

# GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

## GPHY 325 – Maps and Society



<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>George Bevan</b>	<b>Email:</b> bevan@queensu.ca
<b>Office</b>	Mac-Corry D130 (basement)	
<b>Contact Time</b>	Monday 8:30am-10:00am, Thursday 10:00am-11:30am (Office Hours: TBA)	
<b>Format</b>	2 x 1.5 hour lectures per week	
<b>Class Assessment</b>	Short paper (7-10 pages) 20%, Two multiple-choice tests (midterm and final week): 40%; Final Research Paper (10-15 pages) 40%.	

### 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 worldview 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 or not we are aware of it.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. To parse critically maps from antiquity to the modern period
2. Identify the formal features of maps, as well as the aesthetic choices of the map-maker
3. Situate maps using secondary literature within the social, economic and military context of their time of production
4. Write critically in essay form about maps

### COURSE TOPICS

Principles of Cartography, Map Aesthetics, Components of the Map (Projection, Scale, Generalization), The Earliest Maps, Maps in Classical Antiquity (Greece, Rome and China), Ptolemy, The Medieval Map, Maps in the Age of Discovery, Mercator, Maps in the Enlightenment, Cassini, Indigenous Maps, Thematic Maps, The Scientific Map of the Nineteenth Century, Maps and Political Propaganda in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Cartography and the Cold War, The Gall-Peters Projections, The GIS Debates, The Era of Google Maps

### COURSE READINGS

- Brotton, J. (2013). *A History of the World in 12 Maps*. Penguin. (available in the Queen’s bookstore)  
 Monmonier, M. (2018). *How to lie with maps*. University of Chicago Press. (available in the Queen’s bookstore)