



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

GEOG 5200

Cartography and Map Design (29873) Autumn 2026

Syllabus - Instructor Information

Tammy Parece

Professional Qualifications

- BS in Interdisciplinary Studies (Virginia Commonwealth University)
- Graduate Certificate in GIS (Virginia Commonwealth University)
- MS in Geography (Virginia Tech)
- PhD in Geospatial and Environmental Analysis (Virginia Tech).
- She has been teaching since 2004 (at Universities since 2011).

Srijana Shrestha

Professional Qualifications

BS in Agricultural Engineering (Tribhuvan University, Nepal)

MS in Climate Change and Development (Tribhuvan University, Nepal)

PhD Candidate in Department of Geography (The Ohio State University)

Syllabus - Required or Recommended Readings

Longley, P.A. & J.A. Cheshire. 2017. Geographical Information Systems. 1st Edition. Routledge. (A link to the reading is available under each week's Reading Module).

Krygier, J. & D. Wood. 2025. Making Maps: A Visual Guide to Map Design for GIS. (A link to the reading is available under each week's Reading Module).

Washington University. Digital Cartography. (A link to the reading is available under each week's Reading Module).

Esri Accessibility essentials for GIS and Mapping (A link to the reading is available under each week's Reading Module).

Handling and Mapping Geography Information. 2026. (A link to the reading is available under each week's Reading Module).

The Routledge Handbook of Mapping and Cartography. 2017. (A link to the reading is available under each week's Reading Module).

Syllabus - Course Schedule

Week 1:

- Introduction to Course, Cartography & GIS

Week 2:

- Datums, Coordinate Systems & Projections

Week 3:

- Mapping Concepts, Types of Maps, Scale, Qualitative vs Quantitative Data

Week 4:

- The Language of Maps & Map Elements

Week 5:

- Types of Data, continued from Week 3.
- Locating Secondary Data

Week 6:

- Exam 1

Week 7:

- Ethics in Mapping
- Statistics in Mapping

Week 8:

- Cartographic Design
- Text & Typography

Week 9:

- Color
- Thematic Maps - Choropleth

Week 10:

- Thematic Maps - Cartograms, Dot Density, Flow & Proportional Symbols

Week 11:

- 3D, Animated & Web Cartography
- Scholarly Research

Week 12:

- Exam 2

Week 13:

- Practical Applications

Weeks 14 - 16:

- Final Project

Course Details - Instructor Contact Details

email: parece.1@osu.edu

Office Location: Derby Hall Room 1189 (westside of the building, across the hall from the elevator)

email: shrestha.137@osu.edu

Office Location: Derby Hall 1131

If you are ill or have symptoms, please do not visit us in our offices, please email us and we can set up a zoom link for your participation during our office hours. To request an appointment outside of the above times, please send both the instructor and the TA an email with your availability up to a week ahead.

Course Details - Office Hours

Dr. Parece Office Hours:

In Person, no appointment needed:

Tuesday, 11 - Noon. Wednesday, 2 - 3 p.m. Friday, 9 - 10 a.m.

I am available for meetings in person or via zoom, during this time or, upon request and my availability, outside of those hours.

TA Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday (In Person) 11:00 am- 12:00 pm

Wednesday (In zoom) 11:00 am- 12:00 pm

Zoom Link: <https://osu.zoom.us/j/94301392924?pwd=BxOaZmFGmaaiNYdL7p77COsH9HUqE2.1>

Please email and include GEOG 5200 - Appointment request. Include several options for your availability. We will arrange to meet at our earliest convenience (including through zoom).

Excuses, emergencies (including, but not limited to personal/family health, military service, jury duty, employment, homelessness) that interfere with your ability to complete coursework/assignments: please email us as soon as you can.

Discussion boards: You can generally expect a reply to Q&A posts within 48 hours on business days. Although you might receive replies outside of those hours, please do not expect this. The determination of urgency is ultimately at the discretion of the instructor. If you wait until the day an assignment is due to post a question, a reply by the due date is not guaranteed.

Course Details - Class Meeting Details

Class Meeting Details: TBA - Online -

Recitation/Lab Tuesdays or Thursdays, Derby Hall 0140, 9:35 - 10: 55 a.m.

Course Details - Course Description

A study of the cartographic techniques of map compilation and design including generalization, symbolization, reproduction, and GIS-based mapping with an emphasis on thematic mapping. Prereq: Not open to students with credit for 5200S.

Prerequisite(s) / Corequisites: Prereq: Not open to students with credit for 5200S.

Course Details - Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Explain the relevance of cartography in the present day.
- Tailor a cartographic representation according to purpose, audience, and medium.
- Differentiate between types of maps, especially thematic map forms.
- Prepare geospatial data and corresponding text and visuals for cartographic representation.
- Demonstrate familiarity with coordinate systems and projections, making appropriate choices based on scale, location, and extent.
- Communicate geospatial information using evidence-based cartographic principles.
- Critically examine cartographic presentations for strengths and weaknesses, providing specific suggestions for improvement.

Course Details - Course Supplies

Access to the following Software:

- ArcGIS Pro
- Excel
- Word Processing
- QGIS
- ArcGIS Online

All listed software is available to all students at The Ohio State University without an additional charge.

Hardware - computers in Derby Hall 0140 are available and has all the software.

Course Details - Detailed Course Schedule

Week 1:

- Introduction to Course, Cartography & GIS

Week 2:

- Datums, Coordinate Systems & Projections

Week 3:

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Week 4:

- The Language of Maps & Map Elements

Week 5:

- Types of Data, continued from Week 3.
- Locating Secondary Data

Week 6:

- Exam 1

Week 7:

- Ethics in Mapping
- Statistics in Mapping

Week 8:

- Cartographic Design
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- Thematic Maps - Cartograms, Dot Density, Flow & Proportional Symbols

Week 11:

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Week 12:

- Exam 2

Week 13:

- Practical Applications

Weeks 14 - 16:

- Final Project

Course Details - Canvas Assignment Schedule

Date	Name	Assignment Type	Points
	General Q&A	Discussion	0
	Lab Q&A	Discussion	0

Date	Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<u>Questions on Software Installation</u>	Discussion	0
8/31/26	<u>Lab 1 Introduction to ArcGIS Pro</u>	Quiz	25
9/4/26	<u>Week 1 Introduction Discussions</u>	Discussion	2
9/10/26	<u>Lab 2 Coordinate Systems & Projections due 1/30</u>	Quiz	50
9/24/26	<u>Lab 3 Cartographic Creations</u>	Assignment	50
10/5/26	<u>Exam 1</u>	Quiz	50
10/6/26	<u>Lab 4 Types of Data</u>	Quiz	10
10/6/26	<u>Lab 4 Types of Data Final Map Document</u>	Assignment	40

Date	Name	Assignment Type	Points
10/12/26	Graded Discussion - Datums, Projections and Coordinate Systems	Discussion	1
10/20/26	Lab 5 Downloading Secondary Data	Assignment	50
11/3/26	Lab 7 Introduction to QGIS	Assignment	50
11/5/26	Final Project Proposal	Assignment	0
11/7/26	Thematic Maps - Graded Discussion	Discussion	1
11/14/26	Lab 8 Creating a Multivariate Map	Assignment	50
11/16/26	Exam 2	Quiz	50
11/21/26	Lab 9 Creating a Dashboard	Assignment	50

Date	Name	Assignment Type	Points
11/23/26	Graded Discussion - Practical Applications	Discussion	2
12/11/26	Final project	Assignment	100

Course Details - Grading Policy

Credit hours and work expectations

This is a 3-credit-hour course. According to Ohio State policy, an average student should expect around 3 hours per week of time spent on direct instruction (instructor content and Carmen activities, for example) in addition to 6 hours of homework (reading and assignment preparation, for example) to receive a grade of (C) average.

Do not expect to complete entire lab assignments during the scheduled lab time. Lab sessions are 80 minutes, and it takes longer than 80 minutes to complete a lab. Therefore, you will need to either 1) finish the lab using software installed on your own computer, or 2) return to the computer lab when it is not being used for other classes.

Grade Breakdown by Assignment type

Assignment Type	Portion of Final Grade
Assignment Category	Percentage of total grade
Labs	60
Final Project	15
Exams (2)	20
Discussion Participation (4 required posts)	05

Assignment Type	Portion of Final Grade
Total	100

Grades and feedback

You can expect grades and feedback to be returned within 1 week once the assignment deadline has passed, depending on the complexity of the assignment. If you have questions about your grade, you must address them to Dr. Parece within 48 hours of the posting of that grade. For quizzes that are automatically graded, answers will be posted after the due date and available for 1 week only.

Do not post comments in Carmen on an assignment after the due date and after grades have been completed. We do not get any type of notice from Carmen when you post such a comment. These comments should be sent to Dr. Parece via email.

Course Details - Grading Scale

92.5–100: A

90.0–92.49: A-

86.5–89.99: B+

82.5–86.49: B

80.0–82.49: B-

76.5–79.99: C+

72.5–76.49: C

70.0 –72.49: C-

66.5 –69.99: D+

60.0 –66.49: D

Below 59.99: E

Course Details - Other

Incompletes:

If an emergency prevents you from finishing a course, you may request an "Incomplete" from the instructor. (<https://advising.osu.edu/grades-and-grade-forgiveness>)

Course Details - Instructor Policies

Course Academic Integrity Policy

Turnitin is enabled for all written assignments. Please note that any assignments with significant scores may result in reporting a code of conduct violation to OSU's Committee on Academic Misconduct.

To maintain a culture of integrity and respect, generative AI tools cannot be used in the completion of course assignments, quizzes, discussion posts, and exams unless specifically authorized by Dr. Parece.

Use of any other course materials/assignments in this class must be previously approved by both Dr. Parece and the instructor for the other course.

Instructor feedback and response time

Discussion board Q&A

There are two additional discussion boards for course questions. One is for general questions, and the other is for questions on Lab Assignments. You can expect a reply to these Q&A posts within 48 hours during normal business hours. Although you might receive replies outside of those hours, please do not expect this. The determination of urgency is ultimately at the discretion of the instructor/TA. If you wait until the day an assignment is due to post a question, we cannot guarantee an immediate reply.

Student participation requirements

The following is a summary of student's expected participation:

- All work in this class must be your own. There are no joint assignment submissions for this class for any assignment!
- In-person attendance at labs/recitation is strongly recommended, attendance is taken.
- Logging in: Be sure you are logging in to the course in Carmen each week. During most weeks you will log in many times. If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me as soon as possible.
- Confidential Questions: Don't post questions online that may indicate answers to graded assignments and questions regarding your own grades. The former is an academic integrity concern, and the latter is a privacy concern.

Course Details - Course Policies

LATE WORK POLICY

Due to the rapid nature of this course, late submissions for any assignments are not accepted. Accommodation for religious holidays will be considered. A request must be submitted prior to any assignment due date that conflicts with such holidays. Please provide information on the holiday and its date and the number of days requested in the extension.

Additionally, in case of personal and family emergencies, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can work out a submission timeline.

Extensions are not granted after the fact, e.g., you can't ask for an extension on an assignment that was due two weeks before or wait until the end of the semester to submit assignments you missed.

To request an extension for one of these emergency conditions, you must put the request in writing to Dr. Parece and the email must contain the following information:

- Course Name and Code (GEOG 5200)
- Reason for the extension request:
- The specific assignment:
- Specific extension requested:
- Attach documentation of the reason for the extension

Any emails requesting extensions without this information will be returned with a request to provide this information. Such extensions may or may not be granted, it is decided on a case-by-case basis.

Course Details - AI Use Policy

Study Assistance Only

GenAI can fabricate information (for example, creating citations to sources that do not exist) or omit key information. You are ultimately responsible for the accuracy and integrity of your submitted work. Unless explicitly permitted below, representing AI-generated content as your own work is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Please check with your instructor if you have questions.

These levels may apply to the entire course or specific assignments, as indicated by the instructor:

- Permitted: You may use GenAI as a virtual tutor to explain concepts, quiz you on course topics, or summarize content you have personally authored (e.g., your own class notes).
- Prohibited: The materials in this course may be subject to copyright protection. Do not input or allow AI to access external or instructor-created course materials (e.g., assigned readings, slides) without explicit instructor permission. Do not use GenAI to outline, draft, translate, or write any part of an assignment this includes quizzes, maps, exams and discussion posts.

Syllabus - University Policies

Office of Undergraduate Education - Standard Syllabus Statements

- [Academic Misconduct](#)
- [Religious Accommodations](#)
- [Accommodations for Disability and Illness](#)
- [Intellectual Diversity](#)
- [Grievances and Solving Problems](#)
- [Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct](#)
- [Copyrights](#)
- [Content Warnings](#)
- [Mental Health Support](#)
- [Resources for Military-Connected Students](#)
- [Campus-wide Class Cancellations](#)