

**Political Science 397 (51): Crisis Mapping, Politics, and New Media**  
**Course Syllabus, Spring 2011**  
Designations: Core Course Division III

Instructor: Jen Ziemke  
Room: Dolan E233  
Day/Time: T/R 12:30-1:45pm  
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 3:30-6:30 pm or by appointment  
Office: B06 Administration Building  
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*Course Objectives*

Welcome to the world's first course on Crisis Mapping, an exciting and engaging new field whose primary network was launched at John Carroll University at the end of a conference in October 2009. New pragmatic and academic questions are emerging with implications for political science and beyond. Please expect current events and debates to determine the direction of this course, perhaps in ways wholly unanticipated at the beginning of the term. If major world crises emerge, we will be learning by doing and Crisis Mapping these events in near real-time. You will have access to state-of-the-art technologies that will help you learn how to do Crisis Mapping in the real world and reflect on ethical, political, and practical challenges. Crisis Mapping is also at its core an interdisciplinary endeavor so the course will draw from a variety of fields as it progresses over the course of the semester. I look forward to learning with you!

*Course Materials*

- Clay Shirky, *Cognitive Surplus: Creativity and Generosity in a Connected Age*. Penguin: 2010.
- James Surowiecki. *The Wisdom of Crowds*. Anchor Books, New York: 2005.
- These readings are available for purchase in the University Book Store.

*Other Resources*

- Other readings will be distributed by paper copy in class. All handouts should be considered required reading.

*Optional Books:*

- Barney Warf and Santa Arias, Eds. *The Spatial Turn: Interdisciplinary perspectives*. Routledge 2008.
- Don Tapscott & Anthony D. Williams. *Macrowikinomics: Rebooting Business and the World*. Portfolio Hardcover: 2010.
- Malcolm Gladwell. *The Tipping Point*.
- Manfred M. Fischer & Art Getis, Eds. *Handbook of Applied Spatial Analysis: Software Tools, Methods and Applications*. Springer: 2010.

*Other handy resources:*

<http://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=4949324>  
<http://www.csiss.org/>  
<http://gis.tufts.edu>  
<https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/GISatTufts/Tufts+GIS+Tip+Sheets>  
<http://www.mefedia.com/watch/32003528>  
<https://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/GISatTufts/Online+GI...>

### *Evaluation Standards*

- 10 % Class participation, attendance & attentiveness
- 10 % Lab work & assignments/reports/reflections (TBA). Note: you must be in class to receive these assignments.
- 10 % Quiz #1, February 15, 2011
- 10 % Quiz #2, March 22, 2011
- 10 % Quiz #3, April 19, 2011
- 20 % Comprehensive Final Exam, May 5, 2011
- 20 % Final project due May 10, 2011.
- 10 % Interactive presentation of final project on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

### *Grading Scale*

A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92
B+	88 - 89
B	83 - 87
B-	80 - 82
C+	78 - 79
C	73 - 77
C-	70 - 72
D+	68 - 69
D	63 - 67
D-	60 - 62
F	59 and below

### *Lab, Work, Assignments, & Final Exam Policy*

Under normal circumstances, students must be present for the final exam and should make every effort to do so. Please contact me as soon as possible in the event that an emergency makes it impossible for you to take the exam. I will negotiate with each student on an individual basis the terms for making up a missed quiz, lab, in-class assignment, or exam.

### *Academic Honesty*

The Undergraduate Bulletin states: "Academic honesty, expected of every student, is essential to the process of education and to upholding high ethical standards. Cheating, including plagiarism, inappropriate use of technology, or any other kind of unethical behavior, may subject the student to severe academic penalties, including dismissal. All work submitted for evaluation in a course, including tests, term papers, and computer programs, must represent only the work of the student unless indicated otherwise. Material taken from the work of others must be acknowledged."

You must properly cite the source of all ideas, quotations, or empirical information that you use for papers and exams. Anyone found cheating on exams or papers will be referred to the Political Science Department and Dean immediately. Anyone who plagiarizes in this class will receive an F in the course. In addition, a letter documenting this offense will be placed in your file.

### *Disability Statement*

In accordance with federal law, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to request accommodations from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please contact Lisa Meeks (Director) Services for Students with Disabilities at (216) 397-4263 or come to the office located in room 7A, in the Garden Level of the Administration Building. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register at your earliest convenience.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

**WEEK 1, JANUARY 18**

**Tue: Overview of Crisis Mapping in Haiti and Beyond**

READ: "Crisis mapping brings X-ray style clarity to humanitarian response." *Reuters*: October 12, 2009.

READ: "Rebooting the World," from *Macrowikieconomics*, pages 3-9.

WATCH: Johnson, Jeffrey; John Crowley & Schulyer Erle. *Haiti: Crisis Mapping the Earthquake*. GIS Café 2010. <http://bit.ly/ha4JFV>

**Thurs: A basic toolkit: Skype, Google Maps, Google Earth, Google Groups, Spreadsheets, Twitter, CM\*Net google group & community profile**

WATCH: Hersman, Erik. *Erik Hersman on Reporting Crisis Through Texting*. TED Talk. (2009)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/erik\\_hersman\\_on\\_reporting\\_crisis\\_via\\_texting.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/erik_hersman_on_reporting_crisis_via_texting.html)

**WEEK 2, JANUARY 25**

**Tue: A history: GIS to mashups to neo-geography**

WATCH: Meier, Patrick. *Video Introduction to Crisis Mapping*

<http://irevolution.wordpress.com/2009/04/27/video-introduction-to-crisis-mapping/>

**Thurs: Ushahidi, Training the Trainer I: Media, Spreadsheets, Reports, Frontline SMS, U4U, SBTF**

READ: "Ushahidi Haiti and Chile: Next Generation Crisis Mapping," by Sophia B. Liu, Anahi Ayala Iacucci, and Patrick Meier. *ACSM Bulletin*: August 2010.

WATCH: Rotich, Juliana. *Ushahidi*. Activate 2010.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/activate/video/activate-2010-juliana-rotich/>

READ: "Oil Spill Crisis Map: Initial Analysis and Review," *Louisiana Bucket Brigade*: 2010.

**WEEK 3, FEBRUARY 1**

**Tue: Participatory culture: Crowdsourcing, Crowdfunding, Frontline SMS & Mechanical Turk.**

READ: "Crisis Mapping in a Participatory Age." Jen Ziemke and Sophia Liu. *Routledge Handbook of Participatory Cultures*. 2011.

WATCH: RSA Animate - Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6XAPnuFjJc&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

WATCH: Shirky, Clay. *How Cognitive Surplus Will Change the World*. TED Talk. (2010)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/clay\\_shirky\\_how\\_cognitive\\_surplus\\_will\\_change\\_the\\_world.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/clay_shirky_how_cognitive_surplus_will_change_the_world.html)

**Thurs: Ushahidi Training the Trainer II: Georeferencing & geolocation. Tobler's First law. Spatial autocorrelation/neighborhood effects. Crowdmapping instances & relevant categories.**

Cartography and map making: standard protocol, projections, scale, levels of analysis, & MAUP

**WEEK 4, FEBRUARY 8**

**Tue: Experts, networks & the crowd: Socially Distributed Curation, crowd-review & verification.**

WATCH: Shirky, Clay. *Institutions vs. Collaboration*. TED Talk (2005).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPQViNNOAkW>

READ: Liu, Sophia B. "Trends in Distributed Curatorial Technology to Manage Data Deluge in a Networked World," *Upgrade* Vol. XI, No. 4: August 2010.

**Thurs: Volunteers, organization, emergence, diaspora, language, community, crowdfunder, 4636, Noola**

READ: Cognitive Surplus, Chapters 1, 2 & 3.

## WEEK 5, FEBRUARY 15

### Quiz #1, Tues, February 15, 2011

#### Tue: Satellites and the UN Charter. From GeoEye to Map Kibera to Grassroots mapping

LISTEN: Campbell, Joel. "On the Changing Business Landscape of Remote Sensing" (2010).

<http://www.directionsmag.com/podcasts/on-the-changing-business-landscape-of-remote-sensing-joel-campbell-presiden/125188/>

READ: "Field Work from the Sky: Remote Data Collection from Active Conflict Zones (The Case of Darfur)," Scott Edwards, *Amnesty International USA*: 2009.

READ: Jeffrey Warren. "Creating a Participatory, Open Source Map of an Entire Country" *Idea Lab*. August 3, 2010 & see [www.grassrootsmapping.org/](http://www.grassrootsmapping.org/)

#### Thurs: Open Street Maps Haiti & Cleveland

WATCH: Time lapse photo of the street names in Port Au Prince on *Open Street Maps*:

<http://eric.marsden.free.fr/tmp/osm-port-au-prince.mp4/>

READ: Cognitive Surplus, Chapters 4 & 5.

## WEEK 6, FEBRUARY 22

### Tue: Community Mapping (Gardens to poverty, local business to homelessness, peace, and p2p)

READ: Cognitive Surplus, Chapter 6 & 7.

#### Thurs: Mapping community pride and resilience

## WEEK 7, MARCH 1

### Tue: Protests, Elections & Repressive Regimes

EXAMINE: Tools for Transparency: <http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org/>

EXAMINE: The London Protest Google Map: <http://bit.ly/gzVyEI>

READ: "SMS as a Tool for Election Observation," Schuler, Ian. *Innovations*: Vol 3; Issue 2. MIT Press. (Spring 2008).

#### Thurs: Burma, Afghanistan, Egypt, Eyes on Darfur, Satellite Sentinel Project, SudanVoteMonitor

READ: Levinger, Matthew. "Geographical Information Systems Technology as a Tool for Genocide Prevention: The Case of Darfur," *Space and Polity*, Vol. 13, no (1), 69-76: April 2009.

## WEEK 8, MARCH 8

*No Classes: Happy Spring Break!*

## WEEK 9, MARCH 15

### Tue: Wikileaks, sovereignty, new media, and politics. A first cyberwar?

READ: Raffi Khatchadourian. "No Secrets: Julian Assange's mission for total transparency." *The New Yorker*: June 7, 2010.

WATCH: WikiLeaks. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Msi-Q09LOXQ>

#### Thurs: Advanced Visualization Techniques: Geotime, Depiction, & Audio

Crisis Mapping Software, Maps and Visualization.

WATCH: <http://fieldguide.wnyclabs.org/case-studies/a-way-to-gather-and-display-data/>

## WEEK 10, MARCH 22

### Quiz #2: Tuesday, March 22, 2011

#### Tue: Implications of Conflict Mapping: exploring dynamics(ACLED, Angola)

READ: "Contagion or Confusion? Why Conflicts Cluster in Space." Buhaug, Halvard, and Kristian Skrede Gleditsch. 2008. *International Studies Quarterly* 52 (2):215-233.

READ: "The Dynamics of Violence in Vietnam: An Analysis of the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES)," Stathis Kalyvas and Matthew Adam Kocher. *Journal of Peace Research* 46(3): 2009.

READ: "Vicarious violence: Spatial Effects on Southern Lynchings, 1890-1919." Tolnay, Stewart E., Glenn Deane, and E.M. Beck. 1996. *American Journal of Sociology* 102(3):788-815.

#### Thurs: Analyzing Crisis Map Data (ESDA, GIS, Heat Maps, Theissen Polygons, CrimeStat, SaTScan)

READ: "Crisis Mapping, An approach for the empirical analysis of conflict patterns." Jen Ziemke. Draft Working Paper, Harvard Humanitarian Initiative.

READ: "WarViews: Visualizing and Animating Geographic Data on Conflict." Nils B. Weidmann and Doreen Kuse. <http://www.icr.ethz.ch/research/warviews>

READ: Michelle Guy, et. al. "Integration and Dissemination of Citizen Reported and Seismically Derived Earthquake Information via Social Network Technologies." IDA 2010.

WATCH: Page, Scott. *Understanding Complexity*. HM 701.U53 2009. Lecture #1.

## WEEK 11, MARCH 29

### Tue: Crisis Mapping for Disaster Response: Networks and Silos

READ: Meier, Patrick & Coyle, Diane. UN Foundation Vodaphone Report: New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts. (2009)

READ: "Media, Information Systems, & Communities: Lessons from Haiti." *A report by Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities (CDAC), Internews*. 2010.

### Thurs: Civil-Military cooperation in disaster response

READ: "Situation awareness and virtual globes: Applications for disaster management." Brian Tomaszewski. *Computers and Geosciences*: 2010.

READ: Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen. "The Digital Disruption: Connectivity and the Diffusion of Power." *Foreign Affairs* 89(6): 2010.

## WEEK 12, APRIL 5

### Tue: Gaming and Crisis Mapping

WATCH: McGonigal, Jane. *Gaming Can Make a Better World*. TED Talk. (2010)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/jane\\_mcgonigal\\_gaming\\_can\\_make\\_a\\_better\\_world.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/jane_mcgonigal_gaming_can_make_a_better_world.html)

READ: The Wisdom of Crowds, Chapters 1-4.

## WEEK 13, APRIL 12

### Tue: States, Sovereignty & Individuals

The politics of crisis mapping reconsidered: accountability, politics, litigation, & human rights.

WATCH: 5 videos of your choice on CM\*Net that interest you from the 2010 conference.

READ: "Toward Spatially Integrated Social Science." Goodchild, Michael F., Luc Anselin, Richard P. Appellebaum, and Barbara Herr Harthorn. 2000. *International Regional Science Review* 23:139-159.

### Thurs: The Ethics of Crisis Mapping.

READ: "Needles in a haystack: A 20-something named Austin Heap has found the perfect disguise for dissidents in their cyberwar against the world's dictators." *Newsweek*. Aug 6, 2010

READ: "Cybercasing the Joint: On the privacy implications of geo-tagging." Gerald Friedland & Robin Sommer.

READ: "Geoslavery," Dobson, Jerome & Peter Fisher. *IEEE Technology and Society Magazine*: Spring 2003.

**WEEK 14, APRIL 19**

**Quiz #3: Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**Tue: UN Global Pulse, Question Box & Hunch Lab**

**EXAMINE:** [www.unglobalpulse.org](http://www.unglobalpulse.org), [www.questionbox.org/](http://www.questionbox.org/)

**READ:** *The Wisdom of Crowds*, Chapters 5-8.

*No classes April 21<sup>st</sup>: Happy Easter*

**WEEK 15, APRIL 26**

*No classes April 26<sup>th</sup>: Happy Easter*

**Thurs: Mapping Cleveland using Balloons and Kites**

Grassroots mapping Cleveland

**RESOURCE:** [grassrootsmapping.org](http://grassrootsmapping.org) Gulf Oil Spill initiative & kit

**READ:** *The Wisdom of Crowds*, Chapters 9-12.

**WEEK 16 MAY 3**

*Last day of classes May 5<sup>th</sup>*

**Tue: The Future**

**WATCH:** Underkoffler, John. *John Underkoffler Points to the Future of UI*. TED Talk. (2010)

[http://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_underkoffler\\_drive\\_3d\\_data\\_with\\_a\\_gesture.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/john_underkoffler_drive_3d_data_with_a_gesture.html)

**READ:** "The Information: How the Internet gets inside us," Adam Gopnik. *The New Yorker*: Feb 14 & 21, 2011.

**Thurs: Final Exam**

**Final Project Due & Poster Session: Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:50 pm**