

SYLLABUS (450:355)

Class meets: Tuesday/Friday 12-1:20 in Lucy Stone Hall, B266.

Attendance is mandatory.

Instructor: Michael Siegel, Staff Cartographer, Rutgers Geography Department ([click here for contact info](#))

Optional Textbook: *Principles of Map Design* by Judith A. Tyner

Course Prerequisites: A strong familiarity with desktop computing.

If you have little or no experience with using a PC, you will not be able to satisfactorily complete the coursework.

Your registered Rutgers email address (either your RU email address or the one you select through netid manager) will be used for communication related to this course. To manage your Rutgers netid, go to netid.rutgers.edu, then click Manage Email Addresses.

You must use [the student self-reporting website at this link](#) if you have to miss class.

- If you do not submit an absence report, you are not eligible to ask for help with missed material or to submit missed cartography assignments, which means an F for that assignment.
- The absence report should be submitted before the class you miss if possible, but has to be submitted within 24 hours after the class.

Using your cell phone in anyway is not allowed during class. If it is critical to use your cell phone, please go into the hallway.

- **If you use a cell phone during an exam, you will receive an F** (see academic integrity link below).

Your grade for this course will be determined by two exams (mid-term and final), and map assignments.

Course Goals:

- introduction to effective map design, symbolization and graphic communication.
- to become proficient with the use of drawing software to produce thematic maps
- to better understand the role of human perception in map use and map design.

In order to get a good grade on the mapping projects, you will have to become competent using *Adobe Illustrator CC* drawing software, and need to show you

understand the principles of effective map design that we will be discussing.

Students often do better in this course if they work on the mapping assignments in the Geography computer labs, because someone from class or the instructor will usually be around to answer questions and give feedback. Another reason is that you won't run into problems resulting from moving files between older and newer versions of Illustrator.

Students with a Geography computer account may use the computers in Lucy Stone Hall B251 during business hours when there is a class in B266. [Geography Computer Lab schedule](#)

Adobe now uses a subscription model where you can rent Illustrator for around \$30/month. Note: the \$19/month option they heavily promote requires an annual subscription (it's in the fine print). If you would like to have Illustrator CC on your personal computer, more information can be found [here on the Adobe site](#).

You can complete the course mapmaking assignments with an older version of Illustrator if you have access to one, but you must save the project to that older version after opening is in class using the newer version.

Computer Account: Information about Geography & Rutgers computer resources can be found [here](#).

There are some links to free tutorials to help you learn how to use Adobe Illustrator at the top of the Lessons section of this Sakai class site.

Academic Integrity: Your responsibility as a Rutgers student.

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

Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) now includes Counseling Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and Psychiatric Services.