Description
Our modern territorial assumptions influence nearly every part of our life. They justify state-sponsored war and restrictions on immigration, and they determine an individual’s chances for receiving reliable health care or attending quality schools. They even shape our own identities, from feelings of neighborhood pride to nationality and race. This course uses cartography – especially scientific cartography and its competitors – as a lens for analyzing modern territory and sovereignty. Maps help focus our attention on a number of related problems. How is territory claimed? Why do we trust maps, and should we ever regard them as “objective”? Are nations the cause or the result of the modern nation state? How do ideas about measuring and representing geographic space influence encounters between different cultures?

We will begin with an overview of approaches to cartography and territorial sovereignty from the history of cartography and political history. Within this framework, the bulk of the course explores how questions of territory and identity have aligned with new ways of producing, using, or challenging maps. The first half of the course looks at the relationship between maps and territorial states: the creation of boundaries, the invention of nationalism, and the practice of international diplomacy. In the second half of the course we will then turn to other types of territories, other traditions of mapping, and the various ways that the scientific map has been contested.

Assignments
Every student is expected to come to class prepared to discuss all the assigned readings, and you will be required to participate in discussion. Participating in discussion isn’t just a fun thing to do, it’s also an important skill that everyone needs to learn.

The night before each class, you will also need to email analytic questions to me about the week’s readings. These emails need not be longer than a short paragraph, but they should ask
interesting questions that engage with themes and arguments, not just factual material. We will discuss how these emails should be written throughout the semester, and questions will be shared anonymously with the group.

There are three assignments due during the semester.

1: Map analysis – due February 7th; 1500–2000 words (5–8 pages). For this paper, you will pick one map and write a short, focused paper presenting and analyzing its argument. You can pick any map from any time period, culture, genre, or subject. It can be a map from medieval Italy, from a 1920s road atlas, from a video game – anything. (Some maps, however, will be easier to analyze than others.) What makes the map scientific, objective, or trustworthy? What arguments does it make about territory, sovereignty, nationality, or identity? Does it give an indication of who should use the map? Your analysis should derive primarily from visual analysis of the map itself, although some brief discussion of its historical context may also be helpful.

2: Map redesign – due February 28th. Using the map you analyzed in your short paper as a starting point, create a new map of the same area with a different argument. For example, if you concluded that a map from World War II showed Germany as a unified nation under attack from hostile outside forces, you could redraw the map to show a different kind of Germany. To make the map, you can use any methods at your disposal: construction paper and markers, Photoshop, Google Earth, xerox collage, GIS, etc. I’ll be happy to help with any technical questions, but it is up to you to acquire any skills you think you’ll need. Include a one-page explanation of your goals.

3: Final research paper – due April 30th; 4000–6000 words (15–20 pages). Topic of your choice. This can be a continuation of your earlier analysis, or you can start fresh with a new subject. The goal will be to analyze a mapping system rather than just a single map; in addition to visual analysis, you will want to address questions of cultural context, production, use, and impact. Example topics might include U.S. census atlases, protest maps of the Vietnam War, the first maps of Ethiopia, etc.

These assignments will combine into your final grade:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly emails</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Map analysis</td>
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<td>Map redesign</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Books marked with an asterisk (*) will be placed on reserve, but should be purchased if possible. Books marked with a dagger (†) are available as e-books through Orbis. All other readings will be available on the website.

January 10: Introduction

PART I: MAPPING AND TERRITORY

January 17: Cartography and Power

January 24: “Modern” Territory
PART II: CARTOGRAPHY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL STATES

January 31: Boundaries

February 7: Nations and Nationalism
- MAP ANALYSIS DUE –

February 14: Propaganda

February 21: Placing the United States in the World

February 28: The Geography of the “Third World”
- MAP REDESIGN DUE –

- SPRING BREAK –
PART III: MAPPING OTHER SPACES / MAPPING SPACES OTHERWISE

March 20: Cartography in the Far East

March 27: Mapping Sacred Geographies

April 3: Indians and European Conquest

April 10: Counter-Cartographies and Indigenous Rights

April 17: Digital Space and the Territoriality of the Internet
Also see the various “maps of internet” at http://www.radicalcartography.net/internet

– RESEARCH PAPERS DUE APRIL 30th –
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

January 10: Introduction
January 24: Map Library: Digital Maps – meet in Sterling Library, room 707

January 31: Five-minute Map Presentations (half the class)
February 7: Five-minute Map Presentations (the other half of the class)
– MAP ANALYSIS DUE –

February 14: Nine-minute Redesign Presentations (five students)
February 21: Nine-minute Redesign Presentations (five students)
February 28: Nine-minute Redesign Presentations (five students)
– MAP REDESIGNS DUE –

– SPRING BREAK –

March 20: Fifteen-minute Research Workshop (three students)
March 27: Fifteen-minute Research Workshop (three students)
April 3: Fifteen-minute Research Workshop (three students)
April 10: Fifteen-minute Research Workshop (three students)
April 17: Fifteen-minute Research Workshop (three students)

– RESEARCH PAPERS DUE APRIL 30th –

GIS TUTORIALS (100% optional – taught by Stacey Maples of the Map Library)
All tutorials are held in Bass L06A

January 20, 1pm: Intro
January 27, 1pm: Intermediate
February 3, 1pm: Advanced
February 10, 1pm: Workshop: Raster Data
February 13, 1pm: Intro
February 20, 1pm: Intermediate
February 27, 1pm: Advanced
March 19, 1pm: Workshop: GPS Field Data
March 29, 9am: Intro
April 5, 9am: Intermediate
April 12, 9am: Advanced
April 19, 9am: Workshop: Mapping on the Web