

AR-476

UE U : Cartography

Maçães Costa Bárbara

Cursus	Sem.	Type	
Architecture	MA1, MA3	Opt.	Language of teaching English
Mob. AR	H	Opt.	Credits 4
			Withdrawal Unauthorized
			Session Winter
			Semester Fall
			Exam During the semester
			Workload 120h
			Weeks 12
			Hours 4 weekly
			Lecture 3 weekly
			Exercises 1 weekly
			Number of positions 35
It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline.			

Remark

Orientation: G Urban Nature

Summary

This teaching unit aims to experiment with the medium of cartography as a means of spatial representation, and as a tool for reading, perceiving and changing the territory.

Content

The term cartography is based on Latin *charta*, meaning ‘paper’ or ‘map’, and *-graphia*, meaning ‘description’, which derives from *graphein*, meaning ‘to write’ or ‘to draw’. Swiss historian André Corboz defines description as something between the act of reading (analysis) and writing (designing). He claims that there can be no description of a territory without a fiction of the territory, a positioning that contains a speculative and ethical critique. This is reminiscent of a sketch by Le Corbusier that defines a certain type of ‘architectural gaze’ as the gradual transition from the act of ‘looking’ to that of ‘creating’, stating: “*la clef c'est regarder... regarder, observer, voir, imaginer, inventer, creer*”. The map-as-description is situated at the heart of this process that turns observation into action. Maps have the power to actually make the territories they represent because description, *-graphia*, is already a project.

In its totality, the territory is chaotic and complex. In order to guide subjects in this inconceivable space, maps encode the peculiarities of the physical world into abstract symbols, made up of particular marks that help suggest spatial correlations, such as direction, distance, movement and structure. Maps are drawings and cartography is a language, a system of communication made up of meanings (contents) and signs (forms). Drawing is complementary to thought, it is a machine of vision, measurement and assimilation.

During this course, we will refer to a wide range of historical cartographic references and question established stereotypes of spacial representation, such as linear perspective, the navigation chart or the God's eye view. The course will point out the links between cartography and landscape painting, and we will discuss and experiment with drawing techniques both in class and outdoors.

Keywords

Cartography, drawing, landscape, territory, tracing, system, reading, palimpsest.

Learning Prerequisites**Important concepts to start the course**

Basic hand sketching skills appreciated but not mandatory. Abstraction, composition, urban palimpsest,

territorial networks and structures.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Interpret the network forms of complex territories.
- Identify hierarchies of landscape systems.
- Compose spatial narratives from the critical selection of those systems.
- Formalize territorial structures through hypothetical maps.
- Represent those structures through clear graphical compositions.
- Elaborate a personal visual language of representation.
- Carry out a regular and consistent use of visual journals for experimental research.

Transversal skills

- Demonstrate a capacity for creativity.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Use a work methodology appropriate to the task.

Teaching methods

The content of the class will be transmitted through a series of lectures and practical individual assignments followed by desk critiques and intermediate reviews. Classes will occasionally include the close reading of historical maps and the analysis of texts or passages on cartography/landscape. Special focus will be given to hand drawing, CAD and GIS assistance may also happen upon request. The final submittal of the U.E. will consist of all the work produced during the semester.

Expected student activities

One of the classes will be a trip to the Geneva botanical gardens.

Assessment methods

Continuous assessment.

Intermediate exercises and desk critiques: 50% of grade.

Review of final work: 30% of grade.

Visual Journal: 20% of grade.

Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	No
Forum	No

Resources

Bibliography

Reference catalogues:

AKERMAN, James R. and KARROW JR, Robert W., eds., 2007. *Maps: Finding Our Place in the World*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press.

BROTTON, Jerry, 2014. *Great Maps*. London: Dorling Kindersley.

ECO, Umberto, 2013. *The Book Of Legendary Lands*. New York: Rizzoli.

HARMON, Katharine, 2013. *You Are Here: mapping the soul of the city*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

HESSLER, John, 2015. *Map: Exploring the World*. London and New York: Phaidon Press.

Theoretical writings:

- CASEY, Edwards S, 2002. *Representing Place: landscape painting and maps*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- CLARK, Kenneth, 1950. *Landscape Into Art*. London: John Murray
- COSGROVE, Denis, ed., 1999. *Mappings (Critical Views)*. London: Reaktion.
- CORBOZ, André, 2001. *Le Territoire Comme Palimpseste et Autres Essais*. Paris: Les Éditions de L'Imprimeur
- HARLEY, J. B., 2002. *The New Nature Of Maps: Essays in the History of Cartography*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- JACKSON, John B., 1980. *The Necessity for Ruins*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.
- MAROT, Sébastien, 2010. *L'art De La Mémoire, Le Territoire et L'Architecture*. Paris: Éditions de la Villette.
- PONTE, Alessandra, 2014. "Maps and Territories" in *The House of Light and Entropy*. London: AA Publications.
- ROGER, Alain, 1997. *Court Traité Du Paysage*. Paris: Gallimard.
- SIMMEL, Georg, 2007. "The Philosophy of Landscape." in *Theory, Culture & Society* [e-journal] 24(7–8), p.20–29.
- THROWER, Norman J. W., 2008. *Maps and Civilization: Cartography in Culture and Society*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press.
- TURCHI, Peter, 2004. *Maps Of The Imagination: the writer as cartographer*. San Antonio: Trinity University Press.

Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Maps / Akerman](#)
- [Great maps / Brotto](#)
- [The book of legendary lands / Eco](#)
- [Histoire des lieux de légendes / Eco](#)
- [You are here / Harmon](#)
- [Map - exploring the world](#)
- [Cartes - explorer le monde](#)
- [Representing place / Casey](#)
- [Landscape into art / Clark](#)
- [L'art du paysage / Clark](#)
- [Mappings / Cosgrove](#)
- [Le territoire comme palimpseste / Corboz](#)
- [The new nature of maps / Harley](#)
- [The necessity for ruins and other topics / Jackson](#)
- [De la nécessité des ruines et autres sujets / Jackson](#)
- [L'art de la mémoire, le territoire et l'architecture / Marot](#)
- [The house of light and entropy / Ponte](#)
- [Court traité du paysage / Roger](#)
- [Maps and civilization / Thrower](#)
- [Maps of the imagination / Turchi](#)
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Websites

- <http://laba-ueu-cartography.ch>
- <http://laba.epfl.ch>

Prerequisite for

Atelier de Projet Gugger / Urban Nature / laba.