DEPARTMENT OF

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 325 – Maps and Society



Contact Time	2 x 1.5 hours lectures
Format	Lectures
Class Assessment	Tests (2): 30%
	Attendance in Lectures: 10%
	Papers (2): 60%

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course applies modern principles of Critical Cartography to the development of maps from prehistory to the present. Students will come to understand not only the basic principles of map-making throughout history, the evolution of the map in response to the needs of navigation and property ownership, and the way in which maps generally reflect the world-view of the societies that produced them, but also how maps themselves can play a role in shaping our perceptions of social, political, military, and economic realities. Finally, we will consider whether we are truly in a "Post-Map Era" with the advent of services like Google Earth, or whether the inherited construct of the map continues to pervade our view of the world, whether we are aware of it or not.

COURSE TOPICS

- The Formal Features of Maps and Classical Cartography
- Greco-Roman and Late Antique Cartography
- Medieval Maps
- The Maps of the Middle Ages in East and West
- Renaissance Map-Making and Mercator
- Enlightenment and Indigenous Cartographies
- Cartography in the 20th Century and the Cold War
- The Digital Earth and the Post-Map Era

COURSE READINGS

Textbook:

Brotton, J. (2013). A History of the World in 12 Maps. Penguin. (\$37.99)

Other readings will be provided by the instructor free of charge as links to PDFs.