This seminar is intended to give you an opportunity to develop a research project of your choice, culminating in a 25pp. research paper. The seminar will interweave the following: the discussion of a) a set of core readings on changing ideas of the relationship between history and geography; b) the process of research and writing itself more generally; and c) reports on your own research. As the course unfolds, we'll move gradually from discussion of the readings to a focus entirely on the research projects, culminating in the papers.

**Books:** Please note that the syllabus, in its current form, now only uses three of these five, rendering the rest completely optional. However, they are all highly recommended, and available for purchase at the campus bookstore.

David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*

Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*


George Chauncey, *Gay New York*

**SCHEDULE**

(e = on E-Reserves through Blackboard)

2/5  **Introductory Meeting: History and/of Geography**

2/12  **The Annales School**

- David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*, pp. 1-47
- Fernand Braudel, *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, selections (e)
- Emmanuel La Roy Ladurie, *Montaillou: The Promised Land of Error*, selections (e)
- Peter Burke, *The French Historical Revolution: The Annales School, 1929-1989*, selections (e)

2/19  **Space and Modernity**

- Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19th Century*
• Edward W. Soja, "History: Geography: Modernity", from Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory (e)

2/26 Environmental Histories
• David Arnold, The Problem of Nature, pp. 48-140
• roundtable on environmental history in Journal of American History (e)

3/5 Postcolonial Perspectives
• Edward W. Said, Orientalism, selections (e)
• Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (e)
• José Rabasa, "Allegories of Atlas" (e)
• Paul Carter, The Road to Botany Bay, selections (e)
• Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation" (e)

3/12 Geography and Identity
• George Chauncey, Gay New York

SPRING BREAK!!!

3/26 NO CLASS—CONTINUE RESEARCH

4/2 MEET TO DISCUSS RESEARCH PROGRESS

4/9 NO CLASS—PASOVER

4/16 MEET TO DISCUSS RESEARCH AND WRITING

4/23 NO CLASS—CONTINUE RESEARCH

4/30 MEET TO DISCUSS WRITING & HAND IN ROUGH DRAFTS

5/7 FINAL DISCUSSION AND PEER FEEDBACK ON ROUGH DRAFTS

final draft of research paper due 5/15 by 5pm in my office
RECOMMENDED READING

HISTORY OF GEOGRAPHY: SURVEYS


Edward S. Casey, *The Fate of Place: A Philosophical History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997). A history of ideas of "place" and "space" in Euro-American traditions of thought, from a philosopher right here at Stony Brook…


HISTORY OF CARTOGRAPHY: SURVEYS


David Buisseret, ed., *From Sea Charts to Satellite Images: Interpreting North American History Through Maps* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990). An interesting attempt to teach historians how to read a variety of maps from the last five centuries; brief articles on each type of map, followed by examples.

Joel Makower, *The Map Catalog*, 3rd ed. (New York: Vintage, 1992). In some ways similar to the volume above, with more of an emphasis on locating maps of interest (through commercial companies, government agencies, and/or libraries/archives).

Many more histories of cartography are available, most, however, catering more to the coffee-table and/or antiquarian market.
INFLUENCE OF GEOGRAPHY ON HISTORY


GEOGRAPHY AND IDENTITY
Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, eds., *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983). This influential collection of essays challenged previously-little-questioned assumptions about the seemingly "natural" links between geography, ethnicity, and identity; in the process of reading these highly entertaining essays on the shaping of identity in places from Scotland to India, many historians became more open to cultural history, and in particular to poststructuralist/"social constructionist" cultural history.

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, rev. ed. (London: Verso, 1991). Of the flood of books on nationalism that have been published in the past decade or so, this provides one of the more intelligent and less Eurocentric interpretations. For other major interpretations of nationalism, see the books on the topic by Hobsbawm and Gellner.


The literature on the changing relations between geography and identity (i.e. through nationalism, regionalism, and ethnicity, in their more obvious groupings) is huge; the titles above represent a mere sampling.

ANNALES SCHOOL: MEMBERS


**ANNALES SCHOOL: HISTORIOGRAPHY**


Stuart Clark, ed., *Annales School (Critical Assessments)* (New York: Routledge, 1999). Apparently a four-volume anthology of articles by and about members of the Annales School, touching on key debates. At 1600+ pages, retails on Amazon.com for an impressive $700!


**CLIMATE AND HISTORY**


In the past decade, there's been a flood of books and conference proceedings on the topic…

**BORDERS, BOUNDARIES, FRONTIERS**

Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History", in *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1893*, pp. 197-227. Many reprints, i.e. in books titled *The Frontier in American History and Frontier and Section*.


The literature on "borderlands" and frontier-making has been growing pretty rapidly…
GEOGRAPHY AND MODERNITY
(in addition to Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journey: The Industrialization of Time and Space in the 19th Century*, already on syllabus)
extracts from Marx and Engels

GEOGRAPHY AND URBAN STUDIES/ARCHITECTURE
Note: this literature is exceptionally huge and has grown significantly over the past several decades; what appears below is just a quasi-random sampling…
Colin Chant, ed. *Cities and Technology*: a series of survey textbooks and accompanying readers originally designed for the Open University in the UK. Available are texts and readers for 1) preindustrial European cities, 2) industrial and postindustrial European cities, and 3) "American cities and technology: wilderness to wired city"
Note also that many environmental historians have also taken an "urban" turn, i.e. William Cronon, Martin Melosi, and our very own Chris Sellers.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND THE VERNACULAR LANDSCAPE
J.B. Jackson, *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape* (New Haven: Yale, 1986) and *A Sense of Place, A Sense of Time* (also New Haven: Yale, 1986). Key essays by an important figure in the field.
John R. Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845* (New Haven: Yale, 1986). A great guide to "reading" common landscape features, by an otherwise somewhat idiosyncratic writer, whose works are, however, well worth checking out.

"LANDSCAPE" AND ART

Simon Schama, *Landscape and Memory* (New York: Knopf, 1995). A wild tour through Euro-American culture by the prominent Columbia (art) historian and BBC documentarianist, with chapters focusing on individual themes, i.e. trees, water, etc.

**GEOGRAPHY AND CRITICAL THEORY**
(see also section on phenomenology below)


Mike Craig and N.J. Thrift, eds., *Thinking Space* (New York: Routledge, 2000). Have not yet seen—but apparently discusses the role of space in the thought of Simmel, Bakhtin, Deleuze, Cixous, Lefebvre (see below), Lacan, Bourdieu, Foucault, and Fanon.

**ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY**
(in addition to David Arnold, *The Problem of Nature*, already on syllabus)
There's just so much I can't pick what to put. Come to my office sometime.

**IMPERIAL GEOGRAPHIES**


**POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES**


A good reader, with fairly short extracts, by the editors of *The Empire Writes Back*.


**INDIGENOUS CARTOGRAPHY**

David Woodward, ed., *The History of Cartography: Cartography in the Traditional African, American, Arctic, Australian, and Pacific Societies* (see above for cite, and see also the other volumes in this series).


**PHENOMENOLOGICAL VENTURES**

Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*, trans. Maria Jolas (Boston: Beacon Press, 1964). Subtitled "the classic look at how we experience intimate places". As the title and subtitle suggest, a French philosopher's lyrical analysis of those kinds of spaces that aren't usually mapped. By the author of the equally fascinating (and, to many readers, more baffling) quartet of volumes on the elements: *The Psychoanalysis of Fire; Water and Dreams; Air and Revery;* and *The Earth and the Revery of Repose*.


**FEMINISM AND GEOGRAPHY**


Gillian Rose, *Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993).


**METAGEOGRAPHY AND WORLD HISTORY**


