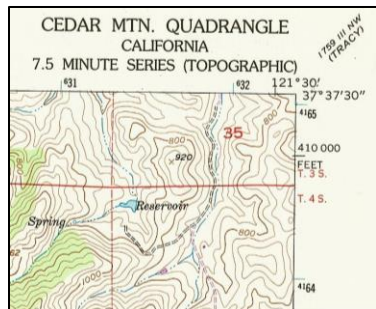




A map presents a portal to a new world, or to new ways of understanding the worlds we think we know. Beyond their communicative power and value for navigation (as in the “Cedar Mtn. Quadrangle”) maps serve as tools of political or economic control, and, when read carefully, expose the underlying social dynamics of power that shape our world. At times a map, like the familiar “Join or Die” map, transmits a political statement, serving the purpose of resistance or protest. A map is sometimes defined as “a symbolic depiction of the relationships between elements of some space,” or as a “cartographic representation of

reality.” But these dry definitions ignore a deeper appreciation of maps. They can reveal worlds both external and internal; imaginary invisible, or emotional worlds; submerged, subterranean, or celestial worlds. Though often considered static and two-dimensional, maps can also be dynamic and depict three, or even more dimensions.



We will begin with the genesis of maps and mapping, examining how different cultures have mapped their worlds, and the use of maps as a tool of governance, conflict, colonialism, warfare, and resource control. We will engage with the ongoing geospatial revolution and

the democratization of the map. This has led to a cartographic renaissance, with diversification and approach, purpose, and cartographic possibilities to collective mapping, new fusions of maps and



liberation of the cartographic style, and an expansion of include public participation, intrusions of privacy, and art.

Throughout the course we will learn, through analysis, field trips, readings, and our own map-making projects, how to interpret and use maps, how to read the embedded philosophies and politics of maps, and how to design, create, and critique maps.

