

Mapping community information agencies

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purpose of this class

- Not just about “learning GIS on the computer”
- Not just about “reading and understanding maps”
- Not just about “where to find spatial and statistical data on the web”
- **Really a class about the *idea* of spatial analysis itself: history, tools, and potential social conflicts or social gains.**

eight weeks

- introduction to a desktop GIS (ArcGIS/ArcMap)
weekly GIS exercises - 25%
- introduction to map-making and map-reading
weekly reading, writing, and discussion - 50%
- “service learning” with a local community organization to find and map useful data
final written project (alone or in a group) - 25%

syllabus and weblog online

- Tuesdays - lectures, discuss assignments, GIS tutorial
- Wednesdays - GIS homework
- Thursdays - discuss readings, GIS tutorial
- Fridays - GIS homework
- weekends - written homework

project ideas

- working with a local library? map their patron, circulation, service data
- have a child in a local school? map their community demographic data
- volunteering with a community organization? map their client, donor, or service area
- interested in community journalism? connect with the Madison Commons project
- **how can community organizations use spatial information?**

housekeeping

- Two books at University Bookstore on Library Mall - \$100
- Xeroxed reader at ASM StudentPrint in basement of Memorial Union - \$25
- Lab accessibility over the summer
- No class on July 4
- Any questions?

rest of today

- introductions
- quick overview of GIS
- break
- GIS tutorial #1