



**GEOG 701:
Geographic Thought
and Theory**

Painting by
Jan Van Meer, 1669

*"Ein Geograph in
seinem
Arbeitszimmer"*

("A Geographer in
his Workroom")

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[http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/
courses/geog701/index.html](http://www.geo.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog701/index.html)

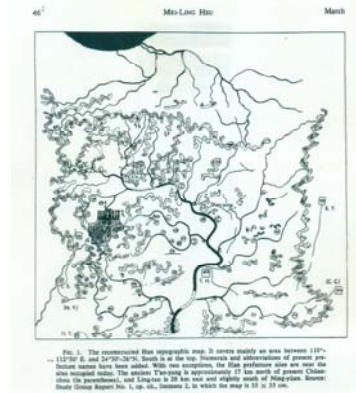
- About the readings . . .
- The grading formula . . .
- Term project . . .
- Attendance and participation . . .

To access articles . . .

- Go to: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu>
- Click on "Libraries" (top menu bar)
- Under Find, click on "List of Journals"
- Under "Find Journal by title," enter full name in empty box and click "Search".
- Navigate from there.

**The goals of this course are to
familiarize you with:**

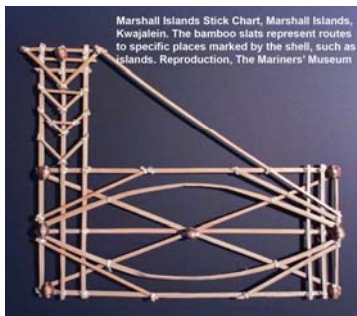
- Important individuals and episodes that characterize American geography and its antecedents;
- The principal philosophies that have highlighted the history of western geography; and
- Some of the major "story lines" in the history of western geography.



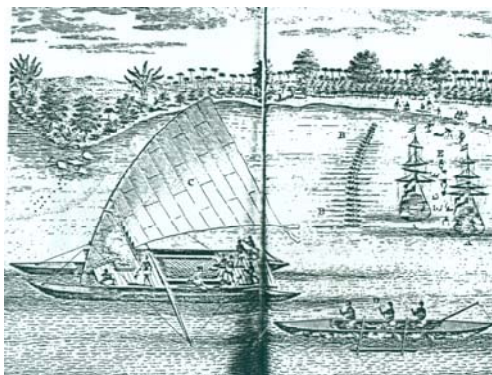
Old map of Tibet



Polynesian “Stick Chart”

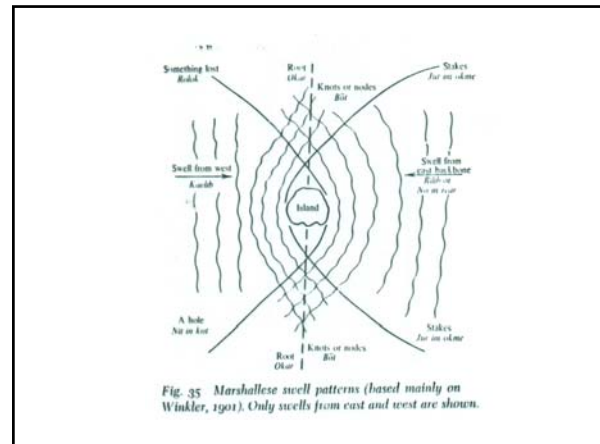
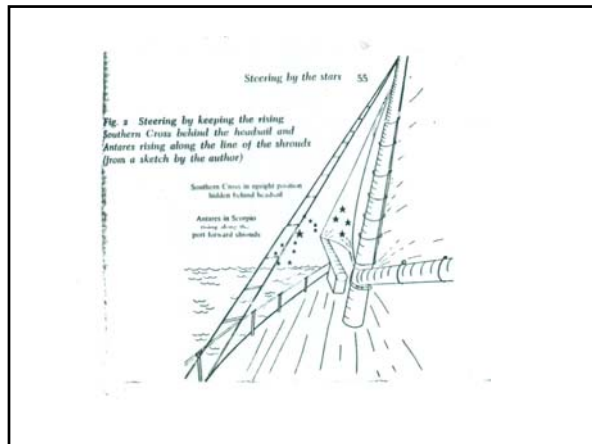


Polynesian “Stick Chart”



Polynesians in multi-hulled canoe, 1781





The Four Traditions of Geography

- **Spatial (mapping, GIS, RS-API, quantitative techniques, models, movement)**
- **Area studies (regional geography at all scales)**
- **Man-Land (human geography in all its forms, perception, hazards)**
- **Earth Science (physical geography)**

Geography's Main Storylines

- The relationship between geography and technological change
- the relationship between people and environment
- relations to other disciplines
- the nature of geographic knowledge and education
- the “ideographic vs. nomothetic” argument
- art vs. science
- pure vs. applied research
- What is/should be geography’s purpose, and who should determine geography’s agenda?
- field work vs. lab work;
- inclusiveness (or lack thereof).

Geography as an academic discipline . . .

- Though an ancient subject, geography as a stand-alone academic discipline is a relatively recent thing. It was merely an “umbrella concept” for much of its history.
- As late as 1880 there were fewer than 20 university geography teachers in the entire world (Holt-Jensen, 1999).
- Two reasons: In an era of increased specialization, geography was seen by many learned people as too cosmographic to be a separate subject; and much of its content was perceived as falling within the realms of history and geology.
- The first geography departments in Britain and the U.S. date from 1900 and 1903 respectively.
- Geography’s ascendancy at the university level occurred largely because it became a compulsory grade-school subject, requiring university-trained professionals to teach it.

Your first assignment . . .

- What is your name?
- At what college/university did you receive your baccalaureate degree?
- What was your undergraduate major?
- Why geography?
- What is your principal area of interest in geography?

GEOG 701: Assignments for September 7

Ahmed, Sadiyah: Homer / Odyssey
 Betancourt Mazur, Livia: Thales of Miletus
 Brown, Christina: Anaximander and the
 gnomon
 Chim, Ivy: Hecateus
 Cytryn, Margaret: Herodotus
 Devlin, Jennifer: Aristotle
 Douglas, Robert: Eratosthenes
 Friedman, Erin: Eratosthenes' calculation of
 circumference
 Hymes, Marla: Hipparchus

James, Yolanda: the astrolabe
 Jenkins, Kevin: Posidonius and dead
 reckoning
 Laroussi, Joanna: Posidonius and dead
 reckoning
 Mead, Victoria: Strabo
 Murray, Wallace: Varro
 Olesh, David: Ptolemy
 Sultana, Nighar: Ptolemy
 Visovsky, Stephen: Ptolemy's map of the world

Toward the end introductory chapter of The
 Geographical tradition, the author endorses an
 approach to the history of geography that he
 calls "situated messiness."

In no more than one page (double-space)
 describe what he means and why he has
 chosen that approach.