New course!
Spring 2020

STS 150-01
Introduction to the Theory and Technology of Mapping
Heather Rosenfeld
J+, T/Th 3:00-4:15 PM

How is Cartesian space different from other kinds of space? (How) Do maps lie? What is the significance of maps and mapping in our everyday lives? This course is a practice-based investigation of questions such as these. We will bring together theories of space and place in geography and STS, debates about art, science, power, and politics in cartography and GIS, and tools and techniques for making reference and thematic maps.

Each lesson will include a map making and/or map reading and interpretation activity that mobilizes the readings for the week. Lessons will cover topics such as theorizing space and place; positional and situational mapping; GIS as science, tool, and/or art; volunteered geographic information and spatial data shadows; participatory and community mapping; indigenous and feminist cartography; counter-mapping and radical cartography; inclusive design; and narrative cartography. There will be at least one field trip. The semester culminates in a final map poster and cartographer’s statement reflecting on the data gathering, analysis, and design process.