

## Course Syllabus

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### Summary

<b>Course Title</b>	Cartography
<b>Course No.</b>	GEOG16261
<b>CRN</b>	22613
<b>Start/End Dates</b>	1/19/21 - 3/8/21
<b>Term/Module</b>	Spring 21

<b>Delivery Method</b>	<b>Number of Face-to-Face Meetings</b>
Online	0

### Course Description

This course studies the elements of cartography with emphasis on the map as a basic form of communication. It explores contemporary design concepts and various graphic techniques. Students create cartographic compositions using the latest in geographical information system and cartographic software using the facilities of Rowan University's cloud computing platform.

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### Instructor

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<b>Name</b>	Chris Pollard
<b>Email</b>	pollardc@rowan.edu
<b>Phone</b>	

<b>Virtual Office Hours</b>	Post questions and comments for the instructor to the Office Hours board (in <b>Discussions Area</b> ). The instructor will respond within approximately 48 hours. For faster or more private correspondence, use email or phone.
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## Objectives

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Cartography is the art and science of map design, including both the acquisition and curation of data and information, as well as its aesthetic presentation to clearly communicate a message to a chosen audience.

Through active participation in this course, students will gain experience and familiarity with the following concepts:

1. Organization and preparation of spatial data for cartographic compositions
2. Conventions of common software interfaces for illustration and composition
3. Mechanics of preparing GIS renderings for illustration and future publication
4. Issues of composition, visual hierarchy, color management, and integrated design
5. Communication of a visual message through the medium of a map

With the study of these themes and the completion of the course's activities and assignments, it is expected that students will realize the following objectives:

1. Develop a portfolio of five map compositions, representing a variety of themes and considerations
2. Recognize and apply common GIS data management tasks for cartographic composition
3. Import, prepare, and export maps using illustration publishing software
4. Build a visual and verbal vocabulary for the description of map objectives and characteristics

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## Prerequisites

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Students are expected to have basic facility with Geographic Information Systems software, such as ESRI ArcGIS. Introduction to Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GEOG16160) or permission of the instructor is required.

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## Materials and Texts

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[Pretty sure that I'm not going to assign a full text book, as I have not yet found one that fits the level of detail and generality for this course, but I am still evaluating these]

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## Schedule

The following schedule is tentative and may be changed with prior notification from the instructor.

Week	Start Date	Readings, Activities & Assignments
<b>1</b>	<b>1/19/21</b>	<p>Theme: Representation and Abstraction—thinking about mapping as a goal and illustration as task to accomplish this</p> <p>Tasks/Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce the course and expectations</li> <li>● Introduce the software interfaces through Rowan Cloud (ArcGIS, QGIS, Illustrator, Inkscape)</li> <li>● Basics of Illustration Software</li> </ul> <p>Introduction Discussion</p> <p>Activity 1: “As far as I remember...” sketch map of a place that you know well</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>1/26/21</b>	<p>From the GIS to the Illustration Software</p> <p>Reading: <i>How to Lie with Maps</i> Chapter 1 and 2            NYT_Subway_Map.pdf</p> <p>Assignment 1: <i>exit</i> → <i>stop</i>: reconceptualize the map of NJ highways as a subway map, in the style of transit maps such as NYC MTA or the Transport for London (Tube)</p>
<b>3</b>	<b>2/2/21</b>	<p>Theme: Mapping Fundamentals—preparing spatial data for cartographic compositions and the tools needed to refine them</p> <p>Tasks/Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● discussion of fonts/typography and labeling</li> <li>● working with a limited color palette</li> <li>● organizing figure/ground balance and information hierarchy</li> <li>● transitioning information from GIS to illustration software</li> </ul> <p>Reading: <i>How to Lie with Maps</i> Chapter 1 and 2</p> <p>DQ 1: Subway Map Recap</p> <p>Activity 2: “How the pros do it” media map critique</p> <p>Assignment 2: <i>locate your audience</i>: organize data and contextual information for a contextual location map as you might include in a newspaper, magazine, or book, working with a limited palette</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>2/9/21</b>	<p>Theme: Characterizing through Color--representing visual hierarchy aesthetically</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● selecting and organizing color palettes</li> <li>● color relationships, balance, and readability</li> <li>● composing, editing, exporting, and stylizing maps across software</li> </ul> <p>Reading: to be announced</p> <p>DQ2: Location Map Recap</p>

		<p>DQ3: Colors of Others</p> <p>Activity 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify two maps online that uses at least 10 distinct colors; respond to questions on Blackboard and comment on at least two others' maps.</li> <li>"All the pretty colors"—crafting themes using prepared data, to explore the different impacts on visual hierarchy</li> </ul> <p>Assignment 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>(where can you) thrive where you're planted</i>: using data regarding plant hardiness zones across United States and contextual information, manage the colors and additional map information to represent this complicated qualitative map clearly and aesthetically.</li> </ul>
5	2/16/21	<p>Theme: Planning at the Local Scale--accurate representations of local features with imagined possibilities</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gathering and preparing mappable information</li> <li>organizing available data for base map</li> <li>rendering illustration of current features</li> <li>stylistic design elements</li> </ul> <p>Reading: to be announced</p> <p>DQ4: Season Map Recap</p> <p>Activity 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review plans for new municipal development from a design studio. Discuss concrete vs abstracted characteristics on board and comment on others' map plans</li> </ul>
6	2/23/21	<p>Assignment 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>the neighborhood of tomorrow</i>: local map rendering of neighborhood infrastructure and use possibilities, including concrete features and imagined uses</li> </ul>
7	3/2/21	<p>Theme: Micro to Macro--integrating cartographic themes across scales</p> <p>Tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>generalize information to scale-appropriate renderings</li> <li>consider audience and context needed for each map</li> <li>organization of multiple maps into a unified framework</li> <li>balancing style with map elements in overall visual composition</li> </ul> <p>Reading: to be announced</p> <p>DQ5: Location context map recap</p> <p>Activity 5</p> <p>Assignment 5</p>

## Assignment Outline

**Video tutorial instructions:** Students are expected to attentively watch and follow along with video tutorials each week, which introduce a series of concepts and tasks for the upcoming activities and assignments

**Weekly Activities and Responses:** Each week, there will be a exploration task, in which students identify or analyze a map or series of maps, posting comments to a common message board and responding to the comments of others.

**Midway Map Assignment Review:** At the midway point of each week (Friday), students will post their works-in-progress, along with a perspective on the assignment process and next steps. Students and faculty can then review these to offer comments, feedback, tips, and support through the deadline.

**Map Composition Assignments:** Each week will involve a major map composition task, with a set of criteria and constraints, which build upon the themes introduced in the video tutorials and activities.

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## Grading

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### Final Grade Breakdown

Grading Criteria/Assignment	Points/Percentage
Active participation in weekly responses (15 pts each - 10 for submission, 5 for replies)	25%
Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2	15%
Assignment 3	15%
Assignment 4	15%
Assignment 5	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading Scale

<b>A</b>	93 and Up	<b>C</b>	74 – 76
<b>A-</b>	90 – 92	<b>C-</b>	70 – 73
<b>B+</b>	87 – 89	<b>D+</b>	67 – 69

<b>B</b>	84 – 86	<b>D</b>	64 – 66
<b>B-</b>	80 – 83	<b>D-</b>	60 – 63
<b>C+</b>	77 - 79	<b>F</b>	59 and Below

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## Rowan Online Standard Policies (addendum)

The current version of Rowan Online Standard Policies, which are an addendum to this syllabus, are found in the [Rowan Online Standard Policies document](#).

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