

## Student Evaluation Summary

**Course:** FWS 1104 – *How to Lie With Maps: From Carto-Curious to Carto-Critical*

**Semester:** Fall, 2022

**Institution:** Cornell University

**Number of Students:** 16

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### **Most Common Positive Comments:**

- Class discussions were helpful and exciting
- Class was fun
- Course helped students become more critical of maps as narrative devices
- Instructor was approachable and engaging

### **Most Common Suggestions / Complaints:**

- Grading was slow, and students did not receive feedback
  - This was a specific technical issue I only discovered at the end of the semester. The course LMS did not show students their feedback.
- Late communication was a problem sometimes
- Classes sometimes became repetitive

### **Excerpts of Student Feedback:**

- “I am going out of my way to specifically take another class with him next semester so I think that says a lot about his teaching.”
- “Prof is an engaging and overall awesome instructor. Class is a place where I can be myself and talk about interesting things while learning a lot. Professor Greenlee always has something insightful to say and keeps our class interested and on track.”
- “Class is always a fun and exciting place to be! I have perfect attendance for class and there's a good reason for that.”
- The course has an interesting premise which leads to very interesting discussions in cartography, history and geography. The course changes a student's inherent understanding of maps and one learns to be skeptical about them. The course readings were carefully chosen and methodical. Every one of them was relevant and interesting.”
- He is very laid-back and treats us not as students but as peers. In this way I feel free to speak what I truly think.
- Great content, excellent discussions, thought-provoking questions

**Course Evaluation:**  
**MEDVL 1104: How to Lie With Maps**  
**Fall, 2022**  
**Dr. John Wyatt Greenlee**

**Overall Course Evaluation**

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
1. How would you rate the course overall?	15					
2. How would you rate the organization of the course?	11	4				
3. How would you rate the course content?	13	2				
4. How would you rate the relevance of the course and course content?	11	4				
5. How would you rate your own engagement with this course?	8	5	2			
6. What do you consider the strengths of the course?	<p>Expanding the points and focuses of the course into broader aspects and other topics that aren't directly related to the course.</p> <p>Being able to freely talk to my peers and thus have different perspectives</p> <p>How engaging the material is. It's much easier to learn when you are enjoying what you are reading and writing</p> <p>Great content, excellent discussions, thought-prevoking questions</p> <p>The content in this class was very interesting.</p> <p>I liked the format where we would look at maps during class and then discuss them as a class. It was nice to have a more discussion based class instead of my other ones, which are much more focused on listening.</p> <p>The freedom of students to explore, the evaluation of such a wide variety of maps' contents throughout the course</p> <p>I really enjoyed the structure of the classes because it was a very collaborative setting so I didn't feel like we were just getting talked at. I also never felt overwhelmed by the course &amp; actually looked forward to coming to class usually.</p> <p>Lots of exposure to different kinds of maps and how to interpret them, which is reinforced through class discussions.</p> <p>The course has an interesting premise which leads to very interesting discussions in cartography, history and geography. The course changes a student's inherent understanding of maps and one learns to be skeptical about them. The course readings were carefully chosen and methodical. Every one of them was relevant and interesting.</p> <p>Very discussion based, which allows for a lot of engagement with everyone in the class. Also, in general, it is easier and more fun to discuss visual media than a book.</p>					

This course was incredibly engaging and interesting. I loved attending, discussing the content, and Professor Greenlee is fantastic.

That one can tailor the course content to cover one's interests with relative ease. Our final project especially allows this, where everyone can go out and find a map in one of their interest areas and apply the course knowledge to understand it better and create a fruitful analysis.

Learning and analyzing the ins and out of trickeries map makers use to subconsciously manipulate your understanding was just brilliant. Discussions was a major part of this course and getting different point of views is crucial in reaching a mutual and accurate conclusion. I really enjoyed this class overall. Very niche, but very interesting.

It was interesting to be exposed to a wide variety of maps. Having an instructor with a background in maps and history made it easier to understand historical maps (which most presented in the class were). New awareness of how maps lie.

7. What do you consider the weaknesses of the course, and what suggestions do you have for remedying them?

Not enough time

I really cannot think of any

Lack of organization. Most of the class was fine, but a little bit more communication would've made it perfect.

I wish we spent more time in the map room here at Cornell.

I thought the course got a bit repetitive near the end, and we began repeating past subjects during discussions. This is probably due to the topic of the course, there just wasn't too much more to say.

I feel like I was expecting more writing because there were initially more essays on the syllabus, & I honestly feel like more writing assignments, even informal ones, might've helped me improve more.

I felt that having 1 more essay in the middle of the semester would have been helpful in developing my writing skills.

No weaknesses!

I would've liked the original plan of doing 5 essays to get more opportunities to put the knowledge we gained over the course into words. Being able to look into maps in depth and presenting a written analysis would be a very good way to refine our skills in analytical map reading and may also help each assignment feel less impactful to the course grade.

I found it hard to find conflicting views regarding many maps. It seemed that the class often came to one interpretation of the map which was hard to challenge/start debate. Maybe incorporate maps that challenge each other?

8. What is something that you have learned from this course?

How maps lie in tons of different ways

I learned the importance of seeing the world in different perspective, and not being narrow minded (and of course how to be a master criminal and warp maps to my advantage)

Writing in passive voice and using to be verbs, I had never done that in classes prior to this

How to lie with maps :). I've learned how to analyze maps and think critically about what I'm looking at.

Everything about maps. Before I took this class I knew very little about anything to do with maps. Now I feel as if I can easily explain most elements of cartography to a random guy on the street.

I learned how maps can be just as argumentative as writing or poetry and how they can be manipulated in many different ways.

I have learned to no longer put my blind trust in maps! I think this was the most valuable takeaway from the course for me, and one I simply would not have thought of on my own.

Genuinely how maps lie, & just a lot about maps in general because I really didn't know very much coming into this class.

I learned how to better interpret maps such as: how they lie, how choices made by the mapmaker affected the map

Maps are a social construct rather than a scientific one, and interpretations vary.

The intricacy of maps and how there are many factors that go into them, which branch out into a variety of different subjects/fields. Also learn about general ways to improve my writing in regards to certain grammatical aspects (especially ones that are often overused in writing).

I have definitely learned a lot! I've learned so much about maps and how interesting they are. Did you know they're all lying? I've also learned about writing at a college level, and I've enjoyed engaging with my classmates and hearing their different perspectives.

That every map has a goal, even those that seemingly have no purpose other than just fun, they all have a message they are trying to promote. Additionally, we should look at maps like a piece of literature. They are varied and no two maps are alike. They all have unique things that impact their message, and if you look close enough you can see it.

Maps and the ways we are tricked and lied by them all the time.

In medieval times an eel was worth what a modern hot dog costs.

### In-Class Experience

	Always	Usually	Often	Sometimes	Not Usually	Never
9. I felt listened to and valued in class	15					
10. I felt listened to and valued in my interactions with the instructor	15					
11. I felt that others were listened to and valued in class	15					
12. I feel like class discussions improved my understanding of the materials	13	2				
13. Any additional comments about your in-class experience?	<p>It was a great and engaging class</p> <p>It was really fun</p> <p>My fellow peers in this class were awesome</p> <p>It was fun!</p> <p>I sometimes had difficulty finding an opportunity to say what I wanted in class discussions because there was so much discussion going on between others. This is, I suppose, the cloud to the silver lining of lively discussion, but I think overall it helped me learn to speak up about my thoughts more readily.</p> <p>I actually enjoyed the class, which not a lot of my friends said about their fws.</p> <p>Discussions were fun as it was nice to hear my classmates' interpretation of the maps.</p> <p>Class is always a fun and exciting place to be! I have perfect attendance for class and there's a good reason for that.</p>					

### Instructor Evaluation

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
14. How would you rate the instructor's effectiveness?	13	2				
15. How would you rate instructor's contribution to the course?	15					
16. How would you rate the instructor's enthusiasm?	15					
17. How would you rate the instructor's interest in student learning?	15					
18. How would you rate the instructor's use of class time?	8	6	1			

	Yes	No
19. Would you take another course from this instructor?	15	
20. What do you consider to be the strengths of this instructor?	<p>Personable and passionate about the class he is teaching</p> <p>He is very laid-back and treats us not as students but as peers. In this way I feel free to speak what I truly think.</p> <p>Definitely knows the content, and is actually very eager to teach it to you. Also is very flexible if you have an out of class issue.</p> <p>Funny and personable. Good at asking thought-prevoking questions.</p> <p>Very knowledgeable, engaging, and approachable</p> <p>He was very engaged every class, and good at keeping discussions going if we ran out of things to say.</p> <p>Open to student ideas, knowledgeable about the subject, eager to instruct</p> <p>I always felt like he cared about what was being said &amp; the students, as well as was obviously very passionate &amp; knowledgeable about the subject matter.</p> <p>Good sense of humor, easy to talk to, very understanding of personal circumstances, excellent knowledge of the material (especially eels)</p> <p>Dr. Greenlee is a caring professor. He is very knowledgeable on the subject and he leads very engaging discussions.</p> <p>Ability to resonate well with his students and understand our needs, not being too strict.</p> <p>Prof is an engaging and overall awesome instructor. Class is a place where I can be myself and talk about interesting things while learning a lot. Professor Greenlee always has something insightful to say and keeps our class interested and on track.</p> <p>Giving us freedom in our learning and using resources outside of class (readings) that contribute very well to the course content and allow us to learn before class, then being able to discuss that brought up in class with each other.</p> <p>Loved the friendliness of the instructor and moreover, he kept trying to push on the discussion whenever students kept pondering on one question, which kept it fresh and interesting. Also, looking at some of the very unusual maps in class was rather cool</p> <p>Well balanced workload that minimizes "busy work." Communicates his knowledge on maps, history, and writing in general well and willing to help &amp; answer questions.</p> <p>Flexible with due dates if needed.</p>	
21. What do you consider to be the weaknesses of the instructor, and what suggestions do	<p>Not necessarily a weakness but can steer off topic in the event something of interest is said</p> <p>I really cannot think of one. One of my favorite teachers.</p>	

you have for  
remedying them?

Sometimes he would be a bit late to post readings and/or discussion posts for the next day

Lack of communication. Sometimes there would be assignments that didn't have a clear due date or were never discussed in class but were still on the syllabus. A little bit more communication would solve that.

Nothing to point out

We didn't get any grades back for past essays so it was hard to improve

The only issue I have really had this semester is with getting feedback on papers I have submitted. I haven't been able to get feedback on any of my papers this semester so far, which means I cannot learn from my mistakes on them to improve my future writing. I don't know how this could be fixed (aside from faster grading, which is less a solution and more of the problem itself), but if it could I think that would allow me to improve more.

We would sometimes get off topic

Slow at grading papers

Zero weaknesses

Having more classes be different than just discussions to keep it more varied. Maybe looking at lectures or something similar. We did it a couple of times and it helped keep the class fresh.

I honestly can't think of anything. I really liked professor JW and his way of casual teaching.

Nah

22. Additional  
Comments:

Favorite class this semester by far

Loved the class :)

I liked this class so much I am taking a class with him next semester

Thank you for a great semester!

I was worried that FWS classes would be super boring but because of how you taught it this class was actually one of my favorite classes this semester!

I am going out of my way to specifically take another class with him next semester so I think that says a lot about his teaching.

Thank you for being my professor and I'm sorry I couldn't be there for the last two classes [redacted personal information] so I'm really sad about missing the class photo. Nonetheless, I'm glad I took this wonderful course and I will probably be taking a different course by you in the future. Thank you so much for being with me my first semester of college and making it a bit more enjoyable :)