

**Course Syllabus
Geography 363
Computer Cartography
3 credit hours
Fall Semester - 2007**

Class Meeting Room: LDB 327

Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:50

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Gang Gong

Office Number: Lee Drain Building - 333

Office Hours: TR 11:00-2:00

Phone: 294-4564

E-mail: ggong@shsu.edu

* I always try to have an "open-door" policy as regards office hours, so please feel free to call or come by any time that you have a question.

Prerequisite: GEO 362 (Map Use and Map Interpretation) is listed as the prerequisite. However waivers may be granted after consulting with the instructor. Prior experience with computer and/or maps will be useful.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce the students to cartography and computer. During the process you will learn the fundamentals of thematic mapping, including geodesy, projections, basemap compilation, data measurement and analysis, map design and construction, and other cartographic concepts. Topics that will be covered include (but not limited to)

Acquire and prepare base maps for a cartographic theme

Understand how information is coded in various numeric or categorical ways

Understand cartographic principles including use of text, color, and symbols

Create a legend with all appropriate information

Control the visual appearance of maps to make them aesthetically pleasing

Gain experience creating a wide variety of map themes

Understand cartographic conventions

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the students should achieve a better understanding of the art, science, and technology components of cartography. They should develop and master the specific skills of map-making using computer and learn to apply course material to solve real world problems.

Course Structure (tentative): The class is broken into three sections.

- The Map
- The cARTography
- The Computer

The Map section will introduce you the basics of maps, from the basic geodesy, to major projections, to various types and applications of maps. The cARTography

section will focus on the techniques of mapping, data handling, and display. Finally the computer section will focus on the use of the computer as a tool in map-making.

Methods of Instruction: This course will be primarily a lecture course with intensive hands-on exercises. I will use Power Point mostly in my lectures. All the slides will be available online – on the Blackboard course website after each lecture. Students will also be required to complete a variety of homework exercises, projects, and give class presentations.

Textbook Information: Cartography: Thematic Map Design (5th edition); by Borden Dent; WCB, McGraw-Hill.

Attendance and Tardy Policy

Attendance is required and will be recorded. During the semester, each student has three “free” absences. I will deduct 20 points for each subsequent, *unexcused* absence - up to a maximum of 100 points. In order for an absence to be excused, **some form of documentation MUST be provided**. 100 points amounts to 10% of the course grade. For those students that are borderline to the next highest grade, the extra 10% for attendance can make all the difference.

In addition to the required attendance policy, it is necessary that you **please come to class on time and stay until the class is over**. If you leave early without having cleared it with the instructor, you will be counted absent.

Course Assignments and Grade determination:

Grading will be based on exams, lab assignments, projects, as well as attendance. The tentative distribution is: exams and labs (600), group project (100), individual project (200), and attendance (100). There are a total of **1000** points possible for this course.

Exams will be based on lecture, readings, and practical skills developed by way of assignments.

The distribution below shows the points needed at the end of the semester to receive the grade indicated.

A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = less than 600

Late Work

If an assignment is not submitted on time, it could be turned in before or at the beginning of the next class; however, **half of the points of the exercise will be deducted**. After one class period beyond the due date, I will not accept your work,

and you will **receive a zero**. Since I will leave enough time for you to work on each homework assignment, **no excuse will be allowed** for late submission.

Missed Exams:

Generally there is no make-up exam. However if you have a documented excuse for missing the exam and get permission from the instructor ahead of time, you could take a make-up exam during the last week of the semester; i.e., during the week before finals begin.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Students are encouraged to study in groups to prepare for tests. However, “group effort” is definitely not permitted when taking exams! This will result in an automatic zero on a test. Two such occurrences will result in an F in the course.

Substantially presenting someone else's work as one's own will also result in an F. Helping one another is encouraged after one's own work is finished, but don't do someone's work for them.

More things you need to know

Back up your work on a network drive and/or on a portable device (flash drive, CD-R, etc).

Please do not shut down the computers when finished working on them.

Don't cover air vents on equipment.

Report any problem with the equipment to the instructor immediately.

No food or drink is allowed.

Help to keep the room clean and problem-free.

Do not install any software on the computers in the lab.