Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies
Spring Workshop, 18-20 March, 2010
"Cartography and Spatial Analysis in American Indian Studies"
The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, IL

Jon Parmenter
Associate Professor of History
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
jwp35@cornell.edu

Overview
This interdisciplinary workshop engages this central issue in American Indian Studies by confronting head-on one of the key instruments employed in the colonization of indigenous homelands: maps. While acknowledging that maps embody the values and goals of their makers, the workshop aims nevertheless to assess their potential, and the potential of spatially-oriented inquiry more generally, for pushing the field of American Indian Studies in new and interesting directions. What can maps tell us about the historical experience of American Indian nations? How do maps function in a colonial context? Can the study of historical maps improve our awareness of the use of space (not just its occupancy) by American Indians? How have American Indian people understood, employed, and/or resisted cartography?

Focus
Integrating the rich resources of the Newberry Library's D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, and the world-class Hermon Dunlap Smith Center for the History of Cartography, workshop participants will explore the intersection of cartography with document-based history, ethnography, literature, cultural narratives, and art history.
Objectives

The workshop is meant to introduce students to the Newberry's unique collections, to raise significant questions about the relationships between cartographic analysis and the broader field of American Indian studies, and to have students come away with an enhancement to their methodological repertoire in addition to gaining experience with archival research in an outstanding institution. Participants will read and discuss a provocative body of secondary readings in seminar format, pursue independent study in the collections, and share (briefly) their own research projects with the group.

Workshop Schedule

*Readings assigned for particular discussions are listed at the end of the syllabus.

Thursday 3/18

9:00-11:00am   - Welcome, Introductions, Opening Discussion: "How Do Maps Function in a Colonial Context?"

11:15am-12:30pm - Orientation to Research at the Newberry
                    (John Brady, Director of Reader Services, Newberry Library)

12:30pm-1:30pm   - Lunch Break

1:30-3:00pm   - Orientation to Cartographic Research at the Newberry
                    (Robert Karrow, Curator of Maps, Newberry Library)

3:00pm-5:00pm   - Independent Research time

Friday 3/19

9:00am-11:00am   - Discussion, "What Can Maps Tell Us About the Historical Experience of American Indian Nations?"

11:00am-1:00pm   - Lunch Break
1:00pm-3:00pm  - Discussion, "How Have American Indian People Understood/Employed/Resisted Cartography?"

3:30pm-5:00pm  - Participant Discussion of Research Projects in Progress

Saturday 3/20

9:00am-9:30am  - Library open for paging research materials

9:30am-10:30am  - Concluding Discussion, "How Can Cartographic Analysis Improve our Understanding of the Use of Space by American Indians?"

10:30pm-1:00pm  - Library open for independent research

Assigned Readings:

"How Do Maps Function in a Colonial Context?"


"What Can Maps Tell us About the Historical Experience of American Indians"


"How Have American Indian People Understood/Employed/Resisted Cartography?"


"How Can Cartographic Analysis Improve our Understanding of the Use of Space by American Indians?"


Deloria, Philip J. "From Nation to Neighborhood: Land, Policy, Culture, Colonialism, and Empire in U.S.-Indian Relations," in James W. Cook, Lawrence B. Glickman, and Michael O'Malley, eds.,
