

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**  
**Department of Applied Technology**  
**Applied Geography, Cartography & G.I.S.**  
**and Geographic Education**



**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**GEOG 240, INTRO. TO CARTOGRAPHY**

**Professor:**

**Office hours:**

**Work phone:**

**E-Mail:**

**Office:**

**Main Office:** *TC 205*

**Texts:** Tyner, Judith. *Principles of Map Design*, Guilford Press: 2010

Rand McNally, *Goode's World Atlas, 23<sup>rd</sup> ed.*, Hudson Pub:  
2018 (*optional*)

**INTRODUCTION:** Cartography, the creation of maps, has been employed by people since antiquity. To understand what cartography is, we must understand the definition and function of a map. A map is the representation, symbolization, and generalization of reality. As geographers, we are involved with space and the analysis of the distribution of phenomena in space. Maps are the tools employed to visually represent the distribution of data, i.e. spatial information. The type of data that can be illustrated varies with the area to be mapped and the scale of the map. Moreover, the type of data influences the type of map that can be created. Cartography, however, involves more than just learning how to portray data on a map. In the broadest sense, cartography is defined as the art and science of map-making. Included within this definition is the construction and production of maps, map design, and ultimately, utilizing the map. This course will emphasize the fundamentals and elements of cartography that are involved in all aspects of map-making.

Communication is important. You are encouraged to ask questions any time. I have an open-door policy. If I am not available to meet with you right away, I will schedule an appointment with you to meet as soon as possible. Otherwise, office hours are times set aside specially to assist you. I welcome all of you! I want this semester and your cartography course to be a positive experience. Therefore, I strive to make it productive, educational, challenging, and fun!

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Identify the fundamental elements of cartography, specifically scale, layout and design, text, symbology, color and data manipulation techniques, such that the construction and use of a variety of maps will be understood.
- Introduce students to cartographic history and terminology.
- Identify various map types and projections as well as determine when it is best to use a specific kind of map.
- Apply cartographic and geographic skills to various mapping projects.
- Research, organize, and present in cartographic format about a specific geographic theme.
- Analyze geographic data including demographics.
- Learn about the vast array of resources throughout the D.C. metro area and beyond.

This intro course will include a hands-on approach integrated with computer graphics. Therefore, you will be applying yourself much differently than is expected in the advanced computer cartography courses. Although software is allowed for most projects, some are required to be done by hand, i.e. pen and/or pencil. As with most cartographic projects, research is crucial and mandatory. This becomes an integral part of the requirements for successfully executing the final project. The objectives will be accomplished through lectures, lab projects, movies, cartographic tours, and reading assignments. Students will ultimately gain an appreciation for maps and map-making. Interpretation skills will be enhanced. Finally, GEOG240 will condition students for the advanced level of mapping courses.

**Note:** GEOG240 serves as the **prerequisite** to all other mapping courses offered in the program.

**COURSE GRADE** will be determined as follows: **\*420 points total**

**Exams = 140 pts. @ 70 pts. each**  
**Lab assignments = 125 pts.**  
**Participation = 25 pts.**  
**Field trip = 30 pts.**  
**Final project = 100 pts.**

**\*Final grade** will be determined on the following scale:

90-100% = A    80-89% = B    70-79% = C    60-69% = D    59% and below = F

**EX:** If you have a total of 370 points at the end of the semester, you will have an 88% which is a 'B' for the course. **IF** a curve is administered, it will be no more than one or two percentage points. However, this will be determined on the class final average.

✦ You will have two **exams**. A verbal outline will be given prior to the exam. **Do not forget exam dates. Make-up exams are given at the regularly scheduled final exam time.** Exams are **not** returned to students. However, you are always welcome to review and ask questions with the professor. Exams include lectures, texts, movies, lab assignments, field trip, and special handouts.

✦ There will be **six cartographic assignments** during the first half of the semester. Additional time outside the classroom is needed. Students are welcome to use the cartography lab (TC 217) outside of class time provided no other class is in session. If the doors are locked, identify yourself to one of the GE faculty members, Instructional Assistant in TC 218B, student aids or Administrative Aid (Berhan Wubneh) in the main office (TC 205) and ask them to unlock the door. You will need to present an MC ID. Your name will appear on a list. Late assignments are not encouraged and in some cases not accepted without penalty. No late assignment will be accepted during the last regularly scheduled class week.

✦ **Participation** is worth 25 points. This can mean the difference between an entire letter grade. For each absence over one, four points are automatically deducted for each additional absence. Therefore, attendance can help your grade significantly. Also, attitude, discussion, and quality of work is considered a significant part of participation. Attendance will be taken each class period. If you arrive after attendance has been taken (tardy), please inform me of your attendance at break or end of class that same evening. If you are unable to attend a class, an advance notice (in person, via phone, or e-mail) is appreciated if possible.

✦ There will be one **required field trip/tour** arranged during the semester which should prove to be informative, educational, and beneficial for students (also fun). One evening class is exchanged for the field trip date which will be on a Friday (TBA). The assignment will be given to you in writing. You will need to arrange your schedule appropriately. Students will have to provide their own transportation. An advance notice will be given as well as written instructions. If you are unable to attend, you can still receive the 30 pts. by writing a research paper over the cartographic topic of my choice.

✦ A **final project** will be assigned in lieu of a final exam. This project will require out-of-class time. However, time will be permitted to work on these in class (lab). Time tables will be required and students will meet individually with the professor periodically (by appointment) to show their progress. Procrastination is not encouraged.

**SUPPLIES suggested:** Technical pens (you may find it necessary to have color pens as well); colored pencils, ruler, and calculator. You will discover that other items are desirable (and in some cases necessary) that are not reflected on this list and some of the above may not be necessary. Depending on the assignment you are welcome to use any materials that are personally accessible to you including computer graphics, etc., unless otherwise indicated.

**Note:** Some assignments will be accomplished (required) freehand.

**ASSESSMENT LEVEL:** ENGL101/101A, MATH093/096, READ120 Students are expected to and held responsible for meeting these requirements .

### REMINDERS

📁 **DISABILITIES:** Any student needing accommodations due to a disability must contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) office as soon as possible (R-CB122; G-SA172; or TP/SS-ST233). An authorized letter is required in order for me to honor any accommodation.

📁 **Electronics** of any kind including **laptops, tape recorders, and cell phones** must be turned off completely before class and put away (out of sight). Use of any of the above in class may result in a loss of all participation points (25).

📁 If you are a **veteran** (as well as active or reserve status) and you are interested in information regarding opportunities, programs and/or services, please visit the Combat2College website at [www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college).

📁 **Seating** will be arranged and assigned for the semester.

📁 **Snacks/drinks** (not five course meals) are allowed as long as you clean up and throw trash away.

📁 **E-mail:** Occasionally I will find it necessary to correspond with you personally or as a group. This correspondence will be through the college assigned e-mail address. Please make certain you know your MC address and check it regularly.

📁 **Letters of Reference policy:** I do not write reference letters for first year students. Student must complete a GEOG course with an **A**, have an overall GPA **>3.5**, make the request no less than a **month** before the deadline, and may include other specifications. I will honor only one letter for non-GE majors.

📁 **NOTE: MC HAS HAD A *NO SMOKING* POLICY SINCE AUGUST 2008.** ☹

**Important Student Information Link:** <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/> is a website with information and resources established to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside the classroom. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Those intending to graduate must complete and submit the graduation form online by the deadlines listed below.

If you need help submitting these forms or if you encounter any problems, please make an appointment with your advisor or counselor.

### **Deadlines for Graduation!**

Fall: **October 1**  
Spring: **February 15**  
Summer: **June 1**

