



COURSE OUTLINE COMMUNITY MAPPING

Office Hours: Thursdays 1PM to 4 PM and by appointment.

Office Location: DTB B356

Contact: Email: crystalt@uvic.ca; Phone: 250-472-5587

Instructional Team:

Cartographer: Ken Josephson, kjoseph@uvic.ca, Office and Lab: DTB, B209a

CEL Coordinator: Rhianna Nagel, sosccel@uvic.ca

The CM Lab facilities will be available to you at other times (normal office hours) to work on your projects. At other times it is worth checking with Ken to make sure it is open.

COMMUNICATION & CONTACTS

- *Course information, tips, reminders, and all notices:* There is a **CourseSpaces** site for this course called **202010 GEOG 380 A01** —please go here first and please visit often. This is where we will put anything we think might help you.
- *Emailing the course instructor:* crystalt@uvic.ca. Please put **<Geog 380 CM: your name: brief subject>** in the heading. This allows me to sort at the end of each day to check for emails and not miss anything.
- *Making an appointment:* I welcome you to come and discuss your ideas and questions at times other than office hours. However, I am often in meetings, so I don't want to miss you. Please email crystalt@uvic.ca **to make an appointment**.
- *Emailing other members of the instructional team*—both Ken and Rhianna are available to help assist you with many aspects of your learning in this course such as supporting your community projects, problem solving and maintaining positive relationships with community partners. However, please note that the academic and assessment aspects of the course are only dealt with by the course Instructor (see above).
- *Your team:* You must have an agreed upon method of effective communication with your project team members and you must all commit to check for messages via the agreed upon method on a regular basis.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Community-based mapping enables people to capture the uniqueness of place. At its root it allows for voices usually silenced to be heard. Community mapping is used worldwide as a hands-on, engaging, knowledge- building approach for participatory and sustainable community activism. People of all ages can be involved in mapping the communities' narratives, stories, knowledge and resources in the broadest sense. The maps they create can help support advocacy for resistance and change—literally changing the story by changing the map. In this course we will look at the theory and practice of community-based mapping. We will explore how community-based mapping can facilitate dialogue and collaborative partnering, thus leading to knowledge co-creation, planning, citizen empowerment and engagement, building consensus, more informed policy making and ultimately social justice. This course is designed to be action-

oriented and experiential—it is for activists as well as those who want to gain skills in a very different area from traditional map making. It is designed to help us think critically about facts and fictions and about whose stories have power and why it matters. We will all have the opportunity to gain practical experience undertaking a group project based on participation in a community mapping initiative.

KEY THEMES: Community-mapping, Community-based Research, Social Justice, Community engagement

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

Will be posted ahead of class each week as the course proceeds.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand basic principles, theories, motivations and ethics of community based research and mapping, and its potential role in, and power for, community advocacy and the promotion of social justice and resistance.
- Gain insights into the political, economic, socio-cultural, and environmental dimensions of mapping, including historical and contemporary questions of power and privilege as well as issues of identity and intersectionality.
- Be able to describe and give examples of how community mapping fundamentally differs from other types of cartography.
- Be familiar with various community engagement and mapping methodologies and tools appropriate to achieving desired objectives
- Be familiar with a diverse range of community mapping case studies involving a broad range of communities in different global locations and scales. Be able to articulate the barriers and opportunities of effective community mapping.
- Learn how to facilitate the collection and re-presentation through mapping and visualization of community facts, values, visions, stories and associated geographic information; become comfortable participating in, and facilitating, community mapping exercises.
- Experience the process of the development of an appropriate mapping plan with a specific community to meet its needs.
- Deliver a co-constructed representational outcome with and for your community group that has a direct practical application and the potential for future relationships.
- Think collectively—take a defined role in a team and fulfill it to the best of your ability such that you learn about your strengths as a team member and know what you can confidently contribute to future life projects and help others find their roles and responsibilities also.
- Develop research skills using various databases and archive sources for specific project areas, as applicable.
- Understand how to evaluate the impacts of community mapping.
- Know a particular place and its communities more deeply than when you started; be able to work with your heart as well as your head; leave the university-community relationship stronger than when you began.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

There are no technical pre-requisites for this course beyond the usual abilities to use a computer for general communications. The technical skills you need for your particular mapping project will be clearly described and you will be taught what you need and/or will be teamed up with someone who enjoys these aspects of the project. Community maps

are designed to be made by and for communities. Some of the most successful are the simplest. For example, UVic Geography (in partnership with many others) has developed the *Collaboratory*, which is one such system that allows communities to safely document the stories and resources they wish to keep safe (and often confidential). Wherever possible in this course we will be using technical resources that are already in place (so we can support the growth of community knowledge), have longitudinal storage and development potential, are intuitive and easy to use, and are as accessible as possible to the communities for which they are designed. Community mapping is about process and inclusivity, about voices not generally heard. Technology can really support such mapping but your instructional team believes it should never exclude people.

SPECIAL REQUEST: WE ASK THAT YOU ASSESS YOUR PERSONAL READINESS TO TAKE THIS COURSE BEFORE YOU PROCEED TO REGISTER

Please understand that this course is unusual in that it requires us all to be “fully present” at all times. What does this mean? In this context to be “fully present” we all need to commit to bring our bodies, minds and hearts to each day. Missing a class or an experience doesn’t just harm your learning (something you might be OK to accept for yourself) but it prevents the co-learning of the entire group you are working with. It also impacts not just your group’s reputation but in some ways impacts the University’s entire reputation with the broader community. For this reason, learning in this class cannot be individualistic (you cannot only work for yourself or pick and choose what you do). It has to be a collective endeavor. We have to leap in with faith. It is terrifying and exhilarating at the same time. If you promise to do something, you must follow through or else the community partners may choose not to work with students in future and relationships hard won and worked for over long years by others can be damaged. What we all (instructors as well) receive from this class is incredibly deep and meaningful to each of us, something to be cherished, but to get this gift we must give fully of ourselves. There is so much more at stake here than just a course grade. If you have any hesitation at all feel free to contact one of the instructors for a confidential consultation.

COURSE COMPONENTS

The course is designed to achieve the learning goals and outcomes stated above. All aspects of the course may be assessed on exams. The requirements for each component will be further discussed in class.

Class Meetings and Participation—We all meet together once a week (FRIDAYS 9 AM-12 PM). Classes may include lectures, guest speakers, activities, discussions, brainstorming and problem solving, field trips, and community engaged work, as well as team work on community based mapping projects. In general, sometimes we will focus more on learning in class about community mapping as a field with examples of case studies, methods, ethical considerations and so on, whereas at other times you will participate in your team’s collaborative work on your specific mapping project with your chosen community.

Your participation grade—will reflect your willingness to engage in both your own questions and reflections in class, as well as those of your colleagues. It will also reflect your active engagement in, and contributions to, your team’s work. Each team member must contribute significantly in their own way to the successful project outcome and must communicate effectively at all times with team members just as you would in any active community.

Workblocks and meetings outside of class time—Your projects will require you to meet in a team (or with a team subgroup) with your community partners. We will give you workblock times to help with your project whenever possible. However, community groups may only be available on days other than Fridays. They might meet in the evenings or have established group meetings on certain days. You are not required to attend all of these but amongst your team members you will need to figure out how to adapt to the schedules of your community partners within your own personal constraints. This requires a certain element of compromise and flexibility. In our experience those teams that take advantage of ad hoc opportunities (e.g. a community gathering they just found out about) and can move nimbly to harness them will be the ones to excel. As a guideline, expect to spend as many hours in your community as in the classroom during this course.

Community place journaling—Learning is likely to take place very quickly in this course. Initially pieces may seem disconnected but they will come together if you take time after each class to reflect on the integration. Commit to reflecting (free writing) on your learning for 15 minutes in your journal after each class. What application might concepts from class have in your community? Does your learning change your behaviour or your experience in any way? What ideas emerge that can support your team’s work? What connections does thinking about these concepts help you make as you navigate your daily life? Do you find yourself changing your behaviour? Sometimes you might make profound connections; other times not. Don’t worry, just keep writing and I anticipate you will be surprised at what emerges. Mid way through term, I will provide a “check in” on your journal and offer my ideas for how you might strengthen the connections you are making. **Please read the Learning Journal resource I posted for helpful tips on reflective writing.**

Exams—there will be a mid-term and a take home final exam in this course. The purpose of these is to check your understanding of key concepts and current debates in community mapping as well as to integrate the theoretical aspects you have learned with the practical applications from the case studies, guest speakers and your own community work.

Community Mapping Project—You will be part of a small team of class colleagues, comprising members with diverse skills, backgrounds and experiences. Together you will focus on one mapping project from the range of community projects we have developed for you to choose from. We have prepared a choice of projects for the teams ranging from social to environmental geography. Each has its unique facets and a community partner who is trusting you to support them in the construction of directly applicable knowledge and its relevant visualisation and communication to serve its community goals. Each has a connection to a community relationship that has been carefully built over time and that will continue with future students in future courses. In this way your unique project will be part of a mosaic of self- contained mapping projects that directly contribute to a greater picture and a more collaborative future. Teams will be trained in the relevant skills needed for the project and will work with a mentor as the course proceeds. The focus is on the process and elements will include: developing community relationships, listening and facilitating knowledge gathering and co-creation, appropriate representation of findings, and presentation of directly relevant results. There will be individual as well as team components to the grade for this project.

Community celebration—The course will end with a presentation of your team’s community mapping project outcomes. Everyone will attend and participate and we will invite our community partners and other interested parties to join us.

EVALUATION

	Marks	Important Dates/deadlines
Participation	10%	As applicable (see above)
Journaling reflections (5)	10%	See Journal instructions
Midterm	20%	February 14th (in class)
Community mapping project	35%	<i>(project proposal due February 7; final due April 3rd)</i>
Class conference	10%	April 3rd in-class
Take home Final Exam	<u>15%</u>	Due April 10th
TOTAL	100%	

GRADING SYSTEM

As per the Academic Calendar:

Grade	Grade point value	Grade scale	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	90-100% 85-89% 80-84%	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	77-79% 73-76% 70-72%	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	65-69% 60-64%	Satisfactory , or minimally satisfactory . These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	50-59%	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
F	0	0-49%	Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.
N	0	0-49%	Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT INFO

- Geography Department website: uvic.ca/socialsciences/geography/
- Undergraduate Advising: geogadvising@uvic.ca

COURSESPACES

Please use Coursespaces site for weekly schedule and readings.

POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS

In order to be fair to students who meet the deadlines, if you submit an assignment/course component late you will lose marks in the following way. The late penalty is 20% per day. All assignments must be submitted but after one week you will receive no grade. Again, to be fair to everyone, exceptions will only be granted for medical reasons (requiring a written report from a medical practitioner stating the reason for your inability to attend class a maximum of one week later).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is every student's responsibility to be aware of the university's policies on academic integrity, including policies on **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized use of an editor, multiple submission, and aiding others to cheat.**

Policy on Academic Integrity: web.uvic.ca/calendar2019-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html

If you have any questions or doubts, talk to me, your course instructor. For more information, see uvic.ca/learningandteaching/cac/index.php.

ACCESSIBILITY

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a documented disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL as soon as possible <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>). The #° Ostaff is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals, and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

POSITIVITY AND SAFETY

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

SEXUALIZED VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AT UVIC

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. We encourage students to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Whether or not you have been directly impacted, if you want to take part in the important prevention work taking place on campus, you can also reach out:

Where: Sexualized violence resource office in EQHR; Sedgewick C119

Phone: 250.721.8021

Email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca

Web: uvic.ca/svp

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Please see Coursespaces for weekly calendar and important dates.

DISCLAIMER

The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

NOTE:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone.

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* uvic.ca/services/counselling/

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* uvic.ca/services/health/

Centre for Accessible Learning - *The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations* uvic.ca/services/cal/. *The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.*

Elders' Voices - *The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.*
uvic.ca/services/indigenous/students/programming/elders/index.php