

Political Science 397 (51): Crisis Mapping, Politics, and New Media
Course Syllabus, Fall 2012
John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio, USA

Instructor: Jen Ziemke
Room: Bruening Hall (Boler) Room 43
Day/Time: Wednesdays, 3:30-6:15pm
Office Hours: T,R 3:30-6:30 pm or by appointment
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Course Objectives

Welcome to one of the world's first academic courses on Crisis Mapping, an exciting and engaging new field whose network (www.CrisisMappers.net) 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 real-time. You will have access to 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

- James Surowiecki. *The Wisdom of Crowds*. Anchor Books, New York: 2005.

Your choice of either:

- A. Joseph Bock. *The Technology of Nonviolence: Social Media & Violence Prevention*. MIT Press, Cambridge & London: 2012.

-or-

- B. James Gleick. *The Information: A History, A Theory, A Flood*. Vintage Books, New York: 2011.

-or-

- C. James C. Scott. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press, New Haven & London: 1998.

These books are available for purchase in the University Book Store.

Students will be encouraged to use twitter as a back channel in which to communicate with the class and update us on their thoughts and questions. **Class Hashtag: #cmclass**

Resources:

- [Crisis Mappers Net](http://www.CrisisMappers.net)
- [Standby Task Force](http://www.StandbyTaskForce.org)
- [Digital Humanitarian Network](http://www.DigitalHumanitarianNetwork.org)
- [Open Crisis](http://www.OpenCrisis.org)

- [Wilson Center: Science & Technology Innovation Program, the Commons Lab](#)
- [GIS at Tufts](#)

Evaluation Standards

10 % Class participation, attendance & attentiveness, including participation in the SBTF
 20 % Lab work & assignments. Note: you must be in class to receive these assignments.
 10 % Integrative Reading Assignment #1, due [Wednesday, September 12, 2012](#).
 10 % Integrative Reading Assignment #2, due [Wednesday, September 26, 2012](#)
 10 % Integrative Reading Assignment #3, due [Wednesday, October 17, 2012](#)
 10 % Integrative Reading Assignment #4, due [Wednesday, November 28, 2012](#)
 30 % Team Final Project & interactive project presentation, due [Wednesday, December 5th](#)

*NOTE: A requirement of this class & completing your Lab Work is that you join the Standby Task Force [SBTF] and have a Skype and Twitter account. More details will be shared in class.

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

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 (Learning, Psychological, Sensory, Physical, or Medical) you may be eligible to request accommodations from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please contact the Director, Allison West at (216) 397-4967 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 the beginning of each semester. Only

accommodations approved by SSD will be recognized in the classroom. Please contact SSD if you have further questions.

Statement on Campus Climate & Diversity

At John Carroll University, we are committed to fostering a respectful and inclusive campus community. Incidents of bias which are intentional or unintentional actions against someone on the basis of an actual or perceived aspect of their identity, including actions that occur in classrooms, can and should be reported on the Bias Incident Reporting Form, accessible at <http://sites.jcu.edu/bias/>. Questions about bias can be directed to members of the Bias Response Team: Lauren Bowen, Associate Academic Vice President (bowen@jcu.edu), Bud Stuppy, Director of Human Resources (cstuppy@jcu.edu) or Danielle Carter, Director of the Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion (dcarter@jcu.edu).

Course Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1, August 29: Crisis Mapping at 20,000 feet: an overview

Intro to cartography, geography, GIS, & neogeography

Connecting up. Join volunteer standby task force, Crisis Mappers network, & google group. Overview of basic toolkit: twitter, skype, shared files

READ: James Surowiecki. *The Wisdom of Crowds*. Entire.

Week 2, September 5: Reflection and synthesis: The power of the crowd.

WATCH: Penn State Public Broadcasting. [GeoSpatial Revolution: Episode 1](#).

READ: Graeme Smith for the Globe and Mail. [“How social media users are helping NATO fight Gadhafi in Libya,”](#) *Shabab Libya*. June 15, 2011

READ: Steven Johnson. [“Two ways to emerge, and how to tell the difference between them.”](#) *Extreme Democracy*.

READ: Tom Cheshire. [“The news forecast: Can you predict the future by mining millions of webpages for data?”](#) *Wired (UK)*. November 10, 2011.

READ: Arjan Shahani. [“Twitter saves lives in Mexico,”](#) *America's Quarterly*. June 10, 2011.

READ: Mark Suster. [“Why I'm Doubling Down on The Twitter Ecosystem,”](#) *Business Insider*. 7/11/11.

WATCH: Clay Shirky. [How Cognitive Surplus Will Change the World](#). TED Talk: 2010.

READ: Dean Takahashi. [How HiveMind's Will Wright plans to crowdsource your happiness](#). Nov 2011.

EXAMINE: [“Prolific Profanities Seemed to Predict Prominent Protests,”](#) *RAND*: 2012

Week 3, September 12: Class conversation

Integrative Reading Assignment #1 due [synthesize readings from wk. 1 & 2]

WATCH: PBS. [Documentary on Crisis Mapping](#)

WATCH: Patrick Meier. [Video Introduction to Crisis Mapping](#)

WATCH: Juliana Rotich. [Ushahidi](#).

READ: Astrid Zweynert. [“Crisis mapping brings X-ray style clarity to humanitarian response.”](#) *Reuters*: October 12, 2009.

READ: [Mobile Technologies & Empowerment](#). UNDP. 2012.

READ: Jen Ziemke. [“Crisis Mapping: The Construction of a New Interdisciplinary Field?”](#) *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries: Advances in Geospatial Information, Collections & Archives*, 8:2, 101-117: May 2012.

Week 4, September 19: Motivation, Participation & Sovereignty

WATCH: RSA Animate - Drive. [The surprising truth about what motivates us](#). [in class]

WATCH: Clay Shirky. [Institutions vs. Collaboration](#). TED Talk: 2005. [in class]
READ: [Crowdsourcing an Egyptian Bill of Rights](#). CloudtoStreet.org. SHUT DOWN ONLINE
READ: John Pollack. “[People Power 2.0: How Civilians Helped Win the Libyan Information War](#),” *Technology Review*. May/June 2012.
WATCH: [Iran’s Young Rebels](#). CBC.
WATCH: Malaka Gharib. [iLab Liberia uses tech to bring power to the people](#). One. 9/13/2011.
READ: Patrick Meier & Diane Coyle. [New Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts](#). UN Foundation Vodaphone Report: 2009.
EXAMINE: Google Map. [The London Protest](#).
EXAMINE: Global Voices. [Tools for Transparency](#)
READ: [Editor Steps Down Over Russian Election Violations Website](#). *Radio Free Europe*. 12/1/11
READ: Michael Wines & Sharon LaFraniere. “[In Baring Facts of Train Crash, Blogs Erode China Censorship](#),” *The New York Times*: July 28, 2011.
READ: Robert Worth. “[Twitter gives Saudi Arabia a revolution of its own](#).” *New York Times*. 10/20/12

Week 5, September 26: Twitter, SMS, & Content Curation

Integrative Reading Assignment #2 due [Synthesize readings from weeks 3 -5]

READ: “[Maria Popova: In a new world of informational abundance, content curation is a new kind of authorship](#),” *Nieman Journalism Lab*, June 10, 2011.
READ: Sophia B. Liu. “[Trends in Distributed Curatorial Technology to Manage Data Deluge in a Networked World](#),” *Upgrade* Vol. XI, No. 4: August 2010.
READ: Sophia B. Liu and Jen Ziemke. “[From Cultures of Participation to the Rise of Crisis Mapping in a Networked World](#),” *Routledge Handbook of Participatory Cultures*. 2011.
WATCH: Paul Lewis. “[Crowdsourcing the News](#),” TEDxThessaloniki. April 2011.
READ: Katie Drummond & Noah Shachtman. [Cairo Contagion: Military Tracks Uprising’s ‘Infectious’ Ideas](#). *Wired*. January 25, 2012.
READ: Ian Schuler. “[SMS as a Tool for Election Observation](#),” *Innovations*: 3(2). MIT Press: Spr. 2008.

Week 6, October 3: Content Verification

READ: Listening Post: “[Online deception & the Arab Spring](#),” *Al Jazeera*. June 18, 2011.
READ: Patrick Meier. [Verifying Crowdsourced Social Media Reports for Live Crisis Mapping: An Introduction to Information Forensics](#). 2011.
READ: Rob Procter, Farida Vis & Alex Voss. [Riot rumours: how misinformation spread on Twitter during a time of crisis \(but twitter is adept at correcting misinformation\)](#). *The Guardian*. December 7, 2011.
READ: Patrick Meier. [Predicting the Credibility of Disaster Tweets Automatically](#). December 3, 2012.
READ: Patrick Meier: [Truth in the Age of Social Media: A Social Computing & Big Data Challenge](#). iRevolution. A summary blog post.
READ: David Pierce. “[Pentagon’s Social Network Becomes Hub for Haiti Relief](#),” *Wired*. Jan. 21, 2010.
READ: Lisa Anderson. “[Too much information? Political Science, the University & the Public Sphere](#),” *Perspectives on Politics* 10(2): June 2012.
READ: Mordechai (Muki) Haklay, Sofia Basiouka, Vyron Antoniou & Aamer Ather. “[How Many Volunteers Does It Take To Map An Area Well? The validity of Linus' law to Volunteered Geographic Information](#),” *The Cartographic Journal* Vol. 47 No. 4 pp. 315–322 November 2010

Intersession: Conflict Mapping

READ: Francesco Mancini, Ed. [New Technology & the Prevention of Violence & Conflict](#). *International Peace Institute*. April 2013.

Week 7, October 17: Security & Privacy

Integrative Reading Assignment #3 due [Synthesize readings from weeks 6 & 7]

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: Neal Ungerleider. [“How Haystack Risked Exposing Iranian Dissidents,”](#) *Fast Company*. September 20, 2010.

READ: Brian Stelter. [“Upending Anonymity. The Web Unmasks Everyone,”](#) *The New York Times*. June 20, 2011.

READ: George Chamales. [Securing Crisis Maps.](#)

READ: Stephanie Rosenbloom. [“Got Twitter? You’ve been scored.”](#) *The New York Times*. Jun 25, 2011.

READ: G. Friedland & Robin Sommer. [“Cybercasing the Joint: On the privacy implications of geo-tagging.”](#) Berkeley: 2010

READ: A. Greenberg, [“Flying Drone Can Crack Wi-Fi Networks, Snoop on Cell Phones,”](#) *Forbes*. July 28, 2011.

READ: Patrick Meier, [“Perils of Crisis Mapping: Lessons from Gun Map,”](#) *iRevolution*. Jan 23, 2013.

READ: [“Towards a Code of Conduct: Guidelines for the use of SMS in Natural Disasters,”](#) Prepared by GSMA Disaster Response, Souktel & The Qatar Foundation. February 2013.

Week 8, October 24

Participatory Mapping: OSM/HOT, Map Kibera, Walking Papers

KEY RESOURCE: [Getting Started with Open Street Maps.](#)

KEY RESOURCE: <http://www.learnosm.org/>

WATCH: BBC. [Map Kibera](#)

WATCH: Time lapse video. [Open Street Maps](#)

WATCH: Penn State University. [Geospatial Revolution: Episode 4](#) (start at 10:00)

READ: [How to Map, Part I: Mapping for Rights.](#) Rainforest Foundation (UK).

READ: Erica Hagen. [“Mapping Change: Community Information Empowerment in Kibera,”](#) *Innovations* 6(1): 2011.

READ: Anne Nelson. [“Ground Truth from the Grassroots: Innovations Case Discussion \(Map Kibera\).”](#) *Innovations* 6(1): 2011.

READ: Alexis Madrigal. [How Google Builds its Maps and What it Means for the Future of Everything.](#) *The Atlantic*. Sept 6, 2012.

An emphasis on the local

READ: Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh & Helena Puig Larrauri. [“Building Resilience through Crisis Mapping, Community Engagement and Recovery Planning in Sudan”](#) Proceedings from the 9th International ISCRAM Conference. Vancouver: April 2012.

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

Week 9, October 31: Imagery: Aerial and satellite. Maps for Human Rights & UN Charter

WATCH: PBS NewsHour. [Satellites Offer New Window Into Documenting, Preventing Genocide](#)

READ: Sudan Sentinel Project. [“Crime Scene: Evidence of Mass Crimes in Kadugli, Sudan,”](#) *Harvard Humanitarian Initiative*. July 13, 2011.

READ: Patrick Meier. [“Crowdsourcing Satellite Imagery Analysis for Somalia: Results from a Trial](#)

Run,” iRevolution.net. August 31, 2011.

READ: Doug Hanchard. “Constructive Convergence: Imagery and Humanitarian Assistance,” Center for Technology & National Security Policy: *National Defense University*. February 2012.

Week 10, November 7: Grassroots mapping using balloons, kites, and drones

READ: Jeffrey Warren. “Creating a Participatory, Open Source Map of an Entire Country” *Ideas Lab*. August 3, 2010

EXAMINE: www.grassrootsmapping.org/ & <http://mapknitter.org/> & <https://community.apan.org/>

READ: Louisiana Bucket Brigade. “Oil Spill Crisis Map: Initial Analysis and Review” 2010.

Week 11, November 14: Learning to ask good questions & formulate hypotheses

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

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

READ: Marc Lacey. “Fighting Wildfires with Computers and Intuition,” *The New York Times*. June 23, 2011.

WATCH: Tim Berners-Lee. “The year open data went world-wide” TED: March 8, 2010.

READ: Oliver Burkeman. The dark side of digital mapping. *Brisbane Times*. September 3, 2012.

No classes November 21: Happy Thanksgiving

Week 12, November 28: Gaming & the Future

Integrative Reading Assignment #4 due [Synthesize readings from weeks 11-12]

WATCH: Jane McGonigal. Gaming Can Make a Better World. TED Talk. 2010.

EXAMINE: Internet Response League: Gamers to the Rescue.

READ: Miguel Angel Luengo-Oroz, et. al. Crowdsourcing Malaria Parasite Information. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*. 2012.

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

READ: Jerome Dobson & Peter Fisher. “Geoslavery” *IEEE Technology & Society Magazine*: Spr 2003.

WATCH: John Underkoffler. John Underkoffler Points to the Future of UI. TED Talk. 2010.

READ: Anne-Marie Slaughter. “Design Your Own Profession” *Harvard Business Review*. Dec 22, 2011

Week 13, December 5

Final discussion & team project presentations.

Note: in this busy world, if you put your brilliant research behind a paywall, or if I can’t link to some version of it, my students & most of the rest of us simply won’t ever read it.

Thanks to the Crisis Mappers community for the ideas & input that helped create this syllabus!

If you want to build a ship,
don't drum up people together to collect wood
& assign them tasks
& work,
rather *teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.*

~ Antoine de Saint-Exupéry HT: @PatrickMeier