Developing a Spatial Minor at the University of Redlands

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Structural Challenges

- Diverse, shallow pool of faculty with spatial focus
- Have to build minor largely from existing courses
- Lack of central department (e.g., Geography) to house a spatial program
- Unsuccessful attempt to put spatial in Gen Ed
Solution: An Interdisciplinary Minor

- **2 core courses:**
  - Foundations in Spatial Thinking
  - Introduction to Spatial Analysis and GIS

- **4 electives drawn from two of:**
  - Methods and Representations (Art, Math, Physics)
  - Culture and Communities (English, Government, History, Religious Studies, Anthropology)
  - Natural World (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science)

- Classes teach “Graphicacy”
Curricular tension #1:

- Courses that have
  - “place without space”

- E.g., Humanities courses grounded in the experience of a place (African Literature; French History) but that do not employ spatial thinking concepts
Curricular Tension #2

- Courses that have
  - “space without place”

- E.g., Physics and Math courses that teach the structure of space without relating it to a lived experience