

University of Southern Maine
Department of Geography-Anthropology



GEO 207J *MAPS: Knowledge, Technology,
Society, Culture*

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Spring 2008
315 Bailey (G) TR 9.30-10.45

PROJECTS

The following explains the five projects to be completed in the course of the semester. **I reserve the right to change this information as necessary.**

All five projects account for 50% of the overall course grade. **Failure to complete any project in a timely manner will result not only in the award of zero points *but also* the reduction of the final course grade by one step (e.g., A- to B+ or D to F).**

PROJECT 1 ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION

set 15 January (week 1)

due to be completed by the time class starts on 17 January (week 1)

worth 0% of course grade

purpose *To ensure that all students are able to access BlackBoard and email, and understand their groupings.*

task Students respond to a question from instructor by posting to BlackBoard.

PROJECT 2 SEARCH OUT AN OLD MAP

set 17 January (week 1)

due to be completed by the time class starts on 24 January (week 2)

worth 5% of course grade

purpose *To begin the process of exploring the Internet for maps, and old maps in particular.*

task Students (1) seek out a high resolution image of an old map on the Internet that they think is intriguing, controversial, or (for whatever reasons) just plain fun, and (2) post

a link and brief explanation of the map to the class via BlackBoard; restrictions apply to the kinds of maps that are acceptable.

PROJECT 3 SEARCH OUT AN ONLINE MAP

set 31 January (week 3)

due to be completed by the time class starts on 7 February (week 4)

worth 5% of course grade

purpose *To continue the process of exploring the Internet for maps, now for online maps.*

task Students (1) seek out an online map that they think is intriguing, controversial, or (for whatever reason) fun, and (2) post a link and brief explanation to the class via BlackBoard; restrictions apply to the kinds of maps that are acceptable.

PROJECT 4 SEARCH OUT, ANALYZE, AND DISCUSS MAPS

set 12 February (week 5)

due to be completed by 4pm Friday 24 April (week 13); intermediate due dates must also be met (below)

worth 20% of course grade

purpose *To apply the analytical protocols established in class to the analysis of maps, whether old or new, and to discuss the results in groups.*

task The basic exercise is as follows: students will (1) analyze a map, which must make at least one relevant connection to a course reading; (2) post their analysis, with a link to the map, on the BlackBoard forum; and (3) post at least one substantial response to one of their colleagues' postings.

Each student will undertake the basic exercise twice, in groups, defined by the first letter of the last name: **A-D; E-J; L-Q; R-Z**. Each group will make their posts during the course of one week (all posts to be made by 4pm Friday). Other students are expected to review the discussions in other groups and to incorporate insights as necessary. The schedule follows:

Week 6	complete on 29 February	group 1 (A-D)
Week 7	complete on 7 March	group 2 (E-J)
Week 8	complete on 14 March	group 3 (L-Q)
Week 9	complete on 21 March	group 4 (R-Z)
Week 10	complete on 4 April	group 1 (A-D)
Week 11	complete on 11 April	group 2 (E-J)

Week 12	complete on 18 April	group 3 (L-Q)
Week 13	complete on 25 April	group 4 (R-Z)

PROJECT 5 **MAP ANALYSIS**

set 18 March (week 9)

due at the start of class on 1 May (week 14); intermediate due dates must also be met:

in class, 8 April: written statement of which map to be studied;

in class, 24 April: written statement of main points of essay, clearly expressed.

worth 20% of course grade

purpose *To undertake a detailed map analysis, applying the principles and approaches established during the course of the semester.*

task Students write an 8-10 page essay, plus notes, about a map of their choice, applying the perspectives and insights developed during the course of the semester. The map can be one of those discussed during the course of Projects 2-4.