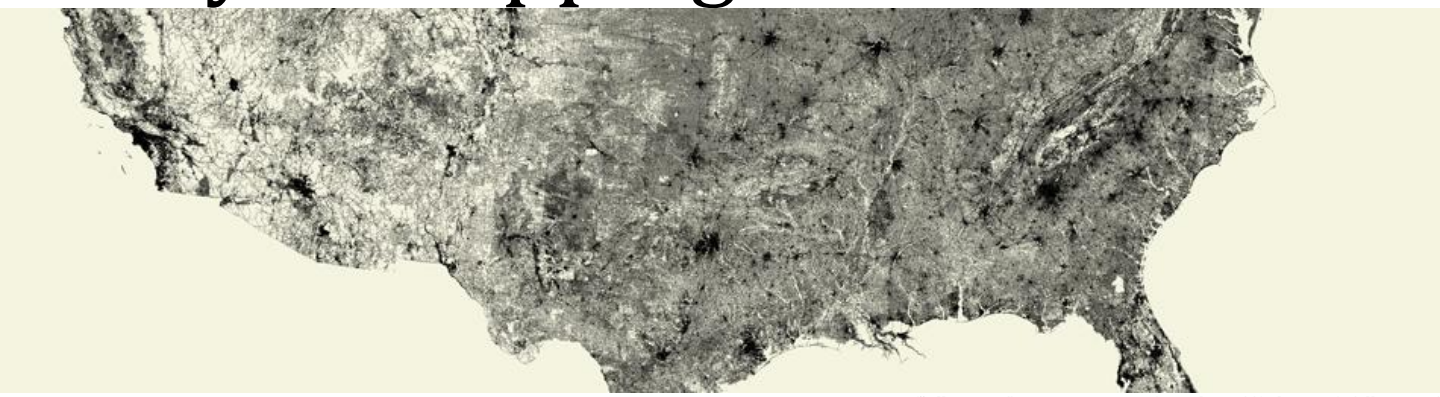
Catalytic Mapping



portion of"All Streets"_ Ben Fry, 2008 _ from: http://fathom.info/allstreets/

"If we were able to take as the finest allegory of simulation the Borges tale where the cartographers of the Empire draw up a map so detailed that it ends up exactly covering the territory (but where the decline of the Empire sees this map become frayed and finally ruined, a few shreds still discernible in the deserts — the metaphysical beauty of this ruined abstraction, bearing witness to an Imperial pride and rotting like a carcass, returning to the substance of the soil, rather as an aging double ends up being confused with the real thing) — then this fable has come full circle for us, and now has nothing but the discrete charm of second-order simulacra.

Abstraction today is no longer that of the map, the double, the mirror or the concept. Simulation is no longer that of a territory, a referential being or substance. It is the generation of models of a real without origin or reality: a hyperreal. The territory no longer precedes the map, nor survives it. Henceforth, it is the map that precedes the territory — PRECESSION OF SIMULACRA — it is the map that engenders the territory and if we were to revive the fable today, it would be the territory whose shreds are slowly rotting across the map. It is the real, and not the map, whose vestiges subsist here and there, in the deserts which are no longer those of the Empire but our own: The desert of the real itself."

"The Precession of Simulacra" _ Jean Baudrillard _ http://radicalcartography.net

Instructor_ Joshua M. Nason, Assistant Professor
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O_Arch_325; Hours: M,W 1.00-2.00pm or by app't

Catalog Course Description_
SELECTED TOPICS ARCHITECTURE (3-0) Studio and lecture courses to explore and present selected topics in architecture and design. May be repeated for credit as topics change. Prerequisite: Junior standing in program. Restricted to Architecture and Interior Design majors. from approved list. [3 semester credit hours]

Course Meetings_
ARCH_5395 | ARCH_4395 _004, Catalytic Mapping
Arch 404 | M 07.00-09.50p

Course Goals_
This course seeks to:
-Deepen knowledge of and ability to incorporate mapping techniques in various fields of design.
-Establish a momentum of interest and inquiry in respect to mapping possibilities and potentials in design processes.
-Apply and refine proper mapping techniques.
-Help students to develop and exercise their ability to read, comprehend, write about, draw and discuss complex ideas in detail.
-Cultivate a spirit of inquiry and action.

Student Learning Outcomes_
Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:
-Create accurate and insightful maps of varying kinds and uses.
-Diagrammatically convey contextual systems and relationships
-Discuss in detail the roles and potential that mapping plays in design.
-Exhibit the beginning of a qualitative understanding of the identity of cities studied.
-Utilize a fundamental analytical tool set to employ in order to gain an contextual understanding of complex systems (such as cities, architectural projects and more...)

Assessment_
The expected learning outcomes of this course will be assessed through:
-Evaluation of maps completed in response to assignments.
-Evaluation of written assignments completed in response to assignments.
-Evaluation of performance in class based on evidence of both quality and quantity of input and output regarding class assignments and participation.
-Evaluation of participation in class discussions, critiques, presentations, assignments and required trips.
-Evaluation of work submitted physically and digitally to the course website on the college wiki page. That detailed instructions, such as assignments specifics, naming conventions and organization are followed.

Americans with Disabilities Act_
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity_
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.
I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services_
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Civility in the Classroom_
Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. To assure that all students gain maximum opportunities from time spent in class; students are prohibited from engaging in any form of distraction. It is essential to understand that in order to cultivate an uninhibited academic environment all are encouraged to share and treated as colleagues and welcomed contributors. Since much of the success of the class hinges on open and engaged conversation regarding the topics discussed it is requisite that all conversation in and regarding the course maintain professional respectful tones, even if disputes or disagreements arise. We do not all need to agree, but we do need to respect one another. Conversation and/or actions to others in the class deemed disrespectful, derogatory or counterproductive will not be tolerated. There will be no bullying or intimidation of any sort (physical, verbal, gestural, etc.) tolerated in the class. Violators will be asked to leave.

A Word on Spray Paint_
No spray can painting is allowed on ANY projects turned in for this course. Any sprayed project will not be accepted and no partial credit will be given. Spray booths on campus can be used for water based spray gun painting only.

Retention of Work_
The Professor and School of Architecture reserve the right to retain, exhibit, and reproduce work submitted by students. Work submitted for grading is the property of the school and remains as such until it is returned to the student.

Class Operation + Structure_
This course will be intense. Students will engage in work, learning and discussion in a seminar setting. Students will be required to work in various means in order to gain and retain the information necessary to better understand how mapping can benefit architecture as well as other forms of design. Such means will include (but are not limited to) reading, writing, drawing, building, making, analyzing, testing and proposing. Each student is expected to be present and engaged in all classes and work sessions in order to absorb, apply and further the information presented. The course is not merely a drawing class but rather a course that uses mapping as a means to understand various forms of complex systems including: cities, buildings, ideas, cultures, and more. Students are responsible to and should digest feedback from their entire group of peers as well as the faculty member leading discussions and guiding assignments.

As a seminar course, we will engage in critical, in-depth, topical discussions each day. Faculty will lead the general discourse and tone of our meetings, but all students are required to participate in discussion and work sessions in order to enrich, direct and make more applicable each of our conversations. This course will utilize various media and means [both analog and digital in nature] in order to facilitate thorough and effective idea communication within the work completed It is the responsibility of each student to check email multiple times each day in case of announcements or directions. Students must also regularly check the course web page and wiki [specific locations forth-coming] for announcements, resources, directions and other vital issues regarding the class. If something is posted to the wiki or presented to students via email or personal communication it is expected that each student is aware of such communication and therefore responsible for acting in accordance with said communication.

References_
Required Texts:
Mappings. Denis Cosgrove, ed. Publisher: Reaktion Books (Distributed by U. of Chicago Press in US) - ISBN: 9781861890214

Else/Where Mapping: Mapping New Cartographies of Networks and Territories. Abrams and Hall, eds. Publisher: U. of Minnesota Press - ISBN: 0972969624

Recommended Texts:
Visual Complexity: Mapping Patterns of Information. Manuel Lima. Publisher: Princeton Architectural Press - ISBN: 1568989369

Mapping Graphic Navigational Systems. Roger Fawcett-Tang. Publisher: RotoVision - ISBN: 2888930366

Mapping in the Age of Digital Media: The Yale Symposium. Silver and Balmori, eds. Publisher: Wiley - ISBN: 0470-85076-0

**The instructor reserves the right to add texts or resources as the semester progresses. The course web page and blog will house additional references that will evolve throughout the study.*

Tools_
Note taking is, without question, essential to student success in this course. Each day, students are required to bring with them the resources necessary to take sufficient notes in an organized manner. Included in lecture and discussion sessions will be visual examples of principles and precedents covered. Notes will best serve their takers when imbued with sketches of related examples, problems and ideas.

Cell phone, computers or other devices of distraction are not permitted in the class. At times, some computer usage is acceptable when specifically requested by the instructor in order to provide references, precedents or other specifically supplemental elements to help enrich the conversation.

An array of specific materials will be required for the successful completion of this course – some of which are listed below. Architecture is inherently about making and you should be prepared to commit the necessary resources of time and material in the

completion of the work. This does not necessarily mean that exorbitant sums of money need to be spent. Consider options carefully to acquire materials in the most efficient and economical manner (for example advanced or group purchasing or online/discount vendors), as long as quality is not compromised.

An evolutionary list will be provided during the course of the semester. Although digital modeling will not be the primary mode of idea communication employed in this course, it is possible that some modeling and/or rendering could be used. Any sufficiently robust and applicable software can be used for such explorations. However, be it known that *SketchUp* is neither applicable nor robust and therefore is not allowed in this course.

Initial Materials List_
-Notebook and/or Sketchbook
-Drawing pens and/or pencils of multiple line-weights (specific weights and colors may vary by student and project)
-Computer equipped with Adobe Creative Suite (version 3 or newer)
-Internet access
-CADD software
-18"roll of white tracing paper
-Digital camera (video capabilities are a plus)
-GPS tracking device is highly recommended (a GPS equipped mobile phone is acceptable)
More to come...

Attendance Policy_
Students are expected to attend all scheduled class meetings for the full class period. It is the policy of this course that a total of three **(3) absences is considered excessive**, requiring the student to drop the class or receive a grade of "F" in compliance with drop deadlines. All absences are considered unexcused with the exception of those due to religious observance and officially approved trips (according to guidelines specified in the UTA Undergraduate Student Catalog). Necessary absences must be discussed in person with the instructor.

Further, attendance is not merely a matter of being somewhere. It is also a manifestation of engagement. Students are required to be present and engaged in the course for the entirety of each meeting. Anything less can be considered and absence since it will ultimately result in hindered and ostensibly unsuccessful effort in the course. In parallel, partial effort deserves partial reward – meaning assessment and therefore grades will be affected. Attendance in studio is mandatory during scheduled studio periods. The collective participation in the communal environment of the studio is an explicit pedagogical component of the studio.

Students are expected to comply with University and School of Architecture policies for reporting student illness requiring absence from class or immediate family member deaths.

Attendance is defined as participation in all class activities including lectures, group and individual discussions, presentations, demonstrations, discussions, in-class assignments, and class trips. Attendance requires students to have their tools, materials, and supplies available for all applicable activities. Any tardiness, leaving early, lack of participation, walking in and out of lectures, divided attention, disruptive behavior, etc. will count as 1/2 of an absence. Students are not allowed to work on assignments from other classes during any of our meetings. Any required materials due on a particular class day are due prior to the beginning of class. All work must be submitted on time and in compliance with the submission deadlines land details for each specific assignment. Students not having materials (models, drawings, printouts, papers) at the start of class will be considered tardy.

Participation in discussions and events outside class is also greatly encouraged and required as it has the potential to greatly impact your education.

Course Work_
The semester is broken into two primary phases of instruction: 01_Centripetal Mapping + 02_Centrifugal Mapping. Approximately the first half of the semester we will focus on mapping Arlington and this immediate area, specifically (Centripetal). The last half of the course we will change our focus to gaining an understanding of a distant, yet similar city of a larger metropolitan nature. It is possible that we will all focus on Seattle and it is also possible that you all will be able to choose the city that you map at that point. Details will be forth coming.

As stated above, students will engage in various methods of work through the course of the semester. We will investigate each phase both tactilely and intellectually through such means.

Something will be due each class meeting.

Each Monday we will engage in a class discussion of the week's assigned reading. It is required that each

student would have read and written a response to the assigned reading prior to our meeting. This will ensure that everyone is informed and able to contribute to the discussion. Not being prepared to do so will result in an absence for the day.

Each class meeting we will gather and engage in a group discussion of what is due that day. We will explore every topic in a manner that relates discourse to doing in specific, applicable and poignant ways. I am a firm believer that we, as designers and researchers, cannot separate that which we do from the context in which we do them and maintain any level of efficacy in our work. Believing that there is no harm in removing theory, history, materials, technology, culture, tools or other crucial components and influences from our work is a grave error and a sign of naivety if not blatant ignorance and the shrugging of the professional and societal responsibilities we accept as architects and designers. *We do not live in a vacuum and therefore should never assume that we work within one either*.

Periodically during the semester there will be mapping assignments (or a couple of maps) that are focused on our current topics of discussion/exploration. There is no way to assume that one student can draw enough to really excavate and communicate the culture of a complex urban environment through a few isolated exercises during one semester. Hence, these maps will be seen as incomplete, yet vital, pieces of a larger puzzle that in whole convey a great and rich understanding of the city. In short, incremental exercises in mapping will be completed by every class participant in hopes that these layers when combined will reveal to us the emergent, interrelated, complex characteristics of the cities that we investigate.

In many ways mapping is an exercise in human nature – the seeking of individual and communal belonging and the gaining of understanding of contextual relationships amidst innumerable influences and accelerating complexities. The environments in which we live (geographically, politically, socially, culturally, economically, intellectually...) affect us in every way imaginable.

Mapping is a visual communication of our place and placement in such contexts (systems). This course is solely directed at an attempt to understand maps and mapping as a way of understanding our how we relate to our contextual surroundings.

Submission of Work_

All Work will be submitted both by physical and digital means. Each item that is due will be turned in physically at the beginning of the class when it is due as well as will be posted on the appropriate digital interface by the specified time. Each reading assignment will be accompanied by a short written response in which a position on the covered material is given by the student. The said position paper will be turned in physically in class the day that it is due and will be posted to the internet before the class period at which it is due the same day. A class blog will be developed and then updated throughout the course of the semester so that continued discussion can be generated from each topic presented in the course. It is expected that all class members be active participants in the blog setting both by starting and responding to discussion threads related to course topics. Proper blog etiquette will be expected and no cyber-bullying will be tolerated. Any presentations and papers or projects completed for this course will also be turned in both in digital and analog format.

Naming conventions will be given for each assignment. In order for any article, exercise, assignment or component reflective of or comprising work for this course must be turned in, fully complying with all details for its submission, to be considered for evaluation. This includes, but is not limited to sizes, formats, due dates, quantities and/or qualities and naming conventions as specified in the given assignment. Work not in compliance will not be accepted.

Class Travel_

It is proposed that as a part of this class, we will travel to Seattle somewhere around mid-term in order to investigate the city in a similar manner to which we will look at Arlington. Details of the trip will be forthcoming as plans are set and details are secured. Since the last half of the semester will be focused on the mapping of Seattle, it is expected that each member of the class participates in the trip. It will be impossible to really map the city if we don't go and soak up as much of it as we can. Any concerns with this trip to be conveyed to the professor immediately.

Evaluation + Grading_
Grades are faculty deemed evaluations of student work and participation. All evaluations performed in conjunction with this course will be performance based. Grading will follow the criteria of the official college grade definitions and incremental grade reports will be provided as made available by the instructor. Work will be evaluated in terms of Intention, Development, and Resolution on a 0-100 scale. Project weighting for the semester will be:

Weighting

Mapping Exercises	=	35%
Reading Position Papers	=	35%
***Presentation	Project***	=	10%
Participation	=	20%
Total Grade	=	100%

Breakdown

A (89.50 – 100) = Superior_ Exceptional performance strongly exceeding requirements of assignments, demonstrating independent resourcefulness and achieving a high level of conceptual, technical and programmatic resolution.

B (79.50 – 89.49) = Above Average_ Adequate resolution of all programmatic, technical and theoretical issues and evidence of a clear design agenda or idea; demonstration of initiative and development over the period of the project; work exceeds minimum requirements of assignments and presentation.

C (69.50 – 79.49) = Average_ All project requirements minimally satisfied but with an undistinguished result; little evidence of initiative and improvement.

D (59.50 – 69.49) = Below Average_ Inadequate resolution of programmatic, technical and theoretical issues; performance with regard to development, enthusiasm or initiative markedly below that of studio peers.

F (0 – 59.49) = Failing_ Ineffective performance with significant project aspects not resolved and substantially sub-par performance in initiative, attitude and attendance.

I (N/A) = Incomplete_ No incompletes will be given except on the basis of compelling, written documentation that you are unable to complete the course.

No extra credit is available in this course. No late work will be accepted. Given the performative and sequential nature of this course, late or missing assignments cannot be made up; a "0" (zero) grade will be recorded. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Drop Policy_
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).

Electronic Communication_
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Student Feedback Survey_
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the

term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week_
A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study_
A general rule of thumb for the university is that for every credit hour earned, a student should spend at least 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. However, as you all know, design is not a process that lends itself to such input estimations. In most cases it takes more than this fractional investment of time outside of studio in order to successfully complete architecture projects.

Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend sufficient time on their own each week in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, drawing, sketching, modeling, attending lectures, visiting architecture and so on.

Grade Grievances_
Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog. For undergraduate courses, see http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10

Syllabus Evolution_
**The professor reserves the rights to amend, edit, delete or add to the content of this syllabus in any manner he sees fit and beneficial to the course and its participants with no forewarning. Any changes to this document or any policies or components of the class will be redistributed to the students upon the change taking place.*

Course Schedule_
Will be finalized and released soon.