**GEOG 4021 - Seminar in Culture, Identity and Place**

**The Power of Maps**

Department of Geography and Environmental Studies  
Carleton University, Winter 2020

*(Course topics subject to change. Last updated August 24, 2019.)*

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**Schedule:**  
Fridays 11:35-2:25 am, Room 413 Southam Hall

**Course instructor:**  
Derek Smith, B449 Loeb Building  
Email: dereka_smith@carleton.ca  
Telephone: (613) 520-2600 x 8131  
Office hours: To be determined

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**Calendar description:**  
Selected topic or field of inquiry concerning the geographic dimensions of culture, identity and place.

**Prerequisites:**  
GEOG 3021 and fourth-year Honours standing in Geography or permission of the Department.

**Course description:**

The purpose of this undergraduate seminar course is to examine the cultural and political dimensions of maps. The seminar will include a discussion of alternative understandings of what maps are, how spatial patterns are communicated in different cultural contexts, and the theoretical field of critical cartography. We will examine the history of mapmaking, and production and uses of maps past and present – looking at how they can be used to achieve different objectives, sometimes furthering the interests of certain groups over others. We will also explore participatory or “counter” mapping strategies as a way to empower marginalized communities, and incorporate their local geographic knowledge into natural resource management, community development, urban planning, and other spheres. The use and implications of relatively new geomatics fields and technologies (i.e., geographic information systems, remote sensing, global positioning systems) will also be explored. Finally, we will discuss how geomatics can be used in social science research to generate new understandings of peoples and places around the world. Previous training in cartography may be helpful but is not required.
Course objectives and learning outcomes:

- To become familiar with the historical development and current orientations of western cartography;
- To become knowledgeable of the field of critical cartography, and to develop an ability to effectively analyze and “deconstruct” maps;
- To become knowledgeable of the strengths and limitations of participatory mapping and related approaches to conduct social science research and empower marginalized communities;
- To enhance critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills.

Required readings:

To be determined. The required readings for the course will be selected from a wide range of books and journals and will represent a broad array of theoretical debate, concepts, issues, and case studies. All readings will be made available through cuLearn, unless otherwise noted. In addition to the required readings, students will also be responsible for seeking additional materials for their assignments.

Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map analysis assignment</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Map biography assignment</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final term paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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Seminar themes / activities

Week 1 - Introduction to the course
Week 2 - What is a map? / Critical cartography and related theoretical frameworks
Week 3 - The history of cartography
Week 4 - Mapping in the colonial period
Week 5 - Postcolonial cartographies
Week 6 - Local geographic knowledge
Week 7 - Counter mapping
Week 8 - The promise and pitfalls of participatory mapping
Week 9 - Critical GIS, public participation, and the digital divide
Week 10 - The social implications of new geospatial technologies
Week 11 - The art of geovisualization
Week 12 – Student presentations

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
• using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
• using another’s data or research findings;
• failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
• handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. The Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed at http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Department of Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Department of Equity Services website: http://www.carleton.ca/equity/

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca PMC) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

You can visit the Department of Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at http://www.carleton.ca/equity/.