

RCSSCI 461.002, AAPTIS 491:001, MENAS 591:004: Maps, Timelines, the Internet:
The Quest for Peace in the Middle East
Fall 2008: Wednesdays, 1-4pm, Duderstadt Center Windows Classroom, North Campus
Instructors: Sandra L. Arlinghaus, Robert J. Haug, Ann Evans Larimore

The quest for peace is a journey through conflicts. We will use maps and timelines in GEOMAT, a web architecture for space-time representation, to sort out the facts of conflict events, a necessary step in resolving conflict. This method is particularly useful in cases where a conflict is at an impasse because of stubbornly held widely differing portrayals of the events in the conflict. Events are existential happenings in ecological space-time that actors create and experience. Events produce documents. Actors include not only human agents and features of the built landscapes like cities, but climatic events like hurricanes as well as longer-term phenomena like climates themselves and landscape features including forests, deserts, rivers, and plants and animals in their distributions and movements. Types of documents include letters, treaties, maps, all types of manuscripts and published writings, official and unofficial.

This course is a collaborative workshop where you will work on your own project, in and out of class. You may choose your project from conflicts taking place in the Middle East, a region stretching from the countries bordering the eastern Mediterranean to Afghanistan. The conflicts may be ancient, historical, or contemporary; they may be social (concerning gender, class, human rights. . . .) or environmental (about water, food resources, land disputes. . . .) as well as political and economic.

We will use GEOMAT, a web-architecture template which links maps, lists, charts, text, graphics, and document images, to present the actors and agents in the conflict and their communications and actions through time. The systematic ecological framework enables us to present accurately the facts known about the dynamic course of a conflict. Creative design thinking will be very welcome.

FINAL VERSION OF YOUR CASE STUDY: Your GEOMAT 's final version will be a balanced articulated full presentation of the dynamic course of a conflict or portion of a large conflict in a specific area. It will include multiple timelines and maps, multiple reports on people, organizations, and features, actors in the course of the conflict as well as pertinent original documents. Organized around an event recognized as a turning point in the conflict, the events leading up to it and its aftermath, it will make clear what is not known about the course of the conflict as well as what is known.

Come tell your story, their stories, other stories of the quest for peace in the Middle East (and its obstacles) using webpage-building techniques as if you were on the Internet. This course gives you the opportunity to use your artistry to tell these important stories. Show what has happened in the visual richness of color, imagery, video and film clips integrated with text, music and actual sounds and dialogue. Conflicts, obstacles to peace, may be cultural (religious, ethnic. . .) and social (gender, class. . .) Stories have the most power when they are as accurate as we can recall them. We have developed a web architecture method called GEOMAT to gather together the data. Here you can tell the whole story including maps of places and timelines of events to order the information, qualitative and quantitative, found on the web, in archives, documents, landscape images, data sets, and other places. Students will become familiar with a wide variety of contemporary PC software in support of website construction.

COURSE SCHEDULE

All classes meet in the Duderstadt Center (third floor Windows training room) except for Sept. 10, Sept. 24 when they meet in the Map Library, Hatcher Graduate Library, 8th floor South.

Sept. 3 W: Introduction and Syllabus. Demonstrations of GEOMAT web architecture.
Beginning sources search to decide on case study central event.
Creation of initial web page. Brief biosketch

Sept. 10 W: Map Library: The Art of the Map: The World of Maps and Atlases: How Maps Can by Design Show Facts or Even Lie

Sept. 17 W: Deciding on a Case Study Event. The components of GEOMAT especially Animated Maps, Interactive Maps, and Timelines. Reports on useful searches

Sept. 24 W: Map Library: The Art of the Map: Maps as Primary Sources. Gathering Case Study Map Resources

Sept. 30 T, 12 noon: Case Study Choice Proposal due electronically

Oct. 1 W: Reports on Case Study Choices and Useful Searches

Oct. 8 W: Map and GEOMAT Design Choices: Integrating format choices and substantive data

Oct. 15 W: Progress Reports on Case Studies: to be graded

Fall Study Break: Oct. 20 – 21 M-T

Oct. 22 W: Maps and Calendrical Timelines: Finds, Issues, Problems, Creative Solutions

Oct. 29 W: Format Categories: Issues, Problems, Creative Solutions

Nov. 5 W: Progress Reports on Case Studies: to be graded

Nov. 12 W: From Analytical Format to Presentation Format

Nov. 19 W: Integration of Ecological Components: Issues, Problems, Creative Solutions

Nov. 26 W: No Class

Thanksgiving: Nov. 27 Th

Dec 3 W: Final Presentations to Each Other and Invited Guests

Dec. 10 W: Final Presentations to Each Other and Invited Guests (Study Day)
GEOMAT Case Study final version due 1pm.

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED

THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAM.

Required text: Mark Monmonier, *How to Lie with Maps*

We strongly suggest you buy a Flash drive/memory stick for this course alone.

GRADING; The course grades are based on:

The final GEOMAT version of your individually done case study: 70%

Class participation: on-time attendance, collaboratively helping and constructively critiquing / suggesting ways to improve others' case studies, utilization of the skills and knowledge of the course resource persons/consultants: Sandra Lach Arlinghaus and Robert J. Haug, and Karl Longstreth, Librarian, Map Library: 30%