

Principles of Cartography <<http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/355/index.html>>

Class meets: Tuesday/Friday 10:20-11:40 in Lucy Stone Hall, B266

Instructor: Mike Siegel, Staff Cartographer, Rutgers Geography Department

Textbook: There is no textbook required for this class.

Computer Account: You must have a Geography Department computer account to take this course.

A Geography Department computer account costs \$25 per semester.

This course will help you:

- \* understand the role of human perception in map use and map design.
- \* explore effective map symbolization and graphic communication.
- \* become familiar with the use of drawing software to produce thematic maps.

Maps are an integral part of Geography and many other fields, because they are powerful tools for portraying and understanding geographic information.

As important as a familiarity with computer technology is these days, this class will emphasize design principles that transcend technology. Technology is always changing, forcing us to keep re-training in order to take advantage of it.

However, the principles that lead to good map design remain the same.

The three mapping projects are meant to let you practice what you learn about map design and effective graphic communication. We will explore the role of human perception in map use because, regardless of the technology used to make a map, the map must be understood by people. Thematic map making can not be fully automated, because there are many variables and issues in the cartographic process that require human judgment to achieve a good design.

There are no prerequisites for this class. The only requirements are your interest in learning to create thematic maps, and your willingness to spend time learning how to use the drawing software. Learning to use software is not hard, but it is time consuming and can be frustrating.

Doing all your map assignments in the Geography lab may not be practical for everyone. Adobe Illustrator is available in all Rutgers University Computer (RUCS) labs. There is at least one RUCS lab on every campus, and once the semester gets going, the larger ones are open 24 hours a day. Just don't expect the people who work in the public labs to be able to help you much with Illustrator or anything else related to creating your maps.

The Rutgers public computer labs have CS3 on their PCs and CS on their Macs.

You should be aware that switching between versions of Illustrator can cause problems.

It is important to have multiple copies of your Illustrator file and to regularly make printouts of your project to document your progress. This will help you recover from a situation where you can not access a file you've been working on.

If you do not use your EDEN email address, give your instructor an email address that you do check regularly.

In addition to the map projects, your grade will be determined by two exams, attendance, and participation. Your grade will be lowered for unexcused absences.

Academic Integrity <[link](#)>: Your responsibility as a student in this class.