Overview of Independent Readings Course

Semester Activity: Readings in critical cartography, focusing on the relationship of maps to exploration, empire, territorial control, parks and protected areas, and indigenous peoples.

Semester Products: (1) Annotated bibliography. (2) Narrative essay suitable for inclusion in a literature review and thesis focused on the contestation of cultural knowledge in/for Chaco Canyon.

Proposed Schedule: Weekly readings* consist of 4-5 articles or chapters, with annotations due every other week. Annotations are always due on a Sunday, and we will then meet the following Tuesday. See below and following pages for details.

Annotations: Each annotation should consist of a complete citation, followed by 1-2 paragraphs that critically summarize the article/chapter. At a minimum, each annotation should (1) describe the topic and nature of the research presented, (2) state the author’s primary argument, (3) briefly list supporting arguments, (4) note the primary evidence/data analyzed, and (5) summarize the methods of both data-gathering and analysis. It is also helpful to include a sentence or two of critique, i.e. assessment of how well or poorly the research was conducted, the methods were conceptualized, and the arguments were presented.

Note: each annotation is meant to summarize/assess the article or chapter on its own merits. It is not necessary in the annotations to compare entries to one another or to other works. In the narrative essay you will complete at the end of the semester, however, you will need to identify themes/methods that run across the broader literature as a whole.

Week 1: Administrative work to undertake by Jan.31

Please download, copy and/or request all readings listed below. Most of the articles will be available through full-text search engines with UNM access. (Use the “eJournal Finder” on the library website to collect access details for specific titles.) Books are available in UNM libraries or by Inter-Library Loan. Keep in mind that the new “Library Express” service allows you to request PDF scans of individual book chapters that are on the shelves in UNM libraries, but you are limited to one or two chapters per request (for copyright reasons). You are also welcome to copy chapters out of books I have in my office (most of the books listed), but I will need them back for reference purposes as I do my own reading on this topic throughout the semester.

Due Jan.31: Email list of any articles/chapters that could not be located.

* Readings for each week are listed in the suggested order of reading.
Critical History of Cartography

Week 2: Readings to annotate & submit by Feb.14

Harley, J.B. 2001. *The New Nature of Maps: Essays in the History of Cartography*, Ed. Paul Laxton (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins). Read the following chapters and complete one annotation for each:
- Introduction: Meaning, knowledge and power in the map philosophy of J.B. Harley, 1-32
- Chapter 2: Maps, knowledge and power, 51-82. (Originally published 1988.)
- Chapter 5: Deconstructing the map, 149-168. (Originally published 1989.)


Week 3: Readings to annotate & submit by Feb.14

Wood, Denis. 1996. *The Power of Maps* (New York: Guilford). Read the following chapters and complete one annotation for each:
- Chapter 1: Maps work by serving interests, 4-27.
- Chapter 2: Maps are embedded in a history they help construct, 28-47.
- Chapter 3: Every map show this … but not that, 48-69.
- Chapter 4: The interest the map serves is masked, 70-94.
- Chapter 5: The interest is embodied in the map in signs and myths, 95-142.

** Meeting on Feb.16

Mapping and Imperialism

Week 4: Readings to annotate & submit by Feb.28

- Chapter 1: The ideologies and practices of mapping and imperialism, 1-36
- Chapter 2: Observation and representation, 39-76
- Chapter 3: Surveying and mapmaking, 77-118
- Chapter 9: Scientific practice: incorporating the rationality of empire, 293-318

Week 5: Readings to annotate & submit by Feb.28

Akerman, James (ed.). 2009. *The Imperial Map* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). Read the following chapters and complete one annotation for each:
- Chapter 1: The irony of imperial mapping, by Matthew Edney, 11-46.
- Chapter 4: The confines of the colony: Boundaries, ethnographic landscapes and imperial cartography in Iberoamerica, by Neil Safier, 133-184.


** Meeting on Mar.2**

**Cartographies of Exclusion and Control**

**Week 6: Readings to annotate & submit by Mar.14**


**Putting Parks and Protected Areas on the Map**

**Week 7: Readings to annotate & submit by Mar.14**


— SPRING BREAK, March 13-21 —

** Meeting on Mar.23**
Indigenous Mapping

Week 8: Readings to annotate & submit by Apr.4
**NOTE: For this week, skim the following and select 2 chapters (each book) to annotate.


Week 9: Readings to annotate & submit by Apr.4


Sletto, Bjørn. 2009. 'Indigenous people don't have boundaries': reborderings, fire management, and productions of authenticities in indigenous landscapes. *Cultural Geographies* 16(2):253-277.


** Meeting on Apr.6

Critical GIS, Community-Based Mapping, and Strategies for Counter-Mapping

Week 10: Readings to annotate & submit by Apr.18


**Week 11: Readings to annotate & submit by Apr.18**


**Meeting on Apr.20**

**Weeks 12-14: Preparation of final paper**

The final project in this course is a narrative essay that critically synthesizes the readings completed over the course of the semester. This should be written in the style of a literature review and should be suitable for inclusion in a thesis. Please see the attached “Guide to Writing a Literature Review” for suggestions/cautions before you begin to prepare your essay. Please feel free to consult me during the writing process. There are no scheduled meetings after April 20, but I am always available during office hours (Tues/Thurs 3:15-4:15) and can schedule meetings outside of that time as well.

**Due May 7:** Final narrative essay, by email.