

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 2nd Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Dr. Yanjia CAO

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 40 %	COURSEWORK 60 %
• 1.5 hours	• 1 in-class quiz • 5 individual computer-based practical exercises

OBJECTIVES:

A major objective of the course is to provide students with a factual basis for making intelligent decisions concerning the use and interpretation of maps. A secondary objective is to stimulate interest in cartographic issues that play a vital role in modern development, such as Geographic Information Systems, and to enhance computer literacy. It is important that Geography students understand the principles of map design and how to analyze map products.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

Maps have been used for centuries to describe spatial patterns and portray association and correlation. Recent developments in digital spatial data handling have changed the environment where maps are used. Maps are no longer confined to the printed format. The objective of this course is to provide an integrated discussion of standard planimetric maps, their uses, and the basic skills necessary to take full advantage of these maps. The lectures will cover fundamental concepts underlying different mapping/analytical techniques, their strengths, limitations, and application settings. The practicals will be devoted to imparting essential computer operating skills to visualize spatial data. Coursework assessment comprises one in-class quiz and five practical exercises. An examination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions will be administered during the examination period.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Introduction to maps
- Cartographic representation and map projections
- Map reading and design
- Map interpretation
- Beyond map symbols

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Campbell, J. (2001). Map Use & Analysis. Boston: McGraw-Hill.
- Dodge, M. Kitchin, R. & Perkins, C. Eds. (2011). The Map Reader: Theories of Mapping Practice and Cartographic Representation. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. [Electronic Resource] Chapters 1.2, 1.6, 2.7, 3.4*, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8* (* indicates most relevant)
- Kimerling, A.J., Buckley, A.R., Muehrcke, P.C. & Muehrcke, J.O. (2016). Map Use: Reading, Analysis, interpretation. Eighth edition. Redlands, CA: ESRI Press.

PRACTICALS:

- 5 laboratory practicals

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	understand some principles of map making						✓	In-class quiz, practical exercises & exam
2	know some map design considerations						✓	In-class quiz, practical exercises & exam
3	acquire map reading and interpretation skills						✓	In-class quiz, practical exercises & exam
4	gain word processing, IT, graphics, and design skills						✓	Practical exercises & exam

***Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)**

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

PLO1 critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;

PLO2 demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;

PLO3 identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;

PLO4 integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;

PLO5 participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and

PLO6 effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.