Come tell your story, their stories, other stories of the search for peace in the Middle East (and its obstacles) using your 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. Familiarity with programs such as DreamWeaver, Adobe Photoshop, Google Earth, and GIS is useful but not necessary.

COURSE SCHEDULE
(All classes meet in the Duderstadt Center except for Sept. 12, Sept. 26, Oct. 10 which meet in the Map Library, Hatcher Graduate Library, 8th floor South)

Sept. 5 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. 12 W: Map Library: The Art of the Map: The World of Maps and Atlases

Sept. 19 W: Deciding on a Case Study Event. The components of GEOMAT
   Reports on useful searches

Sept. 26 W: Map Library: The Art of the Map: Map Design and How Maps Lie

Oct. 2 T, 12 noon: Case Study Choice Proposal due electronically

Oct. 3 W: Animated Maps, Interactive Maps, and Timelines
   Case Study Choices Approved

Oct. 10 W: Map Library: The Art of the Map: Maps as Primary Sources
   Gathering Case Study Map Resources

Fall Study Break

Oct. 17 W: Progress Reports on Case Studies: to be graded


Nov. 7 W: Progress Reports on Case Studies: to be graded

Nov. 14 W: Integration of Ecological Components: Issues, Problems, Creative Solutions

Nov. 21 W: From Analytical Format to Presentation Format
Thanksgiving
Nov. 28 W: Final Presentations to Each Other and Invited Guests

Dec. 5 W: Final Presentations to Each Other and Invited Guests
GEOMAT Case Study final version due 1pm.

ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED
THIS COURSE HAS NO FINAL EXAM.
Required text: Mark Monmonnier, 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 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%

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 created and experienced by actors. 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 conditions like climates themselves
and landscape features including forests, deserts, rivers, and plants and animals in their
distributions and movements. Examples of 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, 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. Besides individuals, groups, and organizations, plants, animals, natural resources including mineral deposits and productive land use, features of the built and natural landscape are taken into account as shapers of conflict. This 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 that have agency 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.