

ANTH 460 / 520A

## ETHNOGRAPHIC MAPPING AND INDIGENOUS CARTOGRAPHIES

*INSTRUCTOR:* Dr. Brian Thom

### **Course Description and Objectives**

Indigenous communities everywhere have engaged cultural mapping, and anthropologists have been very much involved in their efforts as these cultural maps get mobilized in discourses of land title and rights, environmental assessment, consultation, land use planning, cultural interpretation, and language revitalization. This course is centred on land use and occupancy mapping (also called Traditional Use Study mapping) with First Nations in respect of land claims and resource rights. We will develop hands-on skills in the methods and theory behind these studies, and develop skills in undertaking and presenting them as they are currently used in Canada. Students will engage the social, legal and political dimensions of ethnographic mapping through critical examination of the power of indigenous cartographies, revealing how mapping and 'counter-mapping' have become powerful discursive practices.

### **Skills Development**

Students will learn employable skills in this burgeoning area for anthropology grads (including GIS, GPS, ethnographic field mapping, data management, quality control, cartography). Students will be actively involved in digital resource creation, including learning some basic KML coding and database design and management. Students will also develop a set of reflective conceptual tools to be able to critically engage with discourses of cultural cartography. The assignments are rigorous and project oriented, allowing student to develop good skills.

Graduate students taking this class as 520 will have the opportunity to deeply engaged ethnographic source material, and develop a well theorized and critical reading of cartographic practices in anthropology.

### **Technology Requirements**

We will frequently use computers in-class to gain skills in cartography, data management, GPS. Students are required to bring an electronic device with Google Earth and Google Chrome browser installed to class, particularly on days designated for in-class computer work.