

Mapping Atlanta: Community Mapping & Geospatial Storytelling

HONS 1000

Time: Mondays 3:00 – 3:50

Place: 100 Auburn Av., Room 223

Dr. Brennan Collins

Office: 2427 25 Park Place

Hours: M 1:45 – 2:45

Email: brennan@gsu.edu

Learning Outcomes:

- To consider the complex problems and opportunities that cities present
- To explore Atlanta through reading and hands on experiences
- To learn the basics of new mapping technologies
- To investigate how mapping can be applied to many disciplines
- To reflect on how university and local communities can learn from one another
- To think independently and to research what others have written about the issues raised in this course
- To communicate in clear and persuasive prose interpretations of course materials and experiences
- To verbally communicate insights, interpretive positions, questions, and information about course materials and experiences
- To build a body of resources that benefits the Atlanta community

Course Overview:

This interdisciplinary Honors seminar uses Atlanta-based projects to introduce undergraduate students to emerging mapping technologies that have potential applications across many fields. Importantly, the course combines academic and professional knowledge with real-world learning outside of the formal classroom setting in collaboration with community partners. Students will explore urban research questions through projects involving community mapping. We will also consider how mapping technologies allow for new ways of organizing and telling stories. The emphasis in the course will be on fieldwork opportunities where students will consider both the theoretical and practical implications of mapping approaches and technologies.

Project #1 Book Mapping Atlanta:

Early in the semester, each student will choose a book about Atlanta from a list of works that vary greatly in focus—history, art, memoir, politics, etc. Students will be expected to read these works keeping track of specific locations. Then, working in groups, these locations will be used to create an interactive multimedia Google Earth Map of each book. These map layers may eventually be uploaded to ATLmaps.

We will have sessions in class about creating basic Google Earth maps and doing archival research. Students will also meet in groups with the instructor to discuss their progress on this project.

Project #2 Atlanta History Center Map

Thousands of k-12 students visit the Atlanta History Center every year. The Center is currently changing the way that these students will view their collections. During the last half of the semester, we will be creating interactive maps using archival materials from GSU and the History Center that will correspond with the stories that visitors to the Center will experience. These maps may be uploaded to ATLmaps and then used in the Atlanta History Center and in k-12 classrooms.

Project #3 Map Class Discussions:

Throughout the semester you will be asked to answer specific question and reflect on course materials and experiences. I will post prompts in Brightspace each week and ask you to respond. Keep in mind that other students in the class will be able to read your responses.

Course Evaluation:

Students will be graded Pass/Fail for their participation for all course requirements, including completion of the two required mapping projects, contributions to the course blog, and in-class discussions. You must pass in all of these areas to pass the class.

Late Submission Policies:

All graded assignments are due on the specified due date. Late work will affect your grade for the project.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus represents a plan . . . deviations may be necessary.

Attendance Policy:

According to the Georgia State University catalog, class attendance is expected; failure to attend classes regularly may result in poor course performance. The university requires instructors to verify attendance early in the term. Failure to attend classes may result in you not appearing on the *Verification Roll* and being dropped from the class. Please see section 1334 of the catalog at http://www.gsu.edu/es/catalogs_courses.html, and click on the appropriate catalog link to read about attendance policy (posted as a .pdf file). All students should be familiar with the university's course withdrawal procedures. These can be found in section 1332 of the catalog..

Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct:

All students are required to be familiar with the Academic Honesty policy of the university and to comply with the policy. This can be found in section 1380 of the undergraduate catalog. Plagiarism is wrong and will not be tolerated. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct compromises the academic integrity of the university and you. Don't do it.

Computer Access and Email Communication:

Each student must have access to an online computer and is responsible for reading all messages sent to his/her university email address, and any other assignments that require the use of a computer. Class changes and/or updates may be conveyed via email, in which case the student is considered to have been informed. The student is required to check this university email regularly.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Georgia State University complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations must first take appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services locate in Suite 230 of the New Student Center.

Evaluation of Instructor:

Your constructive assessment of this course and the instructors play an indispensable role in shaping education at GSU. Please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.

Calendar

August

- 24 Introduction
- 31 Discuss Projects / Assign Books

September

- 7 Labor Day
- 14 Viz Wall- Joe Hurley
in **CURVE (Library South near entrance)**
- 21 Conference with Brennan
- 28 Archival Research- Traci Drummond
Colloquium Room (8th floor Library South)

October

- 5 Google Earth / National Scholarships
- 12 In-Class Presentations
- 19 History Center
- 26 Walking Tour

November

- 2 Map scanning
- 9 Conference with Brennan
- 16 History Center
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 30 Advanced Mapping Tools

December

- 7 In-Class Presentations
- 14 In-Class Presentations