Syllabus

Course Description:
This graduate level seminar uses techniques of mapping—analyzing and making meaning of raw data—as a comparative analytic tool and as a way to uncover hidden meanings between data and reality. Connected to an ongoing project in partnership with the Urban Design Center and the City of Raleigh (COR) Museum, this course will analyze, synthesize and visualize Raleigh’s history, engage in field research as comparative analysis, and investigate and reflect on the effect of the mapping process on how data is understood. Through intense observation and interaction with census data, the physical environment and the official and unofficial archival history of Raleigh, students will engage in a rich and triangulated approach to historical and social research. They will use the tools of mapping and synthesis as a way to make meaning of their findings and explain it to the community itself.

Learning Outcomes:
Participants should leave the course with an understanding of current urban research and with a variety of mapping tools to conduct urban and community based research themselves. The course will engage discussions of research and analysis methodologies, i.e., the how, but also will attempt to foreground the why. How might the mapping process uncover hidden findings or data? What role do these visualization techniques have in coding and decoding urban phenomena? What is the rhetorical value and how might we, as designers, acknowledge the argument that we make through the process of synthesis? How might mapping and the role of the designer affect the research process? What value is added or lost through visualizing complexity?

Prerequisites/Co-requisites:
None.

Restrictions:
This is a graduate level seminar open to all College of Design master degree students as well as fifth-year architecture students. The course is also open to advanced standing undergraduates with instructors’ approval who display excellent research skills.

Readings and Resources:
All readings, lectures, and handouts will be available through the course website: http://design.ncsu.edu/co-lab/ and through e-reserves on the library website.

Core Texts:
Else/Where: Mapping — New Cartographies of Networks and Territories - Janet Abrams (Editor), Peter Hall (Editor)
The City Reader 5th Edition- Richard T. LeGates (Editor), Frederic Stout (Editor)
Doing Research in Design - Christopher Crouch and Jane Pearce
Design for Information - Isabella Meirelles
Rethinking the Power of Maps - Denis Wood
The New Nature of Maps - JB Harley
Mappings - Denis Cosgrove

Expenses:
Printing - approximately $75

Transportation:
Students will be required to provide their own transportation for this class. Non-scheduled class time for field trips or out-of-class activities is NOT required for this class, but may be necessary for research and individual information gathering.

Grade Components:
Attendance_20%
Students are expected to be on time and present for the entire class. Three unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. Students arriving over 20 minutes late to a class will be counted absent for that class.

Discussion and Class Participation_20%
Students are expected to complete all readings and prepare notes for class discussion for each class meeting. Students are also expected to contribute to class discussion, peer pinups, and in on-line blog posts.

Mapping Projects_60%
Each week students are expected to complete a series of maps which apply the research and mapping methodologies introduced that week to their individual research topic. These research and mapping assignments will be cumulative and synthesized into a final presentation and at the end of the course. Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

Rigor of Research and Analysis:
—Depth and breadth of research and evaluation;
—Ability to make both obvious and hidden connections, illuminate new and undiscovered relationships;
—Movement beyond the surface of the data to question meaning, assumptions and motivations;
—An obvious evolution of the concept through continued, aggregated and evaluated research.

Effectiveness of Communication:
—Effectiveness of the visual and written components of the research and findings;
—A focus on creating both clear and compelling visual iterations that reinforce the findings;
—An exploration of visual language that is varied, relevant and context sensitive;
—Attention to detail and craft which support the research and analysis and show iteration and refinement.
ADN592/ARCH590: DIY Cartography
Meeting Times: W 9:35 - 12:20
Location: Brooks Hall 300
Blog: design.ncsu.edu/co-lab

INSTRUCTORS:
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TEACHING ASSISTANTS:
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Policies on Incomplete Grades:
If an extended deadline is not authorized by the Graduate School, an unfinished incomplete grade will automatically change to an F after either (a) the end of the next regular semester in which the student is enrolled (not including summer sessions), or (b) by the end of 12 months if the student is not enrolled, whichever is shorter. Incompletes that change to F will count as an attempted course on transcripts. The burden of fulfilling an incomplete grade is the responsibility of the student. The university policy on incomplete grades is located at http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-3. Additional information relative to incomplete grades for graduate students can be found in the Graduate Administrative Handbook in Section 3.18.F at http://www.fis.ncsu.edu/grad_publicns/handbook/

Late Assignments:
Assignments will be due on the dates listed in the handouts. Assignments must be posted or turned in according to the stated requirements. Failure to turn in your work on time will result in a grade of zero. This includes printed materials for pinups.

Attendance Policy:
Students are expected to be on time and present for the entire class. Three unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. Students arriving over 20 minutes late to a class will be counted absent for that class. For excused absences see: http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03.

Students are expected to make up any missed course work due to excused absences within a week of their absence. Work missed for unexcused absences is due on the student’s first day back in class.

Academic Integrity:
Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct found at http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01

Academic Honesty:
See http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01 for a detailed explanation of academic honesty.

Honor Pledge:
Your signature on any test or assignment indicates “I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment.”

Electronically-Hosted Course Components:
This course may involve electronic sharing or posting of personally identifiable student work or other information with persons not taking or administering the course. Students will be asked to sign a consent allowing disclosure of their personally identifiable work. No student is required to sign the consent as a condition of taking the course. If a student does not want to sign the consent, he or she has the right to ask the instructor for an alternative, private means of completing the coursework.

Accommodations for Disabilities:
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, student must register with the Disability Services Office (http://www.ncsu.edu/dso), 919-515-7653. For more information on NC State’s policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation at http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-01.

Non-Discrimination Policy:
NC State University provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, NC State affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or NC State University policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. NC State’s policies and regulations covering discrimination, harassment, and retaliation may be accessed at http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-04-25-05 or http://www.ncsu.edu/equal_op/. Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity (OEO) at 919-515-3148.
Project + Schedule Overview

**Map Series 01: Looking at the Nature of Raleigh’s History**

*January 06 - February 10 | 5 weeks*

**Research Methodology:** Archival Analysis

**Mapping Methodology:** Spatio-Temporal Maps

Working in cross-disciplinary teams, students will map the development of the city through 6 topical lenses (natural history, social city, physical city, economy, politics, arts and culture). In these initial maps, which look at discrete components of the city over time, students will pay special attention to how scale informs and transforms the message of the map through altering the resolution and visible measurements of the systems depicted.

**Map Series 02: Mapping Relationships**

*February 10 - March 02 | 3 weeks*

**Research Methodology:** Correlational

**Mapping Methodology:** Data / Network Maps

Based on findings from the first map, students will identify a larger narrative they are interested in studying. Each student will be assigned a set of marked and unmarked histories to incorporate into their narrative, and will be expected to include additional narratives that result from independent research. They will also look at how the systems inherent in the event/person/place affected the infrastructural development of the city.

**Map Series 03: Discovering and Testing Theories**

*March 02 - March 23 | 3 weeks*

**Research Methodology:** Mixed Methods (Observational and Participatory Research)

**Mapping Methodology:** Geo-Spatial Mapping

Students will visit an identified site/area based on findings from previous maps and create a map (ala Nolli Map) that records their data. The goal of this map is to (1) test the theories and claims put forth in the previous maps and (2) find new patterns and relationships from the physical world and (3) include a survey or participatory component to collect new data.

**Map Series 04: Mapping as Narrative Tool**

*March 23 - April 13 | 3 weeks*

**Research Methodology:** Narrative Research

**Mapping Methodology:** Narrative Mapping

The final map will ask students to create a final, explorative narrative map that tells the story of their data. They will be asked to use the mapping process and artifact to support the significance of the conclusions they have drawn about Raleigh’s history and how they think that history has and should affect Raleigh’s future development.

**Mapping Charette: Mapping Dissemination**

*April 20*

The final class meeting will take the form of a charrette where collectively we will discuss ideas for the dissemination of the maps created during the semester.

**Final Review:**

*Finals Day (Date TBD by the University)*

Final review will be comprehensive. All maps should be printed on archival paper (supplied by the instructors) and will be held at Fishmarket or another on campus gallery space.
Bibliography

Core Course Texts

On Maps (Theory):


On Maps (Application):

Mereilles, I. Design for Information: An Introduction to the Histories, Theories, and Best Practices Behind Effective Information Visualizations.

On Understanding City:


On Design and Community Research:


Raleigh and Wake County History:


Case Studies and Articles of Interest

Image Case-Studies:

Corner, J. Taking Measure Across the American Landscape.
Columbia’s Spatial Information Design Lab, Million Dollar Block: http://www.spatialinformationdesignlab.org/index.php

Supplemental Reading and Specific Articles of Interest:

This American Life, Episode 110: Mapping: http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/110/mapping