Spring Semester 2022

COURSE TITLE:
Mapping Los Angeles

COURSE NUMBER:
URBN 3998 03

SECTION TIMES/DAYS:
Wednesdays 7:30-10:30pm

INSTRUCTOR:
Brianne Gilbert

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:
Ever look at a map and wish you could create your own with information that is important to you? There is a cool way to make awesome maps - this course teaches you how to do it. This course looks at GIS (geographic information systems) and location analysis through the lens of our beautiful and diverse Los Angeles region. We use LA as an example, but these techniques can be used to study any place in the world. Everything happens somewhere. Whether you are building on your existing GIS knowledge or developing skills from a general interest in the field, this course will walk you through the steps to help you focus on "where." Specifically, this course will help you:

1) ask meaningful location-driven questions,
2) establish a methodology to study those questions,
3) create maps to analyze your questions,
4) think critically about your findings, and
5) visualize your results.

Topics covered in this course will be tailored to your interests; possible areas include demographics, education, elections, environmental studies, health disparities, income inequality, policing analysis, and transportation.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Three major learning outcomes guide the course: 1) practice communicating your GIS knowledge in written, oral, and visual form, 2) incorporate location thinking and GIS technologies in your map design and analysis, and 3) by the end of the semester, conduct and present a research project using GIS.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:
None, although general computer literacy and GIS familiarity will be an asset.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
None required for purchase (all materials will be available for free online or provided for free in class)

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:
This course requires a significant amount of hands-on work since you will be developing a technical skill. Assignments may be submitted multiple times until completed correctly - the focus will be on learning and doing, rather than testing and memorizing. In addition to weekly assignments, there will be a final project and presentation. Weekly participation in class is expected.