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.

Course Format

For Fall 2020, Anth 460/520a will be delivered as remote learning class that will be partially synchronous. That is, I will be recording and posting numerous tutorial videos and short lectures that will be available for asynchronous learning along with the readings, and will be using the scheduled class time to connect over Zoom for reinforcement, enrichment, problem solving, and working through issues together. Scheduled class time will be organized in different formats over the various weeks, including lectures, discussion groups, workshops, and seminars for the grad students enrolled.

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 engage ethnographic source material, and develop a well-theorized and critical reading of cartographic practices in anthropology.

**Technology Requirements**

Students are required to use an electronic device with Google Earth Pro and Google Chrome browser installed, as well as a code editor like Notepad ++ (PC) or TextMate (Apple), or Atom (all platforms). As we will be using advanced Google Earth Pro features which require a desktop installation, it will not be possible to complete the assignments for this course on a Chromebook or iPad. Students will need a stable internet connection, webcam and remote connection software (Zoom) to fully participate in the class and fully complete the assignments.