

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of History
HISTORY 703 – History and Theory
GEOGRAPHY AT WORK IN HISTORY
Spring 2008
Professor Thongchai Winichakul
Mon 3:30-5:30, Rm. 5255 George Mosse Humanities Building

Thanks to critical theories, cultural studies, and newer ideas in human geography, the notion of “geography” has changed dramatically in the past few decades, especially in our usual understanding of the relationship between the science of the terrestrial, maps and mapping, and the significance of geography in human relations. Historical geography and the geographical dimension of history also change. This has opened up newer ideas for exploring geography (in various meanings of the term) as a significant aspect of human past and in the production of historical knowledge. This class will explore some of those ideas and approaches. The readings are selected primarily by their thematic or methodological values; the world areas of the cases are secondary.

Office 5211 Humanities; Hours: Wed 1:30-3:30; Ph. 263-8931; <twinicha@wisc.edu>

Readings: Every week, students must do the required readings (*). Additional readings (-) are provided in case students cannot find the required readings to prepare for the class, and for further interests on the topics. All required readings are also available in the Reserves. Some journal articles are accessible on-line (marked @ in this syllabus), via the library’s journal databases.

Attendance and participation required: Regular attendance in the class is required. Participation in the discussion is expected. Frequent and unreasonable absence may result in penalty.

Assignments:

1. 20% -- **Weekly issues.** No later than Sunday night of each week, each student must post an email message to the class. It can be a question, comment on reading, anecdote, story, or news that are relevant to the weekly reading/topic and can be an issue for discussion in the class on Monday. Everybody must read ALL the messages before coming to the class on Mon. Please keep each message short.

2. 60% -- **Essays/papers**

Option 1: Three essays (5 pages each, 20% each). Each must be on a topic related to the subject and/or the readings of a particular week, although it does not have to be exactly the same topic as discussed in the class. It can be a commentary on the weekly subject in a certain way, a review of weekly readings, a literature review of the topic, a current issue that is relevant to the subject of a week, a creative story or a historical case related or relevant to the subject. Be creative. But it must demonstrate your critical reading and your arguments on the subject.

Option 2: A research paper (15-20 pages). Topic as agreed with Thongchai

3. 20 % total – **Peer reader.** A copy of each essay must be given to another student in the class (“peer reader”) for his/her comment. The reader makes comments (1 page max.), focusing on the ideas and arguments in the essay. Send the commentary directly to the writer (with cc: to Thongchai) ASAP. Each student should seek 2-3 peer readers, instead of relying on only one reader for all three essays. A student can be peer reader of no more than three essays.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Week 1 (Jan 21) MLK Day- no class. **students will get contact by email from Thongchai.**

Week 2 (Jan 28) **Geography = writing the terrestrial**

* Martin Lewis and Karen Wigen, *Myths of the Continents*, 1997

- Paul Carter, *The Road to Botany Bay*.

Week 3 (Feb 3) **Map, knowledge and power**

* J.B. Harley, *New Nature of Maps*, read articles 1,2,3,5

Week 4 (Feb 11) **Non-Western maps, cartographic clashes**

* Barbara Mundy, *Mapping of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and the Maps of Relaciones Geograficas*, 1996. OR

* Elizabeth Hill Boone, "Maps of Territory, History, and Community in Aztec Mexico" in ed. Malcolm Lewis, *Cartographic Encounters: Perspective on Native American Map-making and Map Use*, 1998, pp. 111-133.

* Peter Nabokov, "Orientations from Their Side: Dimensions of Native American Cartographic Discourse" in *Cartographic Encounters—ibid.*, 1998, pp. 241-269.

- Marcia Yonemoto, *Mapping Early Modern Japan*, chaps 3-5.

- Laura Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China*, 2000, chaps 1-2, pp.33-80.

Week 5 (Feb 18) **Modern mapping and emerging nations**

* Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: a history of the geo-body of a nation*.

- Andrew Walker, *The Legend of the Golden Boat*, (a good critique of Thongchai's book)

- Ian Barrow, *Making History, Drawing Territory: British Mapping in India, C.1756-1905*

- Christopher Bayly, "Knowing the Country: Empire and Information in India", *Modern Asian Studies* 27, 1 (1993): 3-43.

- Matthew Edney, *Mapping an Empire: the geographical construction of British India, 1765-1843*.

- Christopher Gosha, "Annam and Vietnam in the New Indo-Chinese Space, 1887-1945" in *Asian Forms of the Nation*, eds. Hans Antlov and Stein Tonnesson, 1995, pp. 92-130.

- "Stateless in South Asia: the making of the India-Bangladesh enclaves", *Journal of Asian Studies* 61, 1 (Feb 2002): 115-147.

Week 6 (Feb 25) **Colonialism and geography: economy and the national space**

* Manu Goswami, *Producing India*

- Anne Godlewska and Neil Smith eds., *Geography and Empire*, see the articles by Anne Godlewska, Michael Heffernan, and David N. Livingstone.

- Morag Bell et al eds., *Geography and Imperialism, 1820-1940*, see the articles by James Cameron, James Ryan, Cheryl McEwan, Michael Heffernan.

Week 7 (Mar 3) **The state and its spatial regime**

* Raymond Craib, *Cartographic Mexico*

- James C. Scott, *Seeing like a State*, chaps 1, 6-8.

Week 8 (Mar 10) Borderland, border crossing, and transnationalism

* Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: the making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*, 1989

- Aihwa Ong and Donald Nonini eds., *Underground Empires: the cultural logics of modern Chinese transnationalism*, Routledge, 1997

- Aihwa Ong, *Flexible Citizenship*, 1999

Week 9 (Mar 17) Spring Recess

Week 10 (Mar 24) Nature: first, second, and its shop

* William Cronon, ed. *Uncommon Ground: toward reinventing nature*, see the articles by Cronon, White, Proctor, Ellis, Olwig, Slater or Merchant, and Price or Davis.

- Nancy L. Peluso, *Rich Forests, Poor People : resource control and resistance in Java*

- Richard Grove, Imperialism and the Discourse of Desiccation: global environmental concerns and the role of the Royal Geographic Society 1860-1880” in *Geography and Imperialism*, ed. Morag Bell, et al., pp. 36-52.

- Richard Grove, “The East India Company, the Raj and the El Nino: the critical role played by colonial scientists in establishing the mechanism of global climate teleconnections, 1770-1930”, in *Nature and the Orient : the environmental history of South and Southeast Asia*, ed. Richard H. Grove, et al.

Week 11 (Mar 31) Place = a space with (multiple) stories

* Keith Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache*.

- Doreen Massey, *Space, Place, and Gender*, 1984.

Week 12 (Apr 7) Home: the house, belonging, domesticity, identity and power

* Arien Mack ed., *Home: a place in the world* (at least sections 1,2,5)

- Witold Rybczynski, *Home: a short history of an idea*.

- J. Macgregor Wise, “Home: territory and identity”, *Cultural Studies* 14(2), 2000: 295-310. @

- Theano Terkenli, “Home as a Region” *Geographical Review* 85 (Jul 1995): 324-334. @

- *New Formations*, 17, summer 1992, special issue on Home, esp Doreen Massey’s article

Week 13 (Apr 14) Fabulous geography and nostalgic geography

* Sumathi Ramaswamy, *The Lost Land of Lemuria*

- Sumathi Ramaswamy, “History at Land’s End: Lemuria in Tamil spatial fables”, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 59/3 (Aug 2000): 575-602. @

- Sumathi Ramaswamy, “Catastrophic Cartographies: mapping of the lost continent of Lemuria”, *Representations*, 67 (1999): 92-129.

- Horacio Capel, “The Imperial Dream: geography and Spanish empire in the 19th c.” in *Geography and Empire*, ed. Anne Godlewska and Neil Smith, pp. 58-73.

- Peter Bishop, *The Myth of Shangri-la: Tibet, travel writing and the Western creation of sacred landscape*.

Week 14 (Apr 21) - Rethinking history with alternative geography: scale, ocean, ethno-geography OR Gender and Geography OR Break

- Week 15 (Apr 28)** - Rethinking history with alternative geography: scale, ocean, ethno-geography OR
- Gender and Geography OR
- Discussion on the Order of Geography OR
- Break

Week 16 (May 5) All geographies are within us, aren't they?

- * Yi-fu Tuan, *Space and Place: the Perspective of Experience*
OR * Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*. (A novel)

Books and readings available in the Reserves

- * Martin Lewis and Karen Wigen, *Myths of the Continents*, 1997
* J.B. Harley, *New Nature of Maps*,
* Barbara Mundy, *Mapping of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and the Maps of Relaciones Geograficas*, 1996.
* Malcolm Lewis ed., *Cartographic Encounters: Perspective on Native American Map-making and Map Use*, 1998, pp. 111-133. (This book is in the State Historical Society)
- Marcia Yonemoto, *Mapping Early Modern Japan*,
- Laura Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China*, 2000.
* Thongchai Winichakul, *Siam Mapped: a history of the geo-body of a nation*.
- Andrew Walker, *The Legend of the Golden Boat*,
- Ian Barrow, *Making History, Drawing Territory: British Mapping in India, C.1756-1905*
- Matthew Edney, *Mapping an Empire: the geographical construction of British India, 1765-1843*.
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* Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: the making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*.
- Aihwa Ong and Donald Nonini eds., *Underground Empires: the cultural logics of modern Chinese transnationalism*, Routledge, 1997
- Aihwa Ong, *Flexible Citizenship*.
* William Cronon, ed. *Uncommon Ground: toward reinventing nature*,
- James C. Scott, *Seeing like a State*,
- Nancy L. Peluso, *Rich Forests, Poor People : resource control and resistance in Java*
* Keith Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache*.
* Arien Mack ed., *Home: a place in the world*
- Witold Rybczynski, *Home: a short history of an idea*.
* Sumathi Ramaswamy, *The Lost Land of Lemuria*
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