

COURSE OUTLINE

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY GEOG 3253 – CARTOGRAPHY – 2018

Instructor: Prof. William Wilson, Department of Geography, RC 2006C , 343- 8274

Office Hours: TBA

EMAIL POLICY: My email is wrwilson@spencroft.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 Alison or Bishop’s.

Learning Methods

- Lecture – Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00 – 11:30.
- Labs – Monday 12;30.

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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.

ASSIGNMENTS

Lab assignments ---- 60%

History of Canada in Maps ---- 40% [Power Point format – 20 – 30 minutes long]