SW52, Spring 2014
Unit 3 Assignment: DEEP MAPS

Together with the members of your group you will investigate one of the following sites of environmental trauma or intervention: Aral Sea, Belomor canal, Khimki forest, Magnitogorsk, Novaya Zemlya. Each of these is a site in which the relationship between the 'natural' and human-made worlds tells a unique or compelling story (or an array of unique or compelling stor*ies*). Using Neatline, you will build a deep map that draws on a range of textual and visual sources in order to reveal the "grain and patina" of your site. *(If you haven't already, go back and follow the hyperlink above to learn more about deep maps.)*

In order to be assigned a site and a group, you should first go to Unit 3 – Deep Maps section under Unit Assignments menu on the course website, and submit your preferences through the poll box by **5 pm on Tuesday, March 4** (today).

Your deep map must:
- draw on sources from at least 3 genres (for example, first-hand accounts, photographs, posters, works of literature, film, maps, quantitative data, evidence drawn from biological or other sciences, academic writing, journalistic writing, music, etc.)
- include at least one georeferenced image (you will learn how to do this in class on Thursday, March 6)
- groups of 3 must include between 6 and 9 waypoints; groups of 4 must include between 8 and 12 waypoints (you will learn about waypoints in section this week but for now think of them as access points leading to veins of related material)
- be the product of supportive collaboration.

Other requirements:
- Never leave a viewer wondering whence the information came: cite your sources using links to individual Zotero references (you will learn how to do this in section this week – it is shockingly easy).
- Each record must include a descriptive or explanatory text. Length to be determined by the author, but most should run roughly 75-300 words.
- Include your initials on every record you create. Use the 'Tags' field under 'Style' for this. Each group member must contribute 2-3 waypoints.
- Respect the contributions of fellow group members: no editing, deleting, or adding without consent.

Why is this a group project?
- By assigning, working on, and then collectively discussing a series of sites we aim to develop a better understanding of the ways in which Russians have understood, imagined, changed and been changed by, the environment(s) in which they live.
- Deep mapping is time intensive. Sharing the workload makes it feasible.

How will you be graded?
Your grade will reflect the quality of your individual contribution (70%) as well as that of the deep map as a whole (30%). The criteria:
- Content. Think carefully about how your sources match what you want to say about the significance of your site. Be sure your sources reflect the range demanded of a good deep map.
- Design: Do your waypoints serve as effective guides? Are the texts well-written? Do they build on connections to related records? Do the visual elements (use of color, geometry, images, etc.) help make the argument or story more legible?
- Geospatial theme: A deep map is many things, but at root it is a map and therefore exists to tell those who behold it something about a particular place. Your deep map must go beyond using place as a mere container for wisdom and instead make a claim about the significance of place and/or the relationships that structure it.
- Nuts & bolts: Did you follow the instructions?
Keep in mind that a good, solid project will meet all of these criteria. An A project will exceed them.

What is my Neatline login?
The members of your group will receive an email with your site assignment and exhibit login by **10 pm on Tuesday, March 4** (so long as everyone submits their preferences on time.) Each group will have a single login credential.

*Do I have to do anything before this week's section meetings (**Thursday, March 6** or **Friday, March 7**)?*
Each group will select one of the online sources listed on the assignment page, and one scholarly source that you think you might use in your project. Using these selected sources, you will identify and bring to the section meeting three or four dates, which you find to be significant points in the history of your site (three dates for groups of three, four dates for groups of four).

When is the project due?
Thursday, March 13, 10 am: projects due; peer review in section