Map Reading Course Outline
This course will teach you how to read United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps and world maps emphasizing fundamental place name locations. The course is divided into two parts that may be completed in any order. All coursework, including tests, is to be completed in the Cabrillo College Library. **Part 1** is a four-lesson video series (featuring Dave Balogh, Geography Instructor at Cabrillo College for 30+ years) with lab packet and maps. In this section of the course you will learn to read and interpret USGS topographic quadrangles through hands-on map exercises. **Part 2** is a series of atlas lessons to be performed on the PC computers in the reference area of the Cabrillo College library. In this section you will learn the names and locations of continents, countries and major human and natural features on the surface of the Earth through a series of computer map puzzles in conjunction with an atlas.

Assessment:
Your grade is based on three criteria: 1) map-reading lab packet, 2) map-reading test, and 3) atlas test. Once you finish the map-reading lab packet you must turn it in to Deirdre Scholar’s mailbox in room 420 or deliver it to her in person during an office hour in room 432B. Allow 1 week for grading and then you may pick it up during an office hour. The **map-reading test** is to be taken after you complete and review your graded map-reading lab packet in part 1. The **atlas test** is to be taken when you finish the exercises in part 2 of the course. Each test must be taken in the library using a ParScore form and a #2 pencil. Both tests are open-book/open note. Each student must take the tests on their own. **Any student found cheating by library staff or me will receive zeros.** Only one try is permitted for each test so good preparation is essential. You may request a PASS/NO PASS grade by **March 9, 2012 in writing** (via email hard copy) otherwise a letter grade will automatically be given.
**Requirements:**
Each student is required to attend our “mandatory orientation” for Geography 3A. The orientation time is: **Spring 2012 semester is: Friday Feb. 17th 9AM – 12 NOON.** You will receive an email from me (Deirdre Scholar, Instructor) before the start of the semester to confirm your attendance at the orientation. The orientation is held in the Cabrillo Library, classroom #1051 (at the top of the stairs on the left inside the library). Geography 3A is a “positive hour course” which means that each student must complete 51 hours over the semester to receive credit. **You must log into the book on a weekly basis; do not leave all 51 hours until the end of the semester!** Hours must be logged in the Geography 3A logbook, which is kept at the reference desk in the library. All course hours are to be performed in the Cabrillo library. The course is designed to be self-paced, meaning that you can fit the hours into your schedule as best suits you. You may come to the library at any time it is open and work on the material on a facility (DVD, map or computer) available basis. Other requirements include getting a Cabrillo College library card for checking out reserve items necessary for the course, and obtaining a Cabrillo student computer network account. Both of these can be obtained in the library and will be explained further during our orientation meeting.

**How to get started:**
After the mandatory orientation, go to the Circulation Desk (large desk on your left as you enter the library) and check out the materials for Part 1 or ask for assistance in getting started with Part 2 on the computers. Please return materials to the Circulation Desk when you finish. If you have any problems with the equipment ask at the Circulation Desk for assistance, if you have problems with the lesson material please contact me by email or drop in during my office hour.

**Part 1. USGS Topographic Maps (DVDs)**

- **Lesson 1: Orientation**
- **Lesson 2: Land Surveys, Cartographic Notation**
- **Lesson 3: Topography and Elevation**
- **Lesson 4: Terrain Profiles**

*I recommend you bring a pencil, eraser, blank sheet of paper, ruler and calculator with you to the library when doing the lessons in Part 1 of this course.*

**Follow the steps below for Part 1 of this course.**
1. Check out DVD of map reading lessons and map board for each of the four lessons from the Circulation Desk at the library. The map lab packet will be given to you at the orientation meeting or there are extra copies at the library.
2. Watch each lesson (begin with the introduction and then proceed to lesson 1, 2 etc.).
3. Fill out the map-reading lab packet.
4. Submit your completed lab packet to Deirdre’s mailbox or hand to her in-person during an office hour.
5. Pick up your graded map lab and review any questions you missed with the lab key during an office hour.
6. When you are ready, take the 50-question test in the library. Again, you will get the test from the circulation desk. You will need a #2 pencil and a Parscore (Large Orange) answer form which may be purchased at the Library or Bookstore. Be sure to fill out both sides of the Parscore Form completely (including filling in the bubbles below your name and Cabrillo ID#).
7. Give your completed Parscore test form to the library staff at the circulation desk. I will collect and grade tests weekly.
8. I will post your map lab and map-reading test score on the Blackboard site for the course each week so that you may monitor your progress in the course.
Part II. Fundamental Place Name Geography Exercises.
(Using the PC Computers in the reference area of the Cabrillo Library)

A. Go to the Circulation Desk, ask for instructions on which computers are to be used for the Atlas exercises. A copy of Goode’s World Atlas may be checked out for the exercises, or you may use your own, or any of the World Atlases in the Library. If you have problems, you can ask the library staff, or consult with me via email or during my office hours. You can work at any time that the library is open and a computer is available.

B. The atlas lessons are in the form of puzzles:
In each lesson, you have several choices of difficulty. The mouse-based puzzles are designed to drill you on locations of places. You may use a timer to see how rapidly you can do a puzzle. When you are feeling confident in your knowledge of a region, try again without the boundary lines. Don’t forget to drill yourself on capitals if offered. Use a book atlas to look up places if you need to. Lessons cover the following regions:
1. The World. Continents, World Features
3. Mexico, Central and South America. Location of states.
4. Europe. Locations of States
5. Asia. States and relative locations.
6. Middle East. States and relative locations.
7. Africa. States and relative locations.
8. Australia/Oceania. States and Island locations

Be sure to use the Contents and the Index of the atlas as well as the maps when you are doing the assignments. A student who has had little or no geographical background will naturally take longer to complete the series than one who has had extensive training. The computer is ready to work at your pace; this is an advantage of computer-assisted instruction.

C. Test on Part II - Open Atlas Exam.
The test is multiple-choice; you will need a #2 pencil, and a Parscore form. It is open book/open note meaning you may use an atlas. The questions are each worth one point. Most of the questions will be taken directly from the computer-based lessons of Part II. Some questions may require you to use an atlas. You may only take the test once. Be sure to indicate which form (version) of the exam you are given on the Parscore Form in the middle on the top under “Form”. Be sure to fill out both sides of the Parscore Form completely (again remember to fill in those bubbles with your name and ID#!). When you have completed the map reading lab packet, and exams I and II you will have completed the course assignments. You can find your grade by checking the Blackboard site for the course.

Thank you for taking Geography 3A
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Spring 2012 Office Hours: Mon & Wed: 12:30-1:30; Tue & Th: 11–12:30 in Room 432B