**Maps don’t lie, or do they?**

**First-Year Seminar: One Credit**

GEOG XXXX (1 Credit Hour, A-E)

Day: Biweekly for 7 weeks

Time and Location: TBA

Instructor: Dr. Tammy E. Parece

Department of Geography

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, or by appointment

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**Course Description**

Maps are an integral part of society, especially since COVID-19 when the CDC and Johns Hopkins University regularly posted disease updates using maps (which were available to the general public). Maps are not only used in geography but many other disciplines. Open access GIS software has granted the ability to create maps to people with no training in cartographic basics. Most people read a map and believe they are 100% accurate (e.g., are telling a true and perfect story). In this course, we will look at cartographic basics, learn how to read/use and critic thematic maps. Student will learn where biases or falsehoods can be introduced into a map to mislead. Students will ultimately learn to read/use and critique a map just as they would a source when writing an essay or a paper for other courses.

**Course Objectives**

* Describe a map’s theme
* Explain errors contained within all maps
* Assess a map’s accuracy and reliability

**Required Materials:**

How to Lie with Maps by Mark Monmonier. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9780226435923

We will also be using videos and on-line maps.

**Course Requirements**

*Class Participation (20%)*

* attendance will be taken and is part of your grade
* class discussions on readings and videos

*Quizzes (20%)*

Weekly quizzes on Cartographic basics

Map Activities (30%)

* Students will present a map of their choice in class (happens twice on Thursday, weeks 2 – 6)

*Final Project (30%)*

* Analyze a map for accuracy and precision.

**Weekly Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Tuesday | Thursday |
| Week 1 | Introduction to Maps and Map Elements |
| Week 2 | How to read and interpret thematic maps | Class Discussions |
| Week 3 | The Orange Peel Problem | Class Discussions |
| Week 4 | Maps are always out of date | Class Discussions |
| Week 5 | Are online maps better? | Class Discussions |
| Week 6 | Does scale matter? | Class Discussions |
| Week 7 | How to evaluate a map, the data, and the authorCourse wrap up |

## Grading scale

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **A-** | **B+** | **B** | **B-** | **C+** | **C** | **C-** | **D+** | **D** | **E** |
| ≥93% | 90-92% | 87-89% | 83-86% | 80-82% | 77-79% | 73-76% | 70-72% | 67-69% | 60-66% | <60% |

## Course Academic integrity policy

See specific assignment descriptions for my guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this class. I will not tolerate cheating or plagiarism of any kind.

### Ohio State’s academic integrity policy

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct[**http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/**](http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/)**.**

**Disability Services**

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options.  To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services.  After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information:**slds@osu.edu****; 614-292-3307;**[**slds.osu.edu**](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/)**; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue**.