

I am a spatial thinker, what about you?

First-Year Seminar: One Credit

GEOG XXXX (1 Credit Hour, A-E)

Day: Biweekly for 7 weeks

Time and Location: TBA

Autumn 2023

Instructor: Dr. Tammy E. Parece

Department of Geography

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, or by appointment

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Course Description

Spatial thinking is something we do in everyday life. We gather information about our surroundings; we process information to analyze and make decisions in a specific moment or overtime. As examples, 1) we evaluate how to navigate our space while conducting activities of daily living; 2) when planning our future - we think about where to live, why to live in certain places, ask how would I get to work, etc. When asked to think spatially in class, students freeze and say, this is why I am taking Geography, to learn how to do this. But spatial thinking does not start with a student's first Geography class, it begins when an infant starts recognizing faces and learning to control their body when crawling and walking, and our spatial thinking evolve over time. This course will explain spatial thinking, review the evolution of this process, and enable student's understanding of how it is an integral part of their daily lives.

Course Objectives

- Explain spatial thinking
- Identify situations where spatial thinking is needed
- Compare and contrast changes in spatial thinking over time and experience
- Critic academic research on spatial thinking

Required Materials:

Book: The People's Guide to Spatial Thinking. Diana Stuart **Sinton**. National Council for Geographic Education. ISBN: 9781884136214

Learning to Think Spatially. 2006. National Research Council. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/11019>

We will also be using videos and other on-line sources on spatial thinking.

A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCXydhPpVEg>

A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjwQiVrhKWg>

A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gud4310AKbA>

A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2aKL6tO94s>

Course Website:

This syllabus, announcements, links to the videos and readings, discussion areas, and other resources will be posted on the course site in Carmen Canvas. It is recommended that you check the website on a regular basis.

Course Requirements

Class Participation (10 points)

- attendance will be taken and is part of your grade
- class discussions on readings, videos, and journaling activities

Weekly Journaling Activity (5 points each week, x 6 weeks = 30 points)

- Journal entries will be made in the discussion area of Canvas.
- Each student will have their own discussion section, visible only by the student and instructor.
- Journal entries are due by end of day on Mondays so can be discussed during Tuesday's class.
- Pick at least two days (from the prior week) and reflect on your spatial thinking:
 - Identify how you have used spatial thinking in different environments on that day – what were you doing? Was spatial thinking automatic or did you have to actually think about the process.
 - Include how your spatial thinking changed from prior weeks.
- During our discussions, you have the opportunity to reveal to the other students those journal entries or other times you used spatial thinking.
- 6 weeks of journaling, each week's participation is 5 points.

Leading a discussion (5 points for article upload timely & 15 points for leading the discussion = 20 points)

- The first week of class, everyone signs up for the week they will lead a discussion.
- Identify a journal article on spatial thinking to share with the class.
- A copy of the article to be uploaded into Assignments in Canvas two days prior to class.
- Instructor will then make the article available to other students for their review.
- Informal round table discussion, presentation not required.
 - Introduce your paper (5 minutes).
 - Questions for other students.

Mental Map Activities (10 points for each map, total 20 points)

- A mental map of OSU Campus will be created in the 1st week of class (in-class)
- A 2nd mental map of OSU Campus will be created in the 6th week of class (in-class)
- Both maps will be turned in at the end of the class session (and returned to you by the next class session)

Final Project (20 points)

- Written comparative analysis of the two mental maps and identifying and evaluating changes.
- Include a picture of your mental maps within your paper.
- Answer the following questions:
 - How did your mental map of campus change over the 7 weeks?

- What caused your mental map to change?
- Do you think your 2nd mental map is going to change in the future?
- How did your increased knowledge of spatial thinking contribute to the change in your mental map?
- Minimum of 500 words.
- Word count, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization are 10 – 20% of the grade.
- If you refer to any of our readings or articles, be sure to include a reference list.
- Your essay will be uploaded to the assignment area in Canvas.

Weekly Schedule

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	Class Introduction Introduction to Spatial Thinking Video: A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 1 (in-class)	How to search for a journal article on spatial thinking Mental Mapping Activity
Week 2 Pre-class prep: Readings: Sinton, pages 1 – 34 Video: A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 2	Journaling Activity Discussions Student led discussions	Spatial Thinking (relative v. absolute)
Week 3 Pre-class prep: Readings: Sinton, pages 35 – 65 Video: A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 3	Journaling Activity Discussions and how journaling changed after Week 2 Topic Student led discussions	Egocentric v. Geocentric v. Egocentric Thinking
Week 4 Pre-class prep: Video: A Day in the Life of a Spatial Thinker, Part 4	Journaling Activity Discussions and how journaling changed after Week 3 Topic Student led discussions	Evolution of Spatial Thinking (personal and societal)
Week 5 Pre-class prep: Learning to Think Spatially, pages 49 - 56	Journaling Activity Discussions and how journaling changed after Week 4 Topic Student led discussions	Spatial Perception
Week 6 Pre-class prep: Learning to Think Spatially, pages 69 - 82	Journaling Activity Discussions and how journaling changed after Week 5 Topic Student led discussions	Egocentric v. Geocentric v. Egocentric Thinking Mental Mapping Activity #2
Week 7	Final Discussion on Journaling Final project review	Course wrap up

Grading scale – 100 points (100%)

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%

Late work policy

Late work is not accepted in this course. However, a legitimate excuse could result in an extension. Legitimate excuses include, but are not limited to: documented confining illness, death in the family, and military service. Please discuss these with me as soon as is practicable.

Course Academic integrity policy

See each specific assignment instruction 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/>.

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; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.