

Exploring and Mapping the World

Syllabus for Spring, 2020

Location: Las Ventanas, 10401 W. Charleston Blvd

Day/Time: Fridays, 10-12, Feb 7 – Apr 17

Instructor: Susan Merritt; susanmerritt99@gmail.com

Schedule:

Class	Subject	Topics
2/7	The First Explorers	Course introduction and Polynesian navigation
2/14	From Babylon to Ancient Greece	Space has a history, told through maps; timeline of western knowledge of the earth and sky; voyages of Pytheas the Greek
2/21	Geography and Cartography Basics	Map subjectivity, projections, orientation, latitude/longitude, Ptolemy's legacy
2/28	The Vikings	The quest to measure longitude, Norse navigation, Leif Eriksson the Lucky
3/6	Marco Polo and the East	The journeys of Marco Polo and Sir John Mandeville, monsters on maps, geo trivia
3/13	Portugal's Great Leap Forward	Spatial knowledge in the Age of Discovery; Portugal's quest for wealth through spices; navigational charts and rhumb lines
3/20	Spring Break – No Class	
3/27	A New World Takes Shape	World knowledge in 1492; the enigmatic Christopher Columbus; the Waldseemuller map; U.S. geo-ignorance & David Helgren's quiz
4/3	Lewis and Clark	The many uses for maps; Jefferson dispatches Lewis and Clark; what maps tell us about their expedition and the history of the American west
4/10	Magellan & Globalization	Magellan's voyage and the advent of globalization; custom-made GeoBingo game
4/17	Captain Cook Maps the World/ Modern Space Exploration	The elusive southern hemisphere; Captain Cook's voyages; The last frontier – human exploration of space