 2013

HOW TO COMPLETE MODULES

Modules are *double-edged swords*. On the one hand, they provide a lot of freedom. You can work through them *when you want* (e.g., while you eat dinner) and *where you want* (e.g., at the Root Note Cafe downtown). You can sit through half a lecture at a time or three. On the other hand, they *require a lot of discipline*. You need to remember to log-in and complete the modules by their due date. As *there is no set schedule*, it is easy to sub-consciously put off "attending" this course. I recommend scheduling fixed times every week when you log-in and work on the modules. You also need to *focus while completing the course work*. Just because you can participate in an online course while concurrently watching *Arrested Development* reruns doesn't mean you should.

SUCCESSING ONLINE

Below is a checklist of study habits that will help you do really well in this class. You should refer to this throughout the semester to make sure you are doing everything possible (on your end) to succeed.

- Work on the class regularly (do not try to complete the course in binge sessions)
- Take lots of notes while watching the lectures
- Stay focused while watching the lectures online (i.e., turn off your phone, email, and messaging!)
- Complete the readings and take notes
- Throughout the semester relate news items and things from everyday life to class content