

Quarter/Year	Course Number	Day/Time	Instructor
Spring 2018	ART_HIST 430	W 2:00-4:50	Escobar
Course Title			Degree/Distro Fulfillment
Studies in Renaissance Art: Maps and the Early Modern Transatlantic World			n/a



Maps represent territory. Maps claim ownership. Maps sometimes lie. Are maps works of art? This course will explore the making, use, and display of maps in the early modern period—with special attention to the Spanish Empire—and consider their intended meaning as objects at the intersection of science, art, and power. Seminar readings will trace the rise of cartography as a scientific as well as humanistic pursuit in late fifteenth-century Europe and pay particular attention to the production of maps in the context of transatlantic exchange and colonialism in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, taking into account indigenous mapmaking traditions in the Americas. Additionally, we will consider the role of maps in the study of early modern cities. For research topics, students will work with an original period object so as to better understand the ways in which maps were experienced by early modern viewers, whether as fold-out pages in books, single sheet prints that might be

illuminated and framed, or in an array of larger formats including painted fresco cycles in galleries meant to be discussed and interpreted.

Please note: Participants must be available from 12:30 to 1:45pm for travel prior to class meetings that will be held at the Newberry Library in Chicago and the MacLean Collection in Lake Forest.

Required Textbooks

Padrón, Ricardo. *The Spacious Word* (Chicago, 2004). ISBN: 978-0226644332
Davies, Surekha. *Renaissance Ethnography and the Invention of the Human* (Cambridge, 2016). ISBN: 978-1108431828

Assessments

Active participation will count for 30% of the course grade; a research paper and oral presentation account for the remaining 70%.