HIST490 Seminar for History Majors
Maps In History: Power and Identity, Conflict and Imagination

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Office Hours: Monday 1PM - 3PM
Tuesdays 9:30AM – 11:30AM
OR
Thursdays 2PM – 4PM

Course Overview

A recent historiographical shift has opened up the study of mapping, particularly in its imperial functions, not only as an antiquarian fascination but now also as a source of political, social and intellectual history. This course will examine maps as sites of the construction of identities, of the exercising of power and of imagination and conflict. We will look at mapping as an encounter, and as an intrinsically ideological and imaginative process. Each week will focus on specific maps, reading the maps themselves as historical texts and looking at the constructions of space, power, identity and conflict they engendered. Although taking a global perspective, we will look at four case studies from North America, Africa, India and South East Asia from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, through which we will explore themes of imperialism, nationalism, expressions of sovereignty, territoriality, cartographic literacy, non-cartographic mapping practices, gender and space, counter-mapping, conceptions of self and wider issues related to geographic imaginations.

The major research project for this seminar will entail each student choosing their own map, or set of maps, from a region of their choosing to examine in detail and in relation to the themes discussed in class.

Required Texts:

Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped* (Honolulu, 1994)
Denis Wood, *Rethinking the Power of Maps* (Guilford Press, 2010)
Daniel Clayton, *Islands of Truth: The Imperial Fashioning of Vancouver Island* (Vancouver, 2000) – whole text recommended only

Additional Readings will be distributed in advance and available on reserve at the library.
Course Evaluations

Short Response to Readings – Maps in History 10% (Due Week Four)
Term Paper Proposal and Preliminary Bibliography 10% (Due Week Six)
Draft Essay and Peer Review 20% (Due Week Ten for discussion in Weeks Eleven and Twelve)
Research Paper 40% (Due 13 December 2013)
Participation 20%

Week One (5 September): Maps in History, History in Maps


Week Two (10 or 12 September): Mapping the World: Cartography and Ideology


Week Three (17 or 19 September): Unit 1 – Mapping the Encounter: The “New World” and “Indigenous Mapping”

Week Four (24 or 26 September): Unit 1 – Mapping the Encounter: Vancouver Island

Required Reading: Daniel Clayton, Islands of Truth: The Imperial Fashioning of Vancouver Island (Vancouver, 2000), 3-49, 63-68, 165-233 (whole text recommended).

Week Five (1 or 3 October): Unit Two – Sacred Topographies and Imperial Cartography

Required Reading: Thongchai Winichakul, Siam Mapped (Honolulu, 1994), 1-113.

Week Six (8 and 10 October): Unit Two – Mapping Siam


Week Seven (15 and 17 October): Unit Three – Imperial India: Mapping Patriotic Nations


Week Eight (22 and 24 October): Unit Three – Mapping Gender and Location

Required Reading: Sumathi Ramaswamy, "Other Women, Other Mothers" and "Daughters of India" in The Goddess and the Nation: Mapping Mother India (Duke, 2010); Heidi Gengenbach, “Locating A Woman’s Life” in Binding Memories (http://www.gutenberg-e.org/geh01/) (available online).

Week Nine (29 and 31 October): Unit Four – Somalia: The Art of Not Being Mapped

Week Ten (5 and 7 November): Unit Four – Imagining Greater Somalia


Week Eleven (12 and 14 November): Student Workshops

Week Twelve (19 and 21 November): Student Workshops

Week Thirteen (26 and 28 November 2013): Globalizing Space, Counter-Mapping and New Technologies: The Case of Palestine

**Required Reading:** Denis Wood, *Rethinking the Power of the Map*, 231-256.