**Principles of Cartography Syllabus (450:355)**
**Class meets:** Tuesday/Friday 10:30-11:40 in Lucy Stone Hall, B266
**Instructor:** Michael Siegel, Staff Cartographer, Rutgers Geography Department
**Textbook:** There is no textbook required for this class.
**Course Prerequisites:** The only prerequisite for this course is a strong familiarity with desktop computing.
If you have little or no experience with using a computer, you will not be able to satisfactorily complete the coursework.
**Course Webpage:** http://mapmaker.rutgers.edu/355/  (a Sakai class page is under construction).

If you do not check your Rutgers email account regularly, please email me from an account that you check regularly.

**This 4 credit, upper level Geography methods course will help you:**
• *better understand the role of human perception in map use and map design*.
• *explore effective map symbolization and graphic communication*.
• *become familiar with the use of drawing software to produce thematic maps*.

This course will emphasize cartographic design principles that transcend technology (i.e. the principles that lead to good map design remain the same regardless of the tools used to create the map).

The mapping exercises are meant to let you practice the principles of good map design, and effective graphic communication that we will be discussing. Note: your participation in class discussions is a requirement.

We will explore the role of human perception in map use, because the symbols you create must be understood by anyone looking at your map. That is easier said than done.

You will be required to become competent fairly quickly drafting with Adobe Illustrator drawing software.
Learning to use Illustrator is time consuming, as is learning how to use the software to draw maps. You will have to invest a significant amount of time outside of class meetings to accomplish this. There are lots of tutorials online where you can get extra help in learning how to use the software.  For example:  http://tv.adobe.com/show/learn-illustrator-cs6/

B266 schedule.  Also, Adobe Illustrator **CS6** is available in all Rutgers University Computer (RUCS) public labs.
There is at least one RUCS lab on every campus, and once the semester gets going, the larger ones are open 24 hours a day.
If you would like to work on your own computer, you can rent Illustrator monthly (check for a free trial period).

Students often do better in this course if their schedule allows them to work on mapping projects in the Geography computer labs, because someone from class or the instructor will usually be around to answer questions and give feedback. My office hours are right after class, and I will be available to offer extra help.

If you work on map projects in different places, you should take extra care when moving projects between computers (e.g. avoiding problems resulting from varying versions of Illustrator, fonts, and printers).

**It is critical that you backup your Illustrator files and make them accessible from anywhere** (e.g. put them in a cloud service like Dropbox or your Scarletmail drive, and email it to yourself, and use a USB drive).

Computers are available in B251 during business hours or you can use remote log-in after business hours.

In addition to two map projects, your grade will be determined by two exams, in-class assignments, and attendance.
Your grade will be lowered for unexcused absences, so you must use the student self-reporting website before the class you will miss. Also, you must make up any work you miss by being absent.

**Cell phone use is not allowed during class. If you need to use your cell phone, please go into the hallway.**

Academic Integrity: Your responsibility as a Rutgers student.

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SAS Core Curriculum:  This course satisfies both a SAS Core Curriculum Writing and Communication (WCD) requirement, and the Information Technology and Research (ITR) requirement. After completing this course, students will be able to communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry and they will be able to evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly. Students will also learn to analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights. Also, students will learn to employ current technologies to access information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings.