This seminar will investigate the topic of networks as a tactic for designing the contemporary urban landscape. The territory established by networks contradicts the traditional image of the city. Rather than rely on significant architectural objects or highly figured spaces, networks are characterized by flexible, indeterminate geographies governed by the transfer of information, services, mobile capital, transportation, and economic exchange. This seminar will investigate how these information infrastructures invigorate urbanization with instrumental and operational agency while “avoiding the twin cul-de-sacs of historicism and typology.”

Each student in the seminar will research the topic of information territories with three tools: design, writing, and research. Students will situate geographic concepts and theories of networks as defined by post-modern urbanists (Koolhaas, Moshen, Allen, Corner, Berger, et al.) through readings, short papers and class discussions. Simultaneously, and most significantly, students will transform the theoretical discourse of the seminar through an original research project that draws, maps and diagrams a selected network relevant to the Midwest. Using current strategies of representing information, students will experiment with representing information territories by focusing on maps over plans, the flow of matter over subjects, and the concept of environment over that of space-time.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will be provided a context in which to critically discuss and assess how networks and territories have shaped the discipline of architecture with respect to landscape and urbanism.
- Students should be able to develop critical mappings that link together methods of architectural communication including but not limited to cartography, diagrams, information design and graphic design.
- Students should be able to employ analytical thinking as a means of research.

FORMAT
The format will be a series of topical seminar and discussion sessions, as well as student-driven research focused around infrastructure and how it shapes the mid-western landscape. Students will be asked to synthesize between visual research and written theories of urbanism, networks and infrastructure.

COURSE RESOURCES
Readings will be made available electronically on our class Carmen site (carmen.osu.edu).

ASSIGNMENTS
There are several on-going assignments that will accumulate into a final research poster to be presented at the final class presentation. The presentation standards for this assignment will be distributed throughout the term.

1) You will be asked to develop and research mapping techniques and other visuals that explore the topic of “networks”
2) You will be asked to synthesize class discussions into an original research project on infrastructure’s development in the Midwest.

FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT: Each student will engage in primary and secondary research to follow an infrastructure through the Midwest. Any infrastructural system can be selected, but must be documented and drawn using the techniques developed (GIS mapping) and discussed (diagrams, axonometrics, information graphics, etc) as a way to render abstract and physical systems. Final presentations will be made the week before final reviews.

EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Mapping Project</td>
<td>50% (draft 1: 10% / draft 2: 20% / Final: 70%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage breakdowns above are used as a guide for determining grades. Final grades are at the discretion of the professor. Much like a regular design studio, attendance, work habits and skill development will be considered as a synthetic whole in determination of the grades assigned. The work will be evaluated on its design merits as well as its demonstration of technical skill. The following standard University breakdown will be used in determining final grades. A: Exceptional B: Good C: Average D: Below Average F: Failing.

LATE WORK
All assignments are due in class at the specified time and date. Late submission will result in a 5% deduction (of each assignment’s total grade) per business day, excluding weekends. In the case of illness or other special circumstance, notification should be given to the instructor and the Program Office as soon as possible and before the deadline in question. Late work submitted after the final day of classes, Monday, April 22, 2013, is not acceptable without prior written permission from the Program Director.

FINAL DUE DATE
If a course has no final exam, the final assignment can be due during the exam period, April 24-30, 2013.
WRITING AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE
As well as the faculty writing support, please see English Language and writing support at OSU:
http://cstw.osu.edu/writingcenter. The following are also useful:

ATTENDANCE
Students who accumulate three unexcused absences will be immediately dismissed and given an “F.” Students with three or more total absences (excused, unexcused, or combined) from the class must discuss their situation with the instructor. They will be in danger of failing the class. It is up to each student to keep track of his / her attendance record and to make an appointment to talk to the professor if necessary. Only excused absences are permitted from missing class. Written verification for excused absences is required. Excused absences are as follows:

- **Personal Illness:** Please notify the instructor within one week after the period of illness.
- **Serious Illness or death of a member of the student's immediate family:** Please notify the instructor within one week after the funeral or period of illness.
- **Military or Government Duty:** Please notify the instructor prior to service.
- **Official University trips** (sponsored by classes; intercollegiate athletics or other activites). Notice must be given prior to the event.
- **Major Religious Holidays:** A student must notify the instructor in writing (email is fine) of these dates; please submit to the instructor no later than the last day for adding class.

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Unless being used to give a presentation, use of computers and cell phones during class is prohibited.
- Keep electronic copies of all of your work. Final documentation will be turned in on paper and electronically.
- **Save back-ups of your work.** Technology failures are not accepted reasons for late or missing work.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT
All members of the class are expected to follow the rules of proper academic conduct as defined in section 3335-31-02 of the university's legal policies (see below). Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, giving or receiving information during an exam and submitting plagiarized work for academic requirements. Students are encouraged to discuss class concepts and coursework with one another as this furthers understanding and fosters critical thought. However, any work submitted for evaluation must be your own work. The instructor reserves the right to ask you to explain your approach to particular exercises or exam questions. You must be able to verbally demonstrate your understanding of the principles involved and failure to do so may affect your grade. Any work submitted for evaluation that includes work done by another, copying of another’s work, or the result of following another’s direct guidance is a case of academic misconduct. When academic misconduct is found in any assignment or examination you submit for evaluation it will be reported to the Director of the School and you will receive a zero grade.

**Students with Disabilities:** If a student requires accommodation for a disability, he or she should immediately arrange an appointment with the professors and the Office for Disability Services. At the appointment, the professors, disability counselors, and student can discuss the course format, anticipate needs and decide upon accommodations.

**Sexual Harassment:** O.S.U.’s Sexual Harassment policy, which applies to all faculty, staff, and students, includes lewd remarks and inappropriate comments made in the studio environment, classroom, and computer labs as well as the “display of inappropriate sexually oriented materials in a location where others can see it.” Students can file a complaint by contacting Student Judicial Affairs at 292-0748. Sanctions include reprimand, suspension, and dismissal from the University.
week 1
January 7  COURSE INTRODUCTION
Lecture: “Information Territories”
Video: Glimpses of the USA, Ray and Charles Eames

week 2
January 14  GEOGRAPHY AND ECONOMICS
Pin Up Mappings 1: Mapping economic, geographic and cultural “belts”

week 3
January 21  NO CLASS: MLK HOLIDAY

week 4
January 28  FLOWS: VECTORS OF MOBILITY
Discussion: “The Image of Mobility,” looking at examples of “flow” at three scales.

week 5
February 4  TERRITORY: HORIZONTALITY AND EXPANSE
Discussion: “Horizontal Diagrams,” looking at examples of projects and diagrams that explicitly explore horizontal systems and overlaps

week 6
February 11  NETWORKS: CROSSING INFRASTRUCTURES
Discussions: Presentations of Initial mapping ideas
- Branzi, Andrea. Weak and Diffuse Modernity: The World Projects at the Beginning of the 21st Century. 9—39
week 7
February 18  WORKSHOP 1: INTRODUCTION
Lab: Introduction to ArchMap GIS Software

week 8
February 25  ECONOMIC EXCHANGE
Presentation: Discussion on regional economics and transitions from Rust Belt economies to Service and Technology economies. Lavea Brachman, Executive Director of the Greater Ohio Policy Center.
Discussion: Preliminary research into term projects.

week 9
March 4  WORKSHOP 2: REPRESENTATION
Lab: Manipulating and representing information from GIS through Illustrator

week 10
March 11-15  NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

week 11
March 18  WORKSHOP 3: DATA
Lab: Assembling your own information through GIS

week 12
March 25  PIN UP
Individual project presentations: Method tbd

week 13
April 1  WORK WEEK
Lab and Desk Crits: Individual desk crits and lab session for help with GIS modeling

week 14
April 8  PRESENTATIONS
Individual presentations of research projects.

week 15
April 15  NO CLASS - FINAL REVIEW WEEK

week 16
April 22  FINAL DOCUMENTATION DUE