

Geography 258
Understanding Our World Through Maps
Syllabus: Winter Quarter 2009

Introduction:

Welcome to Geography 258 – ‘Understanding Our World Through Maps’. This is a five-credit course that fulfills a social science requirement for the Associate in Arts and Sciences (AAS) Degree at Bellevue Community College. There are no prerequisites for this class other than a recommendation that you should have basic computer skills.

The maps we use shape the way we think about the world. This class will explore the history and influence of maps and mapmakers from the ancient world to the high-tech images of today.

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Course Objectives:

This class should enable the successful student to be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of spatial dimensions and the elements of map design
2. assess and select appropriate cartographic techniques that are employed to effectively communicate and represent spatial information
3. identify the differences between qualitative and quantitative information in the production of maps
4. appreciate the relevance of distortion imposed by map projections
5. understand the relevance of traditional map design on the development of computer assisted cartography
6. assess the role played by remote sensing and geographic information systems on current developments in cartography

7. recognize that maps are merely representations of reality and are obedient servants of their creators
8. appreciate the important role played by cartography within the arena of geographic enquiry

Format:

Each module begins with a **class notes** section that covers the major themes and teaching points of that particular module. Students should read carefully through this section and make notes that highlight the key components discussed.

The next section in the module will direct the student on to **additional reading** that may be required – this may be from your text book and/or from linked articles and/or Web Sites. Having worked your way through these parts of the module the final segment will be an assignment to complete.

Some of these **assignments** will engage you in material that will be tested in the **Module Quizzes (which are quizzes # 2 and # 4)** and/or the final and some of the modules also have exercises that you will complete that will form part of your **Mapwork Portfolio** for the class.

The volume of material covered in the seven modules varies and some will take longer to work through than others. Generally you should consider each module to represent about 6-8 days of regular class time. The course Calendar will assist you to work steadily through the course and it should avoid you not being left either a little behind or find yourself too far ahead of the work-load.

In addition to this Module work there will be two quizzes that will be totally focused on the use of your atlas – the Goode's World Atlas is recommended – and **Quiz # 1 and Quiz # 3** will be based on these atlas exercises. You should spend some time looking through the atlas to familiarize yourself with the use of an atlas and the information that is available and answer all of the **Revision Exercise Questions**. Both of these **Atlas Quizzes** will be 'open book' and essentially will test your ability to use the atlas. All of the questions asked will be taken from the current edition of the Goode's World Atlas (see required texts below). You should complete the Revision Exercise Questions before you attempt each quiz – the questions are found by selecting the Atlas Quiz link on the Home Page. There will be 30 questions on each quiz – all directly taken from the Revision Exercise Questions.

The Four Quizzes:

Quiz # 1: (Atlas Quiz)

This is the first of two atlas quizzes. There will be 30 multiple choice questions asked – and you should use your atlas before taking the quiz to answer these questions. **Please note that there will be a limited time of only 60 minutes. No questions will be asked from the module work – they will all be from the Atlas Revision Exercise Questions.**

Quiz # 2: (Module Quiz)

This will test you on the material covered in the first part of the course and will be taken close to the mid-way point of the quarter – and **after Module 4** – this will be an 'open book' exam. The questions will all be multiple-choice and will all be based on work covered from Module 1 thru Module 4. It will be a time sensitive quiz and **you will have a limited amount of time of 60 minutes to answer the questions**. You will also only have **one opportunity** to take this quiz – so be sure that you are very **comfortable and familiar with the material before you take the quiz**.

Quiz # 3: (Atlas Quiz)

This is the last of the two atlas quizzes. There will again be 30 multiple choice questions asked – and you should use your atlas before taking the quiz to answer these questions. **Please note that there will be a limited time of only 60 minutes. No questions will be asked from the module work – they will all be from the Atlas Revision Exercise Questions.**

Quiz # 4: (Module Quiz)

This is the second of the module quizzes and will test your knowledge of material covered in Modules 5 and 6 and 7 and will also be taken online toward the end of the course – it is an **'open-book'** multiple-choice exam. Again you will have a **limited amount of time of 60 minutes** to complete the quiz and only **one opportunity** to take the quiz - so be sure you have prepared for it well.

Mapwork Portfolio:

A number of the Modules require you to complete coursework that you will be asked to submit near to the end of the course This is called the **'Mapwork Portfolio'** and will represent a significant part of the course work-load and is worth 180 marks of the total mark allocation for the course. **You should take every effort to produce work of the highest quality – not only in terms of the content, but, in terms of the presentation.** I would suggest that you obtain a good black ink/ink-gel pen to use on your mapwork – as well as a selection of pencils/ ruler / eraser - to help you to produce your own high quality maps. You should present all of your completed mapwork in a standard size light weight file (light weight because you will be mailing this to college if you do not live locally and cannot hand deliver it) with your name clearly printed on the outside of the file.

Return of this work is in accordance with the Guidelines for the Social Science Division and will be returned only if you supply a stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage) or by the instructor designating a time and place in college where you may retrieve it. Unclaimed papers will be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days.

Final Examination:

This will be a 90 minute online 'open book' final examination. You will be required to take the final examination on a specific day in the last week of the course. The Final Exam is worth 120 marks of the total. Please note that all of the questions will be based on material covered in the seven modules (no questions from the atlas work).

Mark Allocation:

Total 600 mark

Quiz 1 30 marks

Quiz 2 120 marks

Quiz 3 30 marks

Quiz 4 120 marks

Mapwork Portfolio 180 marks

Final Examination 120 marks

The Grading Scale is:

A	4.0	540 +
A-	3.7	510-539
B+	3.3	480-509
B	3.0	450-479
B-	2.7	420-449
C+	2.3	390-419
C	2.0	360-389
C-	1.7	330-359
D+	1.3	300-329
D	1.0	270-299
F	269 and less	

Required Texts:

- 1) 'Map Use and Analysis': by John Campbell (4th Edition). Published by McGraw-Hill Higher Education ISBN: 0-07-303748-6.**
- 2) 'Goode's World Atlas' (21st Edition). Published by Rand McNally. This is the recommended atlas, but, all good quality atlases will have the relevant information available to answer the questions in the course.**
- 3) Please also remember that you will need to purchase some mapping materials – such as a paper/plastic storage ring file/ pen/ pencils/ paper/ ruler/ and eraser to complete and you will need appropriate postage to allow you to mail your Mapwork Portfolio to college – of course if you live locally then you can hand deliver the work to the Social Science Division Office.**

Participation:

You are responsible for:

1. the technical aspects of your computer/email/printer etc. Please look at the BCC Distance Education website for the Vista Tutorial and for hardware requirements.
2. **reading** the appropriate material as specified.
3. taking part in **email discussions/please do not use voice email when contacting me/** fellow students can be a helpful resource for those 'difficult questions'.
4. keeping comprehensive personal notes/journals/diagrams/maps relevant to material studied.
5. **timely completion** of material and the final examination/please note that there are no **make-up tests** available - you should not leave tests to the last minute in case you have a technical problem - this is a very important consideration/you should have a back-up plan should your system 'crash' at the wrong time.
6. **please review the Bellevue Community College academic calendar posted at <http://distance-ed.bcc.ctc.edu>** for all details regarding registration and withdrawal policy and procedures and distribution of final grades/you should be familiar with the **Social Science Division policy for cheating and plagiarism/if you require special student services contact Disability Resource Center (DRC)** at 425-564-2498 or call in on campus.
7. **Please remember there are no make-up opportunities for the quizzes or the**

final examination; it is important to make a commitment to this online class in just the same way as you would a classroom based class.

Good luck...I sincerely hope that you enjoy the class!

Below are the **'General Guidelines for the Social Science Division'**, of which Geography is a program: please note there have to be slight modifications for online sections. For instance, unacceptable behavior would apply to posting rude or personal attacks in discussion messages or using information from the personal biographies posted to harass fellow students. The instructor reserves the right to remove messages posted, downgrade the assessment of the exercise, and/or refer the student(s) to the appropriate authorities.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Revised Winter 2009

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*