

University of Southern Maine ANE 633 [GEO 450]

# THE MAPPING OF NEW ENGLAND

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## PAPER 1: TEXTUAL ANALYSIS

### TASK

Examine and analyze one map (defined below) from a textual/semiotic perspective, like Wood and Fel's reading of a state road map. Follow the eight considerations as discussed in class. Consider what is shown on the map, how it is shown, and what is *not* shown. Do not forget to pay close attention to issues of difference, classification, hierarchy, distinction (differential representation), and framing. The goal is to come to a conclusion concerning the manner in which the map represents the space depicted: what presumptions and preconceptions are embedded in the map? what phenomena are highlighted? what is the map *about*? (Feel free to report what you think might be obvious!)

Write up the analysis in a five-page paper. (That is, five pages plus cover page, references, appendices, etc.) Please use a cover page. Feel free to use any appendices you might wish to use (although this is not expected). It will not be necessary to cite sources; the exercise is, after all, to look at one map and to read it closely. But if you do cite sources, please follow the course style guidelines and be consistent.

Please use a clip of some sort — not a staple! — to hold the paper together.

### SUBJECT MATTER

Please consult the list of maps provided on my web site. Students are not required to study one of these, but should seek my permission to use any other image.

### FEEDBACK

I will be out-of-town from 15 through 22 February. I will be checking email regularly in the meantime, so feel free to email me any questions you might have about the project: edney@usm.maine.edu.

In the meantime, students are expected to use the 'free' week as a research week, to study and reflect upon the map with great care and attention, and also to explore similar maps that might be available on the web.

## **EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated according to the completeness and logicity of their analysis. Consideration will also be paid to grammar, style, etc. Overall, this paper is worth 10% of the total course grade.

## **DUE**

The papers are due in class on 23 February 2009.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Completion of this task requires consultation of other documents all available on my web site

1. List of maps suitable for analysis;
2. Eight Considerations for Reading Maps;
3. Course style guide;
4. Guide to online websites