

**Slavic 270hf / GSD 9137**  
**MAPPING CULTURAL SPACE: SITES, SYSTEMS & PRACTICES ACROSS EURASIA**

**Mondays 2-4 PM, Fall and Spring 2014-15**  
**CGIS-South, room 354**

**Professors:**

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**Teaching Fellow:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a year-long bi-weekly interdisciplinary seminar on the production, representation, and significance of cultural space. Eurasia, a region encompassing Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia, provides fertile ground for our exploration of the ways in which mapping (and related forms of spatial analysis) can produce new insights into the relationships among and between cultural sites, systems, and practices. Special attention will be paid to urban space and the physical – mappable – infrastructures that shape cultural life.

The seminar includes individual and collaborative work with digital tools for research, analysis, and presentation. It is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates interested in pursuing a year-long individual research topic related to the seminar theme; it is also a home base for the Davis Center Fellows for 2014-15. Participants will integrate their individual projects within our larger course framework via a collectively curated digital exhibition and archiving platform.

**KEY QUESTIONS**

- How can we map cultural space as a dynamic product of cultural activity, as well as a framework for the evolution and transmission of beliefs, behaviors, memories, and values? What is at stake?
- What is spatial knowledge? What can be mapped and what cannot? What individual and collective arguments can we make using diverse forms of mapping, and what stories can we tell using these visual and spatial representations?
- How can diverse mapping practices illuminate Eurasian cultural politics?

**DESIGN AND GOALS**

The primary goal of this course is to build skills in cultural mapping and analysis, an intellectual framework whose diverse application is acquiring momentum in many fields across the university, and to apply these skills toward developing an original project that makes an argument about cultural space in these terms and using these tools. We want you to acquire a broad competency in this vibrant but complex emergent field of study. You will gain hands-on experience using historical and conceptual maps of all types -- physical, digital, technical, conceptual, and artistic.

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The seminar takes a regional focus -- Eurasia -- whose territories make up an enormous swath of the world. Since we are hosted at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, we mean primarily the post-Soviet sphere or former "Soviet bloc." We also consider adjacent Eurasian cultures such as Turkey, Mongolia, and Afghanistan. We welcome trans-national or post-socialist or global studies frameworks for analyzing cultural space, as well as work that examines hybrid or unstable conditions, porous or blurry borders.

The first semester front-loads 4 out of 5 sessions for discussing theoretical readings that help us think about our working terms and methodologies, and about the current state of the field. During the first semester, participants will acquire digital training, develop an individual project proposal and annotated bibliography, and participate in 2 Mini-Lab projects.

The second semester includes 1 theoretical reading session but focuses on workshopping individual projects and bringing them to fruition. Participants will receive support as they develop the mapping component of their individual projects, and will present their work-in-progress to the entire seminar as part of "clusters," with pre-circulated papers and a panel format in class. The second semester puts equal emphasis on our continued exploration of central themes and questions and on our collaborative project. As a group, we design and build our permanent course Omeka exhibit, into which we will incorporate our individual projects. Finally, we will think together about the potential direction and development of the "Mapping Cultural Space across Eurasia" project.

## **READINGS**

Assigned readings will be available in PDF format via hyperlink from our Canvas site (full citations may be found in our shared Zotero library). Monographs and books will be available on reserve at Fung Library (basement level, CGIS-North).

## **TRAINING IN DIGITAL PLATFORM AND TOOLS**

The digital tools we use for the seminar include WorldMap, Omeka, Neatline, Zotero, and WordPress, and there are significant resources for learning these and other tools:

- 11 web mapping tasks available on our Canvas course site (completion of the tasks in Lessons 2 & 3 is required prior to the Sept 19 workshop)
- September 19 all-day training workshop on WorldMap and Neatline (required attendance)
- WorldMap Collaborative (drop in sessions) with Jeff Howry Mondays at 5pm in CGIS K031
- Center for Geographic Analysis (CGA) optional sessions on relevant tools and topics across the year (see <http://www.gis.harvard.edu/training>)
- 2-week intensive GIS institute at CGA in January (optional; based on acceptance of application)
- Online resources for self-paced tutorials (see course site)
- Support from seminar TF and from CGA staff

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**COURSE GRADING**

- Individual project (original research paper with mapping component (40%).
- Integration of final project into Omeka exhibit (20%).
- Collaborative course component (40%).

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT

- Original research paper: Staged development with instructor and peer feedback: project description (Oct 24), revised project description (Nov 24), annotated project bibliography (Jan 26), precirculated draft and class presentation, completed paper of 20-25 pp. (6,000-7,000 words; May 4), symposium (May 15).
- Map component: The form and method of the map component will vary from one project to another and must be developed in consultation with one of the course instructors. The purpose is to incorporate mapping as methodology into your research process and thus generate questions and/or insights you could not have obtained through other forms of analysis. The results of your work must be rendered as shapefiles or GeoTIFFS and posted to the MCS map on WorldMap (April 13).
- Integration of individual project into Omeka exhibit (May 7)

*Instructors will meet with each student individually and provide periodic feedback throughout the academic year.*

COLLABORATIVE COURSE COMPONENT

- Active participation in seminar meetings
- 2 Mini-Labs (due Oct 15 and Feb 16), each requiring group work outside of class
- Peer review of initial and revised project descriptions, paper presentations and map components. Peer reviews will be assigned and take the form of posts to the course blog.
- Blog posts: 2 posts and 2 comments on peer postings in the fall, 2 posts and 2 comments on peer postings in the spring. At least one post must relate to assigned readings; another must discuss an aspect of your research in progress. Please note that 1) you are welcome to blog as often as you'd like throughout the year; 2) blog posts and scholarly essays are very different genres. Consider this an opportunity to hone your ability to express your thoughts in 300-500 words, and to integrate images and other rich content.
- Contributions to course Zotero bibliography: you are responsible for adding 8-10 new annotated items and assigning appropriate tags. Each annotation should be a very concise justification of the inclusion of the item in the bibliography (why is it a "must read"?). New items can be added at any point during the year.
- Participation in symposium and possible physical exhibition

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### **EXTRA PROGRAMMING**

Our seminar is augmented by related programming across the year:

- Guest Speaker series – 5-6 special guest talks during the year
- Film series (coming soon)
- Symposium – culminating public event, full-day, Friday, May 15, 9am-6pm, to present our work from the year to other colleagues and students.
- Possible physical exhibition

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Outside speakers invited to campus in connection with the course are co-sponsored by the Davis Center Literature and Culture seminar and the Historians' seminar. The times for these talks will vary, but some will be on Thursdays from 4:15-6pm, and some on another day of the week at the same time. Some talks may be at lunchtime from 12:15-2pm. We would like you to make every effort to attend these talks, schedules permitting, and we will incorporate the topics and materials from them into our seminar discussions. The talks that are in place now are listed in the schedule, but others will be added.

When a speaker's travel plans permit, we will arrange for small groups of fellows and students to have lunch or coffee with visiting speakers. We will ask you to sign up for the lunch or lunches you are most interested in joining, and we will post the groups to the website in advance.

### **OPTIONAL MONDAY AFTERNOON MEETINGS**

Our classroom, CGIS S-354, is reserved for us every Monday during the fall and spring semester, from 2:00 to 4:00, and we will have some additional, usually optional sessions for students and fellows in the room during our off-weeks. Some additional sessions will be devoted to discussions of readings that seminar participants will choose together, other sessions will be devoted to further training in the digital platform and tools we'll be using or to work on Mini-Lab projects, while still others provide opportunities to workshop individual projects as they develop. More information about these additional sessions to follow.

### **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES**

- Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot attend a seminar or training session due to illness or family emergency you must contact a member of the teaching staff (in advance whenever possible). In the case of an excused absence you will be able to earn participation points by making an additional (substantive) blog post and commenting on peer posts. Unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction of the participation grade.
- Academic Integrity: All work produced for this course must be original. You are encouraged to collaborate on all elements of the course with the sole exception of the research paper, which must be the result of individual effort.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE (Sessions/Readings/Assignments)**

**Fri, Aug 1      ASSIGNMENT DUE: Lesson 1 (3 Tasks)**

- \*Only Davis Center fellows are required to complete this assignment
- \*Assignment should be accessed and submitted via canvas

**Mon, Sept 8      SESSION 1: Introduction to the Course**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

Recommended Reading:

\*use hyperlink in Canvas to download files

1. Nick Baron, "New Spatial Histories of Twentieth-Century Russia and the Soviet Union" 374-400
2. Burdick, Drucker, et al (eds.), "Humanities to Digital Humanities" from *Digital\_Humanities*, 1-26
3. Laura Kurgan, Introduction from *Close Up at a Distance*, 9-18

**Fri, Sept 19      ASSIGNMENT DUE: Lesson 2 (4 Tasks) and Lesson 3 (4 Tasks)**

\*Assignments should be accessed and submitted via canvas

**Fri, Sept 19      SESSION 2: All-Day Workshop on WorldMap and Neatline + DINNER**

9 AM – 9 PM, location TBA

**Mon, Sept 22      SESSION 3: Seminar Meeting (Theory 1/5)**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**MAPPING: CONCEPTS, MEANINGS, METAPHORS**

**Assigned Reading:**

1. Denis Cosgrove, "Mapping Meaning" from *Mappings*, 1-23
2. James Corner, "The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique, and Invention" from *Mappings*, 213-52
3. J. B. Harley, "Maps, Knowledge, and Power" from *The New Nature of Maps*, 51-81
4. Mark Graham, "Neogeography and the Palimpsests of Place: Web 2.0 and the Construction of a Virtual Earth," 422-36
5. Laura Kurgan, "Representation and the Necessity of Interpretation," *Close Up at a Distance*, 19-36

**Thu, Sept 25      OUTSIDE SPEAKER: Edyta Bojanowska**

4:15 – 6 PM, Barker Center, Thompson Room

"Pineapples in Petersburg, Cabbage Soup on the Equator: Imperialism, Globalization, and Ivan Goncharov's Travels in Asia"

**Mon, Sept 29      SESSION 4: Seminar Meeting (Theory 2/5 & Mini-Lab #1 Launch)**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

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**CULTURAL SPACE: THEORIES AND APPROACHES**

**Assigned Reading:**

1. Henri Lefebvre, "Social Space" (Sections II-V) from *The Production of Space*, 81-105
2. Michel Foucault, "Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias," 1-9
3. David Harvey, "Space as a Keyword" from *Spaces of Global Capitalism*, 117-155
4. Robert N. St. Clair and Ana C.T. Williams, "The Framework of Cultural Space," 1-14
5. Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City," and "Spatial Stories," *The Practice of Everyday Life* (University of California Press, 1984): 91-99; 115-130
6. Kate Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland*: 52-83 ("Ghosts in the Bathhouse")

**Recommended Reading:**

1. Philip Ethington, "Placing the Past: 'Groundwork' for a Spatial Theory of History," 463-95
2. Charles W. J. Withers, "Place and the 'Spatial Turn' in Geography and History," 637-658
3. Marina Loskutova, "Nauka oblastnogo masshtaba: ideia estestvennykh rajonov v Rossijskoj geografii i istoki kraevedcheskogo dvizheniia 1920-x gg," 83-121

**Mon, Oct 6    SESSION 5 (OPTIONAL): Workshopping Projects and Continued Training**  
2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Tue, Oct 14    OUTSIDE SPEAKER: Elena Korotkova**  
4:15 – 6 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

"Planning Maps in Russia: From State Secrecy Towards World Openness"

**Wed, Oct 15    ASSIGNMENT DUE: Mini-Lab #1**  
\*online submission, due 11:59 PM

**Mon, Oct 20    SESSION 6: Seminar Meeting (Theory 3/5)**  
2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**BORDERS, BOUNDEDNESS, AND TERRITORIES**

**Assigned Reading:**

1. Douglas Rogers, "Postsocialisms Unbound: Connections, Critiques, Comparisons," *Slavic Review* 69, no.1 (Spring 2010): 1-15.
2. Lauren Benton, "Spatial Histories of Empire," 19-34
3. Mark Von Hagen, "Empires, Borderlands, and Diasporas," 445-468
4. Willard Sunderland, "Imperial space: territorial thought and practice in the eighteenth century" in *Russian Empire: Space, People, Power*: 33-66
5. Leonid Gorizontov, "The "great circle" of interior Russia: representations of the imperial center in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries" in *Russian Empire: Space, People, Power*: 67-93
6. Mark Bassin, "Inventing Siberia," 763-794
7. Jeremy Crampton, "Bordering on Bosnia," 353-61
8. Madeleine Reeves, "Introduction" from *Movement, Power, and Place in Central Asia and Beyond*, 1-24

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**Recommended Reading:**

1. Stephen Graham, "Global Homelands: Security and Extraterritorialization," *New Geographies 4: Scales of the Earth* (2011): 42-48
2. Adeb Khalid, *The politics of Muslim cultural reform: 184-215* ("Imagining the Nation")
3. Val Kivelson, "Between All Parts of the Universe: Russian cosmographies and imperial strategies in Early Modern Siberia and Ukraine": 166-181
4. Susan Smith-Peter, "Bringing the Provinces into Focus: Subnational Spaces in the Recent Historiography of Russia," 835-848
5. Sanna Turoma (et al), *Empire De/Centered*, part 1: Eurasianism and Intellectual Construction of Space (essays by Glebov, Tortakob, Ruelle)

**Fri, Oct 24    ASSIGNMENT DUE: Preliminary Project Descriptions**

\*online submission (WordPress), due 11:59 PM

**Mon, Nov 3    SESSION 7: Ways of Collaborating**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Nov 10    REQUIRED BLOG POST: Brief Description of Map Project**

\*online submission (WordPress), due 2 PM; read all posts prior to Nov 17 meeting

**Mon, Nov 17    SESSION 8: Project Description Workshop**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Nov 24    ASSIGNMENT DUE: Revised Project description; Start of Peer Review**

\*online submission, due 11:59 PM

**Mon, Dec 1    SESSION 9: Seminar Meeting (Theory 4/5) & End of Peer Review**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**CITIES AND THE URBAN LANDSCAPE**

**Assigned Reading:**

1. Fiona Allon, "Ghosts of the Open City," 288-305
2. Chris Barker, "Cultural Space and Urban Place," from *Cultural Studies: Theory and Practice*, 393-424
3. Thomas Bender, "Conclusion: Reflections on the Culture of Urban Modernity," in Alev Cinar and Thomas Bender, eds., *Urban Imaginaries: Locating the Modern City*: 267-277
4. Eve Blau, "Patterns of Fact: Photography and the Transformation of the Early Industrial City," in Eve Blau and Edward Kaufman, eds., *Architecture and Its Image* (Cambridge, MA: MIT, 1989): 36-57
5. Denis Cosgrove, "Carto-City" from *Geography and Vision*, 169-82
6. Anthony D. King, "Boundaries, Networks, and Cities," in Alev Cinar and Thomas Bender, eds., *Urban Imaginaries: Locating the Modern City* (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2007): 1-14
7. Henri Lefebvre, "From the City to Urban Society" and "Blind Field" from *The Urban Revolution*, 1-44; 115-133

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8. Ola Söderström, "How Images Assemble the Urban World," *New Geographies 4: Scales of the Earth* (2011): 113-120
9. Alexander C. Diener and Joshua Hagen, "From Socialist to Post-Socialist Cities: Narrating the Nation through Urban Space," 487-514
10. [Also browse individual city articles in this Volume 41, Issue 4, 2013 of *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity*]

**Tue, Jan 6 CGA 2-Week GIS Institute begins**

\*optional but recommended

\*students must apply directly to CGA

**Mon, Jan 26 SESSION 10: Launch of Mini-Lab 2**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Feb 9 SESSION 11: Seminar Meeting (Theory 5/5)**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**SPATIAL PRACTICE: THE INTIMATE AND THE EVERYDAY**

**Assigned Reading:**

1. Mike Crang and Nigel Thrift, "Introduction," *Thinking Space* (London and NY: Routledge, 2000): 1-30
2. Mark Bassin (ed.), *Space, Place, and Power in Modern Russia* (read Introduction and chapters by Zhuk, Frierson, Kirschenbaum)
3. Eve Levin, "From corpse to cult in early modern Russia," in *Orthodox Russia: belief and practice under the tsars*: 81-104
4. Maja Mikula, "The island monastery of Valaam in Finnish homeland tourism: constructing a "thirdspace" in the Russian borderlands": 14-24
5. Oleg Tarasov, *Icon and Devotion: sacred spaces in Imperial Russia*: chapters 1, 4, 6
6. Victor Buchli, *An Archaeology of Socialism (SKIM)*
7. David Crowley (ed.), *Socialist Spaces (SKIM)*

**Recommended Reading:**

1. Jeff Sahadeo, "Epidemic and Empire: Ethnicity, Class, and 'Civilization' in the 1892 Tashkent Cholera Riot," 117-139
2. Stephen Lovell, *Summerfolk: a history of the dacha, 1710-2000*
3. Priscilla Roosevelt, *Life on the Russian Country Estate: a Social and Cultural History*

**Mon, Feb 16 ASSIGNMENT DUE: Mini-Lab 2**

\*online submission, due 11:59 PM

**Mon, Feb 23 SESSION 12: Research Presentations & Discussion**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Mar 9 SESSION 13: Collaborative Project & Discussion of Mini-Lab #2**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

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**Mon, Mar 23   SESSION 14: Research Presentations & Discussion**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Thu, Mar 26   OUTSIDE SPEAKER: Anindita Banerjee**

4:15 – 6 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

“Eurasian Contact Zones and the Limits of Identity: The Journey of the Russian Columbus from Imperial England to Global Bollywood”

**Mon, Apr 6   SESSION 15: Research Presentations & Discussion**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Apr 13   SESSION 16: Research Presentations & Discussion**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Apr 20   SESSION 17: Collaborative Project**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Mon, Apr 27   SESSION 18: Research Presentations & Discussion**

2-4 PM, CGIS-South, room 354

**Assigned Reading:**

1. Charles King, “Post-Postcommunism: Transition, Comparison, and the End of ‘Eastern Europe’,” 143-72
2. Steven Kotkin, “Mongol Commonwealth: Exchange and Governance across post-Mongol Space,” 487-531

**Thu, May 7   ASSIGNMENT DUE: Final Paper**

\*online and hard copy submission, due 5 PM

**Fri, May 15   SESSION 19: Final Colloquium (Sites, Systems, Practices)**

10 AM - 6 PM, CGIS-South, room 354