

Cartography, Territory, and Identity

Undergraduate Seminar

Bill Rankin

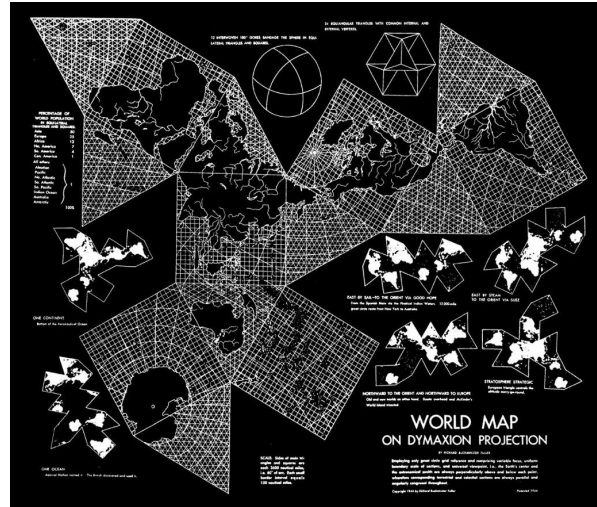
Fall 2024

Tuesdays 1:30–3:20pm

Office hours by appointment

Email: william.rankin@yale.edu

A world map by Buckminster Fuller from 1944, designed to be respliced and reoriented to show a variety of global geographic relationships.



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 by thinking about how maps can be understood as instruments of power. The bulk of the course then 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 tensions of internationalism and globalization. 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 October 2nd, end of day; 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 October 23rd, end of day. 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 December 18th, 11:59pm; 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:

Weekly emails	15%
Class participation	15%
Map analysis	15%
Map redesign	15%
Final paper	40%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Books marked with an asterisk () are available as e-books through Orbis.*

Books marked with a dagger (†) cannot be placed on reserve and should be purchased if possible.

All other readings will be available on the website.

September 3: Introduction

PART I: CARTOGRAPHY AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL STATES

September 10: Cartography and Power

J. B. Harley, "Deconstructing the Map," *Cartographica* 26 (1989), pp. 1–20.

Mark Monmonier, *How to Lie with Maps* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), introduction, chapter 10, and epilogue.

Matthew Edney, "The Irony of Imperial Mapping," in James Akerman, ed., *The Imperial Map* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009), pp. 11–46.

Denis Wood and John Krygier, "Maps," *The Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (New York: Elsevier, 2009), 10 pp.

September 17: Boundaries

John Stilgoe, "Jack o' Lanterns to Surveyors: The Secularization of Landscape Boundaries," *Environmental Review* 1 (1976), pp. 14–30.

* Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989), introduction, chapters 1 and 2, conclusion, and epilogue.

D. Graham Burnett, *Masters of All They Surveyed: Exploration, Geography, and a British El Dorado* (2000), introduction, chapter 6, and conclusion.

September 24: Nations and Nationalism

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 2nd edition (London: Verso, 1991), introduction and chapter 10.

* Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: A History of the Geo-Body of a Nation* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1994), introduction, chapters 6, 7, 8, and conclusion.

Martin Brückner, *The Geographic Revolution in Early America: Maps, Literacy, and National Identity* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006), introduction and chapter 3.

October 1: Propaganda

– MAP ANALYSIS DUE OCTOBER 2nd END OF DAY –

John Pickles, "Texts, Hermeneutics, and Propaganda Maps," in Trevor Barnes and James Duncan, eds., *Writing Worlds: Discourse, Text, and Metaphor in the Representation of Landscape* (New York: Routledge, 1992), pp. 193–230.

* Guntram Henrik Herb, *Under the Map of Germany: Nationalism and Propaganda, 1918–1945* (New York: Routledge, 1996).

October 8: Placing the United States in the World

- * Susan Schulten, *The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880–1950* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001).
- Alan K. Henrikson, “The Map as an ‘Idea’: The Role of Cartographic Imagery During the Second World War,” *The American Cartographer* 2 (1975), pp. 19–53.

October 15: From Colonial to Post-Colonial

- Timothy Barney, “The Peters Projection and the Latitude and Longitude of Recolonization,” *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* 7 (2014), pp. 103–126.
- * Sumathi Ramaswamy, *The Goddess and the Nation: Mapping Mother India* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010), introduction, chapters 1, 2, and conclusion.

October 22: Territory and Globalization

- MAP REDESIGN DUE OCTOBER 23rd END OF DAY –
- Peter J. Taylor, “The State as Container: Territoriality in the Modern World-System,” *Progress in Human Geography* 18 (1994), pp. 151–162.
- Charles Maier, “Consigning the Twentieth Century to History,” *American Historical Review* 105 (2000), pp. 807–831.
- * William Rankin, *After the Map: Cartography, Navigation, and the Transformation of Territory in the Twentieth Century* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2016), introduction, chapters 1, 2, and conclusion.

PART II: MAPPING OTHER SPACES / MAPPING SPACES OTHERWISE

October 29: Cartography in East Asia

- * Marcia Yonemoto, *Mapping Early Modern Japan: Space, Place, and Culture in the Tokugawa Period (1603–1868)* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003).
- Laura Hostetler, “Contending Cartographic Claims? The Qing Empire in Manchu, Chinese, and European Maps,” in James Akerman, ed., *The Imperial Map* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009), pp. 93–132.

November 5: Mapping Sacred Geographies

- Evelyn Edson, *Mapping Time and Space: How Medieval Mapmakers Viewed their World* (London: British Library, 1997), chapters 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, and conclusion.
- Manoucher Parvin and Maurie Sommer, “Dar al-Islam: The Evolution of Muslim Territoriality and Its Implications for Conflict Resolution in the Middle East,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 11 (1980), pp. 1–21.
- Karen Pinto, “Passion and Conflict: Medieval Islamic Views of the West,” in Keith Lilley, ed., *Mapping Medieval Geographies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), 201–224.

November 12: American Indians and European Conquest

J. B. Harley, "New England Cartography and the Native American," in Baker et al, eds., *American Beginnings* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1994), pp. 287–314.

William Cronon, *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1983), preface and chapter 4.

† Barbara Mundy, *The Mapping of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and the Maps of the Relaciones Geográficas* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), introduction and chapters 1–5.

November 19: Statistical Mapping and the Politics of Visibility

* Tom Koch, *Disease Maps* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), chapter 1 and part 2.
Christian Topalov, "The City as *Terra Incognita*: Charles Booth's Poverty Survey and the People of London, 1886–1891," *Planning Perspectives* 8 (1993; orig. 1991), pp. 395–425. See also the full maps – in color – on the website.

William Rankin, "Race and the Territorial Imaginary: Reckoning with the Demographic Cartography of the United States," *Modern American History*.

– THANKSGIVING BREAK –

December 3: Counter-Cartographies and Indigenous Rights

Benjamin Orlove, "Mapping Reeds and Reading Maps: The Politics of Representation in Lake Titicaca," *American Ethnologist* 18 (1991), pp. 3–38.

Nancy Lee Peluso, "Whose Woods are These? Counter-Mapping Forest Territories in Kalimantan, Indonesia," *Antipode* 27 (1995), pp. 383–406.

Michael T. Bravo, "The Accuracy of Ethnoscience: A Study of Inuit Cartography and Cross-Cultural Commensurability," *Manchester Papers in Social Anthropology* 2 (1996), pp. 1–26.

David Turnbull, "Mapping encounters and (en)countering maps: A critical examination of cartographic resistance," *Knowledge and Society* 11 (1998), pp. 15–44.

Severin Halder and Boris Michel, introduction to *This Is Not an Atlas* (Bielefeld: Transcript, 2018), pp. 12–21.

– RESEARCH PAPERS DUE DECEMBER 18th, 11:59pm –

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- September 3:** **Introductions and Digital Maps part I**
September 10: **Finding and Working with Paper Maps – *meet in Gates Classroom***
September 17: **Finding and Working with Digital Maps part II**
- September 24:** **Five-minute Map Presentations (half the class)**
October 1: **Five-minute Map Presentations (the other half of the class)**
– MAP ANALYSIS DUE –
- October 8:** **Nine-minute Redesign Presentations (five students)**
October 15: **Nine-minute Redesign Presentations (five students)**
October 22: **Nine-minute Redesign Presentations (five students)**
– MAP REDESIGNS DUE –
- October 29:** **Fifteen-minute Research Workshopping (three students)**
November 5: **Fifteen-minute Research Workshopping (three students)**
November 12: **Fifteen-minute Research Workshopping (three students)**
November 26: **Fifteen-minute Research Workshopping (three students)**
– THANKSGIVING BREAK –
December 3: **Fifteen-minute Research Workshopping (three students)**
- RESEARCH PAPERS DUE DECEMBER 18th, 11:59pm –