

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**  
**GEOG 3253 – CARTOGRAPHY – 2014**

**Instructor:** Prof. William Wilson, Department of Geography, BB 1056 , 343- 8274

**Office Hours:** TBA

**EMAIL POLICY:** My email is [wrwilson@aspencroft.ca](mailto:wrwilson@aspencroft.ca). As per our conversation in class, I only use this for emergencies that cannot be covered in lab or lecture or office hours.

***Introduction***

Welcome to GEOG 3253- Cartography. This is an advanced course that prepares you to be a professional geographer. Cartography is a core discipline within Geography. Indeed, many would say that it is one of “the” two core disciplines, the other being geomorphology. As such, it is vital that you learn how to convey, analyze, and understand geographical data in a graphic manner. My job is to facilitate your movement to this new stage in your geographical career.

As more advanced students, you are also now responsible to maintain a high level of academic standards in this class, i.e., if you find that we are going too slowly, or that some of your colleagues are not performing at an adequate level, it is your responsibility to make me aware of this in a professional way. It is also your responsibility to make your classmates aware of their levels of performance. Finally, if you have any questions at any time make sure you ask! This is not a class where forgiveness will be provided when permission could have been sought.

***Aim***

By the end of this course, successful students should understand:

- 1) Basic cartographic techniques and concepts;
- 2) The several different types of maps and their uses;
- 3) The concepts of projections and spatial statistics and their uses;
- 4) The history and use of cartography.

Successful students will emerge from this class with the ability to participate in conversations about cartography at an advanced academic and professional level. This means that you will be familiar with the language, terminology, and theories used by academics and professionals in this field of geography. Some advanced students should emerge from this class with concrete ideas for further, advanced research at the senior undergraduate level, i.e., ideas for undergraduate theses or projects. Further training in cartography, spatial statistics, and modelling is available at Lakehead should you be interested. I will also be looking for qualified research assistants for national and international projects. My goal is to provide you with the same level of instruction that you would receive at one of the top-rated undergraduate universities in Canada. I take this goal seriously; I see no reason that this course should not be experienced at the same level as a similar course at Mount Allison or Bishop's.

***Learning Methods***

- Lecture – Mondays and Wednesdays 16:00 – 17:30.
- Labs – to be determined.

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- I strongly recommend that you form study groups for this class, although it is perfectly possible to get by without them. These groups should not necessarily include your friends: Rather, they should include responsible scholars who will help each other succeed in learning. You do not need someone telling you how smart you are; you do need someone pointing out where and how you can improve your knowledge and your technique. There is no marking curve in this class so you are not in competition with each other.
- Individual discussions – I will be available during office hours.

### ***Readings and required equipment***

The required textbooks are:

- 1) Tyner, Judith (2010). *Principles of Map Design*. New York: The Guilford Press. (This will be one of the books that you will use throughout your career as a geographer, i.e., at the undergraduate, professional, and graduate levels);
- 2) Akerman, J. and R. Karrow (2007). *Maps: Finding our Place in the World*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (This is also a book that you will keep and use. In addition, it contains the maps you will need to know for this class.);
- 3) Copies of the articles listed in the Article Bibliography.
- 4) Geography statistics book (I recommend your 2<sup>nd</sup> yr stats book by Chapman, et. al)
- 5) Either the *Chicago Manual of Style* or the *APA Style Manual* and the free *Department of Geography Thesis Manual*.
- 6) You will need to purchase a set of cartographic tools from The Painted Turtle. More details on this equipment will be provided to you in lab. Also, be prepared to pay for the printing of your maps. There will be no electronic submissions! These maps should become part of your professional portfolio.

You must bring the applicable book, with proof of use, to any meeting you have with me about your course work.

### ***Workload and Expectations of Excellence***

Details of the following assignments will be provided later in this class.

Participation in Critiques, lectures, and labs	– 15 %
Lab Assignments: you will construct a cartographic portfolio to provide %50 of mark.	– 45 %
Final Cumulative Examination	– 40 %

Workload: You should anticipate doing at least 5-6 hours of reading and class preparation per week (Note: This is 5-6 hours of good quality work). Time required for labs and completing lab assignments is extra. You are responsible to be familiar with all the information covered in the readings, in lectures, and in labs. My advice to you is to plan your term carefully and conservatively: Expect the unexpected. Remember that you have probably never done this type of work before, that learning new skills and knowledge is often challenging and difficult, and that you will need time to practice and perfect your own geographical craft to bring it in-line with professional standards. Above all, identify any problems you might encounter early on and then talk to me or other professionals about solutions: Don't wait until the last minute!

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Marking: This is a core class that is preparing you for advanced work, possibly in the very demanding field of professional cartography, either as teacher or practitioner. Thus, there will be no late submissions of assignments. This rule will only be waived on presentation of a medical certificate of sickness.

The marking scheme used in this class is in-line with expectations at Canada's top undergraduate universities and with professional employment standards, both of which allow a very narrow window of appropriate performance. Again, my goal is to provide you with the same level and quality of instruction that you would receive at Mount Alison or Trent. In addition to grammar and style, which are discussed below, assignments will be graded on demonstrated critical thought, internal logic and clarity of data presentation, and demonstrated cartographic skill.

Grammar and Style: It is expected that written submissions in Geography courses will conform to high standards of grammar and style. This applies to cartographic assignments, as well. As professional geographers and/or teachers, it is your responsibility to be able to communicate simply and directly. Poor grammar and style will be penalized in all grading of written work submitted in Geography courses. Sub-standard assignments will be returned un-marked and result in a zero for the assignment. A required text for this course is either the *APA Manual* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*. You **must** bring your manual(s), along with proof of use, to any meeting with me that deals with issues of grammar and/or style. Of course, appropriate allowances will be made for students whose first language is not English.

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty: Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure in an assignment to debarment from the University. As noted in the University Calendar:

"Plagiarism" shall be deemed to include:

1. Plagiarism of ideas as where an idea of an author or speaker is incorporated into the body of an assignment as though it were the writer's idea, i.e. no credit is given the person through referencing or footnoting or endnoting.
2. Plagiarism of words occurs when phrases, sentences, tables or illustrations of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a writer's own, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on the format followed) are present but referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.
3. Plagiarism of ideas and words as where words and an idea(s) of an author or speaker are incorporated into the body of a written assignment as though they were the writer's own words and ideas, i.e. no quotations or indentations (depending on format followed) are present and no referencing or footnoting or endnoting is given.

Further definitions, procedures, and penalties for dealing with plagiarism and academic dishonesty are set out in the University Calendar, available in paper and on-line. Note that many issues of plagiarism can be prevented through careful use of a manual on style and grammar.

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### **Minimum Cartography Tools**

(available at the Painted Turtle for this course with discount)

These are some of the minimum tools you will need for cartography. Other tools may become attractive to you as well as you learn. Note that I have no problem with you sharing tools, but that can never be an excuse for a late assignment.

1 large bound sketch book

1 large portfolio

a pad of graph paper

Some vellum

Tracing paper and other specialty papers.

Container for cartography tools

At least 4 black ink drafting pens of different widths

Set of colored ink pens

Mechanical pencil(s)

Professional erasure

Metal scale / ruler with elevated edge

Compass ring

Magnifying glass/loupe

iPod like device