



GEOG 2000 Cartography – Fall 2026

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences

WHEN: MON, WED, FRI: 4:35PM—5:25PM

WHERE: LSC COMMON AREA, ROOM C244

Dalhousie University acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR(S)/STUDENT RESOURCES

Name	Email	Office Hours
Professor: Jennifer M. Grek Martin	jgrekmartin@dal.ca	LSC Room 3079 or by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the art and science of mapmaking, from both theoretical and practical perspectives. On the theoretical side, students will explore cartographic theories from historical and contemporary lenses to critically think about map design and use. More practically, students will learn the basic skills of cartographic design and become familiar with software applications used to make contemporary maps, culminating in the making and presenting of their own computer-generated map at the end of the term.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

ERTH/GEOG1030 or ERTH1080

COURSE EXCLUSIONS

None

COURSE DELIVERY

This course is a blend of lecture and hands-on application, therefore in-person attendance is highly recommended.

Mondays and Wednesdays: Lecture and discussion, LSC Common Area, room C244

Fridays: Practical application, Either LSC C244 or LSC Rm B3111 (see course outline or Brightspace)

If you miss a lecture: Lectures will not be recorded, but lecture slides will be provided via Brightspace!

If you miss a practicum: You can make up the practicum assignment: it will be due the following week!

I am committed to teaching—in class, by email, in marking assignments and exams—and you can expect me to be fair and to want you to learn. I encourage questions, discussion, and a safe and inclusive learning environment. If you are having trouble, let me know!

For your part, I hope the respect will be mutual and that the next twelve weeks will be an enjoyable learning experience!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understanding of key theoretical perspectives shaping the field of cartography,
- Understanding the ways in which maps shape, and are shaped by, social processes and how maps inform how we think spatially about phenomena,
- Learn practical cartographic techniques and how to apply them via computer software applications, including how to read and evaluate cartographic images,
- Develop critical thinking and communication skills for academic and work settings.

ASSESSMENT

Assignment	Date	total%
in-class practica (8 @ 5% each)	most Fridays	40%
Quiz 01 (in class, paper, 50 minutes)	19 October	20%
Final Project – Presentation	2/4 December	10%
Final Project – Map & Summary	11 December	30%

There is no Final Exam for this course. (You're welcome.)

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the

[Dalhousie Grade Scale](#)

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (0-49)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

COURSE POLICIES ON MISSED OR LATE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments (includes practica, Final Project) will incur a mark deduction penalty of 10% per day. All assignments, including the final project, will **not be accepted later than three days after the initial deadline, unless I have approved an alternate deadline.**

MISSED QUIZ: Make-up quizzes will not be provided for any reason. If I approve your reason for missing a Quiz, I will either recalculate your Final Grade out of the missed points (e.g., I missed quiz = final grade/80 points), OR I will reweight your remaining assessments (your choice).

COURSE POLICIES RELATED TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Practica: collaboration during practica is encouraged but everyone submits their own work for assessment.

Final Project, Presentation, and Quizzes: Individual work only.

THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN GEOG2000

I am interested in you. generative AI has many uses, but it cannot replace **you**.

So, while I accept that you could use generative AI to study for my tests, in this course I strictly prohibit the use of generative AI tools (including ChatGPT, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, and other AI writing, image or map generating, and coding apps) for creating assignments and submitting the results as your own original work. Suspected use of generative AI in this manner will be considered a violation of the university's Academic Integrity policy.

I don't do this to make 'busy work'. I do this because I care about what you learn and how you learn it.

I want you to know the facts. Generative AI tells you what you want to hear, whether it is true or not.

I want you to think for yourself. Generative AI takes this away from you. It replaces your authenticity with claims of efficiency.

I want you to be able to express yourself. Generative AI makes you sound mediocre, indistinct, like everyone else. In an era where we celebrate diversity, do you really want to sound like an algorithm?

I want you to do good things for the planet. The environmental costs of Generative AI are immense and more varied than you might think. <https://news.mit.edu/2025/explained-generative-ai-environmental-impact-0117>

My use of generative AI: all course materials, including lectures, lecture slides, assignment guidelines, and tests, **have been created by me or another human without the use of generative AI.**

COURSE MATERIALS

Some readings will be provided via pdf on Brightspace; the 'textbooks' can be accessed through the links below to OER Commons. I will refer to readings for this resource as MST + Chapter number.

Manson, S. M. (ed) (2017). *Mapping, Society, and Technology*. Minneapolis, Minnesota. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing. URL: <https://oercommons.org/courses/mapping-society-and-technology>

COURSE ACCESSIBILITY

I support students with accommodations and believe everyone has the right to learn! I will post my slides by the start of each lecture, which allows you to download the pdf and annotate it/take notes on each slide. If this does not satisfy your accommodation ('Access to Materials'), please see me after class or email me to discuss further options.

COURSE CONTENT/OUTLINE

Readings and course topics subject to changes: check Brightspace

9 Sept	Lecture01: Introduction to Cartography readings: Godlewska & Grek Martin (2011); MST Ch. 1.1	WEEK01
11 Sept	Lecture02: Maps as Science (and Art) readings: Turnbull exhibit 2 (1989), Belyea (1996), MST Ch. 1.1, 2.1-2.3, 9	
14 Sept	Lecture03: History of Cartography — Wayfinding & Cosmography readings: Woodward (1985), Turnbull, exhibits 3, 4, 5 (1989), MST Ch. 1.2	WEEK02
16 Sept	Lecture04: Reading and Critiquing Maps readings: Harley (2001a), MST Ch. 2.3, 7	
18 Sept	Practicum01: Reading Maps (LSC C244)	5%
21 Sept	Lecture05: Maps in Film & Literature (& Gaming) readings: Hassan (2005), Wood (2004), Mills (2010) <i>*22 September = last day to add Fall courses, drop Fall courses with full refund</i>	WEEK03
23 Sept	Lecture06: Critical Cartography and Countermapping readings; Crampton & Krygier (2015)	
25 Sept	Practicum02: Sketch maps (LSC C244)	5%
28 Sept	Lecture07: Maps & Power Guest lecture — Jason Grek Martin (professor, SMU) readings: Harley (2001b)	WEEK04
30 Sept	<i>University Closed: Truth and Reconciliation Day Observed</i>	
2 Oct	Practicum03: Final Project Ideas (LSC B3111)	5%
5 Oct	Lecture08: Meet Jennifer Strang of the GIS Centre; Data & data sources, Pt I readings: Monmonier pp.123-129 (1991), MST Ch 2	WEEK05
7 Oct	Lecture09: Data & data sources, Pt. II readings: Monmonier pp.123-129 (1991), MST Ch 2 <i>*7 October: Last day to drop Fall courses without 'W'</i>	
9 Oct	Practicum04: Bringing Data into a GIS (LSC B3111)	Not graded, but you must complete P04 before P05!

12 Oct	University Closed: Thanksgiving Day Observed	WEEK06
14 Oct	Lecture10: Projections readings: Dickinson (1969), "Map Projections", MST Ch 3	
16 Oct	Practicum05: Projections (LSC B3111)	5%
19 Oct	Quiz01 (Material covered: 9 September – 16 October)	WEEK07
21 Oct	Lecture11: Elements of a map: Figure/ground & Placement readings: MST Ch 4	
23 Oct	Practicum06: Creating Layouts (LSC B3111)	Not graded, but you must complete P06 before P07!
26 Oct	Lecture12: Colour & pattern I readings: Brewer website, <i>Elements of Cartography</i> Ch 21 (1996), MST Ch 4	WEEK08
28 Oct	Lecture13: Iconology & symbology Readings: G.N.G. Clarke (1988), MST Ch 4	
30 Oct	Practicum07: Working with Colour and Symbol I (LSC B3111)	5%
2 Nov	Lecture14: Generalization & Scale readings: MST Ch 3, 5	WEEK09
4 Nov	Lecture15: Typography & Lettering readings: Monmonier (1993); Krygier "Push-Pin Maps" (2010) *5 November: Last day to drop Fall courses with 'W'	
6 Nov	Practicum08: Working with Type and Labels (LSC B3111)	5%
9-13 Nov	Fall Study Break! No classes...	
16 Nov	Lecture16: Colour and pattern II readings: TBA	WEEK10
18 Nov	Lecture17: Maps as Art (and Science) readings: TBA	
20 Nov	Practicum09: Raster Maps (LSC B3111)	5%

23 Nov	Lecture 18: Map Types I: Isolinear and dot maps readings: Koch (2004), McLeod (2000), MST Ch 5	WEEK 11
25 Nov	Lecture 19: Map Types II: Choropleth & other thematic maps readings: Monmonier pp. 129-146 (1991), MST Ch 5	
27 Nov	Practicum 10: Working with Colour and Symbol I (LSC B3111)	
30 Nov	Lecture 20: Crafting an Argument, Presenting a Draft Map Readings: TBA	WEEK 12
2 Dec	Lecture 20: Final project presentations: 3-minute Lightning Talks	
4 Dec	Lecture 21: Final project presentations: 3-minute Lightning Talks	
7 Dec	Open Lab Day (LSC B3111)	WEEK 13 (lieu)
9 Dec	<i>No class: free day to work on Final project maps</i>	Final Project Due 11 Dec!

Syllabus Appendix

The new Syllabus Appendix guides students toward supports, university policies, and guidelines. It replaces the list of statements and policies of the syllabi you might have seen in previous years. The resources and policies are now hosted on a website, found at the link below, and will remain up-to-date as policies, statements, resources, and guidelines change or are amended.

[Syllabus Appendix: Student Supports & University Statements, Policies, and Guidelines](#)