

**Common Course Outline for:** GEOG 1050 – Introduction to Maps and Places**A. Course Description**

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Lab hours per week: None
4. Prerequisites: None
5. Co-requisites: None
6. MnTC Goals: 5 – History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Goal 8 – Global Perspective.

An introduction to geography including study of the location and significance of important cultural and physical features of the earth, along with basic principles of map communication, including projection, scale, symbolization. Includes principles of topographic and thematic mapping.

**B. Date last reviewed:** September 2016.

**C. Outline of Major Content Areas**

- a. History of Maps
- b. Location and the Global Grid
- c. Map Projections
- d. Environmental Perception and Mental Maps
- e. Scale, Measurement and Map Accuracy
- f. Topographic Maps
- g. Surveying and Land Division
- h. Basic Principles of Thematic Maps
- i. Applications and Interpretation of Thematic maps
- j. Special Purpose Maps
- k. Geographic Information Systems
- l. Identification and Location of world's countries, major cities, and geographic features

**D. Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Have the ability to answer the question "What is a map?" Maps should be seen as a distinct form of communication, and as efficient and effective tools for the communication of spatial information.
2. Understand the basic principles of the global coordinate system, and recognize basic differences in the properties of different map projections.
3. Be able to describe the principle types of maps, with attention to the general characteristics, preparation, and appropriate uses of each.

4. Have an understanding of the cartographic processes of generalization and symbolization, and the relationship between mapped data and the "real world."
5. Have an awareness of the role played by maps and cartography in the discipline of geography.
6. Understand the ways in which technology has historically transformed maps, most recently with remote sensing, GPS, and GIS technology.
7. Know names and locations of the world's countries, important cities and geographical features.

**E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning**

Instructors may use any or all of the following, but is not limited to:

- a. In-class testing
- b. Take-home testing
- c. Assignments
- d. Quizzes
- e. Attendance
- f. Group or individual projects
- g. Research
- h. The instructor will also choose a method for end-of-the-semester evaluation.

**F. Special Information**

- a. Students should consult their course syllabus for specific grading policies.