Geography 12: Maps and Mapping

Instructor: Keith Clarke
TAs: Heather Burte, Tammy Elwell
Çatalhöyük: 3000 years before writing

Drawing of the central portion of the Catalhoyuk map. The twin peaked volcano is a reasonable representation of the way Hasan Dagi looked 8000 years ago. It has been extinct since the second millennium BCE
But is it a map?

A bird’s eye view - of a leopard’s spots. The Çatalhöyük ‘map’ and the development of cartographic representation in prehistory.

This is the author’s version of an article published in Anatolian Studies Vol 56 2006, pp1-16.

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Abstract:
The striking wall paintings uncovered in the excavations at Çatalhöyük have fascinated archaeologists and non-archaeologists alike, and many interpretations of their content and meaning have been proposed. This article re-evaluates the claim that one of these paintings is a map of the village, with Hasan Dağ erupting above it. It is argued that the excavator’s first interpretation of the objects depicted in the painting, i.e., that they are a leopard skin above a panel of geometric design, is in fact a far more reasonable one, when this painting is contextualised within the entire corpus of painting and other art objects found at the site. Implications of this re-interpretation for our understanding of Neolithic spatial and symbolic representation, and the origin of map-making are considered, as well as the importance of the depiction of animals and felines in the Neolithic period.
What you will learn

• Map geometry, construction and content
• Practical map use, reading and navigation
• Map representation
• Cartometry and map analysis
• Basics of cartography’s sister disciplines
How you will learn it

• Textbook
• Lectures
• Reader for labs
• Supplemental materials
• Exercises in lab
• Evaluations