

*Map Your Life*  
22:438: Design III  
Cutler-Lake



Some of my maps.



For this assignment, you are asked to make a map representing some aspect of *your unique, personal experience*. This map could represent time spent in the city or town you live in (or have lived in) or it could be a map describing the unique natural characteristics of a place where you have lived, annotated with instances of your own experiences.

Each of the maps that result from this assignment should concern the nature of what it means to be somewhere (or to experience something) and how one may move around it. Almost all of these maps seek to simplify what, to me, is a very complex subject: personal location and time spent on this immense earth.

There is no need to resort to decoration or unnecessary editing to make the map "prettier." *Information is beautiful*, and it's your job to take a substantial amount of raw data and present it in a clear, useful manner without cosmetic distractions.

**Why maps?**

This assignment is designed to make you aware of the way information can be expressed spatially. Maps foster better understanding of the situation at hand.

They mitigate the feeling of being lost. They lend a sense of order to the world.

This assignment considers the way designers can express ideas of place, time and experience through the use of map (or map-like) imagery in their work. It hopes to spark conversation, exploration, and thought about the potential of the map. A variety of cartographic approaches have been used by artists and designers throughout time to explore and understand human experience.

Some questions for discussion: What roles do scale, spatial organization, symbols, distance, and direction play when we attempt to "map out" a place or an idea? Can it tell a story? How does a map define location? What has been included? What has been excluded? Is a map an exact record or a personal opinion?

Final presentation format will be unique to each map: the way your map is presented should address specifics of your unique project. If one-sided, flush-mounting on presentation board should suffice. If two-sided, you might want to look into the specifics of folding. Don't forget process materials.

*Mapping fulfills one of our deepest desires: understanding the world around us and our place in it.*

KATHARINE HARMON

*To create a map is to abstract from the world those factors deemed important, and display them in a form that allows them to be useful.*

WARD KAISER AND DENIS WOOD

*You are a part of a part and the whole is made of parts, each of which is whole. You start with the part you are whole in.*

GARY SNYDER

