

Anthropology (ANG) 6421 **Landscape ~ Place ~ Dwelling**

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Office Hours: Tu, Th 9:00-10:00, W 1:00-2:00 and by appt.
Class meets Wed 3-5 (9:35a-12:35p) CBD 216

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3 Credits (#13GO)

Course Description: In this advanced seminar in social theory, readings and discussion focus on contemporary theoretical approaches and applications to the social construction of place and space, from the macro-scale of landscape to the micro-scale of dwellings. Emphasis is given to the “inscription” of space—how people, through their practices and their being in the world, form relationships with the locales they occupy (both the “natural” world and the “built environment”), how they create places through the attachment of meaning in practice, and how the experiences of inhabiting, sensing, viewing, and imagining those places shape the meanings and practices and thus the peoples themselves. Greater concern is given to the materiality of experience than to the discourse of place.

The first part of the course examines seminal writings of philosophers and social theorists of practice, phenomenology, and materiality that have inspired investigations of space and place in contemporary anthropology. The second part is a survey of specific topics within this vast field of study, using short case studies from around the world. Most of the analyses in this second part are guided by the theories highlighted in the first part. Some topics are given inadequate attention because they are too large and complex, deserving of a semester devoted entirely to them—e.g., the relationship of space to social organization and social identity, the body and embodiment, and the special status of the house as a place. These are not ignored; rather they appear as larger issues underlying many of the identified topics.

Course Design: This course is designed for graduate students in Anthropology, History, Geography and fields such as Architecture, Planning, and Historic Preservation, and for any others interested in anthropologically oriented theories of the cultural and social construction of space and place.

Course Objectives and Student Goals: Students should become well grounded in anthropological approaches that draw on theories of practice, phenomenology, and materiality in the social experience and crafting of meaningful places. From case studies they should learn methods and techniques for their own empirical research on topics of place and landscape. Students should show mastery of this material by completing an original analysis using these theories and methods on a topic relevant to their research.

Course Format: This is a seminar, *not* a lecture course. Information for each class is drawn from the assigned readings. Every student is expected to be prepared to participate in class discussions of the reading assignments. **Student panels** will be responsible for leading discussion of special topics in the second half of the semester. This course is managed by e-learning (<http://att.lss.ufl.edu>) : the syllabus, assignments, and announcements are here, and discussion questions are posted on this website as well. Notebook computers or similar reading devices may be used in the classroom as long as they are used *only* for the purpose of consulting the already-completed reading assignments and are not disruptive to the seminar discussion. Other electronic devices such as cell phones must remain silenced.

Class Participation Requirements: All students are expected to discuss all the readings each week. Readings must be finished *before* class meets so that you have thought about and are prepared to discuss them. Notes must be taken on each reading and brought to class. A discussion guide is posted to direct you to general questions that cross-cut the readings or go beyond them. In addition, each student is expected to **post** (at least) **four specific questions** drawn from at least four different readings. They are to be posted on the e-learning discussion page for each week by **5:00 pm on Tuesday night before**

class. You must read what is already posted there before uploading your questions to avoid duplication. If someone has already taken your question, compose a different one. You are also expected to read *all* postings before class, and if you wish, respond to them (responses are in addition to questions). The panels are expected to use those questions, as well as their own, to direct discussion. Posting and reading questions account for 10% of the class participation grade (20 points).

Panels: After week 6 a panel of students will lead the discussions each week. Panels are assigned on a “first-come” basis. The panel should meet before that class to decide the important questions to be discussed, and panel members are encouraged to consult with me. Panels will disseminate their discussion questions by email to the rest of the class by **7:00 pm Tuesday** before the Wednesday class meeting, relying in part on the questions posted by other students.

Textbooks: Two required textbooks are available for purchase at bookstores or on-line, and are on Reserve in Library West:

1. Low, Setha M., and Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga, eds. *The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating Culture*, Blackwell 2003
2. Bender, Barbara, ed. *Landscape: Politics and Perspectives*, Berg 1993

Other Required Readings are drawn from book chapters and journal articles. They are listed in each week’s reading assignment on e-learning. Pdfs of each are available on e-learning with the exception of journal articles that can be downloaded from the library website. A readings guide alerts you to the important aspects of each reading.

Research Paper and Presentation: A further requirement is the preparation of a research paper, an *original* analysis of a body of data using one or more of the discussed theoretical perspectives to elucidate spatial concepts and experiences. The data must emphasize material phenomena—meaningful land forms, structures, artifact patterns, artistic representations, natural and cultural features—rather than discourse or direct observation, although the latter may be used as secondary sources of information from historical documents, participant observation, or justified analogy. Paper topics must be pre-approved by mid-semester. An in-class professional quality powerpoint oral presentation (15 minutes) is required together with the final paper. The paper should be in the format of a publishable article (c. 8000 words of text), double-spaced, 12 point font, for a journal such as *American Anthropologist*, **OR** a grant submission (to NSF, NEH) for students in lieu of a finished analysis. The paper is due noon on Apr 30.

Attendance: Because the course is designed entirely around in-class discussions of the reading material, missing class will prove detrimental to your understanding of that material as well as to the other students’ understandings, because your contribution will be lost. Participation in weekly discussion and on panels accounts for 40% of the final grade (80 points). More than one unexcused absence and frequent tardiness will result in a drop in the final letter grade (e.g., from A- to B+, B+ to B). Failure to be prepared for the discussion or to participate in discussion is not much different from being absent.

Make-up Policy: Students with excused absences (illness requiring a doctor’s care, religious holiday) will not be penalized for missed discussion but are expected to learn the material on their own and to submit discussion questions even if past the deadline. Students unable to finish the presentation or paper on time must meet the requirements and submit the paperwork for an Incomplete.

Components of Final Grade: Posting of discussion questions, participation in every class discussion, and performance as panelists constitute 50% of the grade (100 out of 200 points). The research paper plus the oral presentation make up the other 50% (100 points; 80 pts paper, 20 pts presentation). If you don’t participate in class discussion, you can’t earn higher than a B+. Any grade adjustments must be made by the due date of the final paper; the gradebook is “closed” at that time.

GRADES: Letter grades are assigned at the end of the semester, based on a total of 200 points; see the grading scale below. See University policy: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
180-200	176-179	170-175	160-169	156-159	150-155	140-149	136-139	130-135	120-129	116-119	115 or lower
4.00	3.67	3.33	3.00	2.67	2.33	2.00	1.67	1.33	1.00	.67	0.00

Federal privacy regulations prohibit the release of scores and grades over the phone or by email

Please fill out and turn in the survey form (on E-Learning) by the second week of class.

WEEKLY TOPICS (subject to change)

- Jan 8 1. Introduction: The Anthropology of Space and Place
PART I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES
- Jan 15 2. Practice and Agency Theories: Habitus and Structuration
- Jan 22 3. Space-Time: Production, Consumption, Power
- Jan 29 4. Space to Place: The Body in Movement: Practice and Phenomenology (I)
- Feb 5 5. “Dwelling” and “Being-in-the-World” (Phenomenology II)
- Feb 12 6. Materiality and Non-Human Agency (Posthumanism and Alternative Ontologies)
PART II: SPECIAL TOPICS
- Feb 19 7. PANEL 1: Landscape: Between Space and Place
- Feb 26 8. PANEL 2: Nature/Culture
 Deadline this week to confirm your paper topic (by Feb. 26)
- Mar 5 SPRING BREAK
- Mar 12 9. PANEL 3: “Natural” and “Monumental” Landscapes
- Mar 19 10. PANEL 4: Place, History, Memory: Linking/Denying the Past in Present Places
- Mar 26 11. PANEL 5: Place and Person: Gendering Place
- Apr 2 12. PANEL 6: Representations of Place (Symbols, Allegories, Ideologies, Maps)
PART III: PRESENTATIONS
- Apr 9 13. No class; every student must meet with professor to discuss their paper
- Apr 16 14. Presentations
- Apr 23 15. no class (SAA meeting) Work on your final papers
- Apr 30 **All written papers due by noon** (hard copy; emailed papers not accepted)

By remaining registered in this course you indicate your agreement to abide by the requirements stated in this syllabus. The following information is included in conformance with University Policy:

1. Policy related to class attendance, make-up exams, and other work

Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

2. Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Professor when requesting accommodation. Upon receipt of documentation, the Professor will grant the accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow these procedures as early as possible in the semester.

3. Online course evaluation process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

4. Religious Observances

Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observances) should contact the Professor and request this modification; it will then be granted.

5. Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or any TAs assigned to this class. Instances of dishonesty include conducting unauthorized research on the internet and failing to cite sources of information on any work submitted, as well as unauthorized collaborating with students or others to determine the answers on assignments and exams.

6. Counseling and Emergency Services

- the University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1171
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601
- Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- University Police Department 392-1111 (non-emergency); call 9-1-1 for emergencies

7. Electronic Course Reserves

The electronic course reserve service is offered by the George A. Smathers Libraries. Under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities have the right to equal access, use and benefit of the course materials that have been placed on reserve in the Libraries.

Students who have registered with the University of Florida Disability Resource Center should initiate their request for assistance and accommodation in accessing these materials. The Center will work with the Libraries Course Reserve Unit to provide accessible course materials. All information submitted by the student to the Libraries in fulfilling the request for accommodation will be kept confidential. For more information on services for students with disabilities, contact the UF Disability Resource Center at 352-392-8565 or at accessuf@dso.ufl.edu. For general information on course reserves, please contact the Course Reserves Unit at 352-273-2520, or email at eres@uflib.ufl.edu.

It is best to **use the UF VPN client** when accessing electronic materials course reserve materials as well as e-books, on-line journals, databases, etc. offered by the library. The VPN client is easily installed and configured, and provides easy access to electronic materials using off-campus computers. For more information on using the VPN client, go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/login/vpn.html>

Software Regulations

All faculty, staff and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.