

GE 325: Cartography

University of North Alabama
Department of Geography

Instructor: Robert Nall

Term: Summer 2018, Full Term

Location: Online

Office Hours: M-F 5-8pm by email
(response within 24hrs) or by web meeting
with 24hrs notice

Email: rmnall@una.edu



Required Text

Tyner, JA. 2010. *Principles of Map Design*.
New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

Description

This course is intended to introduce concepts of the art and science of making maps, applying both theory and practice. Maps are everywhere: in books, on the internet, and places we go and see. Cartography encompasses all of these visualization methods for spatial data and is considered a form of communication. Throughout the semester, you will learn to create, critique, and work with thematic maps, which all require thinking cartographically. Ultimately, you will be able to design and implement visualization of spatial data and phenomena through generalization and symbolization of patterns on Earth, while also getting exposure to academic writing on cartography.

Learning Outcomes

- Geographic inquiry
- Think critically and cartographically
- Cartographic process
- Map Design
- Projections
- Complete research project

Course Work

Exercises and Reading

This part of your grade will consist of computer exercises and academic journal article reading. There will be several exercises using QGIS, learning how to plan, create, and work with maps. Each exercise has accompanying videos to help demonstrate and explain concepts. Furthermore, reading, writing, and discussing topics intelligently will be essential to your academic and professional careers. I will assign one academic journal article reading every week throughout the semester. For each reading, you will submit a **short summary** (no longer than a short paragraph) and **ask 3 analytical questions** about the reading. These questions should be interesting and reflective of the material.

Quizzes

I will assign quizzes throughout the semester that will come from your textbook. This will be in the form of 1, 2, or 3 discussion questions where you will need to articulate a process, idea, or concept thoroughly. These will be open book and you will have 60 minutes to complete.

Projects

There will be three projects throughout the semester: one map critique project and two map design projects of varying themes.

Final Project

Your final project will demonstrate your understanding of the cartographic process as well as your ability to use thematic maps to communicate and distribute spatial information. This project asks you to ask and answer a research question, collect and analyze data to address the question, design and construct appropriate map(s), and report your findings through writing.

Grading

Grading for this course will be on the following scale:

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|---------------------|-----|
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Exercises & Reading | 25% |
| Projects | 30% |
| Final Project | 20% |

Assignment of Final Grades:

| | |
|---|---------|
| A | >90% |
| B | 80%-90% |
| C | 70%-80% |
| D | 60%-70% |
| F | <60% |

All projects and assignments are due as assigned in Canvas. No makeups will be given unless under special circumstances that can be justified and verifiable.

Attendance

Since this is an online course, no formal attendance will be taken. However, it is import to organize your time and plan accordingly. You can expect 10-12 hours of work a week.

Extra Credit Policy

Demonstrating an initiative to learn, understand, and participate in discussions will be noted and considered when assigning final grades. I will post ancillary materials that I would strongly encourage everyone to look at and/or complete. Also, the GIS community is driven by others helping others, so if you come across a problem, I would encourage you to post a discussion topic on Canvas and/or respond to someone else's post with an answer. This is will be highly valued.

Academic Integrity

This should go without saying: do your own work. Working together and collaborating is encouraged in this course, but always make sure to do your own work. Please refer to the UNA Student handbook for the rules and repercussions of academic dishonesty. Cheating, plagiarism, etc will not be tolerated.

Accommodations Statement

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services.

Title IX Statement

The University of North Alabama has an expectation of mutual respect. Students, staff, administrators and faculty are entitled to a working environment and educational environment free of discriminatory harassment. This includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, domestic and intimate partner violence, stalking, gender-based discrimination, discrimination against pregnant and parenting students, and gender-based bullying and hazing. Faculty and staff are required by federal law to report any observations of harassment (including online harassment) as well as any notice given by students or colleagues of any of the behaviors noted above. Retaliation against any person who reports discrimination or harassment is also prohibited. UNA's policies and regulations covering discrimination and harassment may be assessed at www.una.edu/titleix (website in progress). If you have experienced or observed discrimination or harassment, confidential reporting resources can be found on the website or you may make a formal complaint by contacting Title IX Coordinator at 256-765-4223.

***The instructor reserves the right to modify any of the class guidelines in this syllabus as circumstances require.**