

Anthropology (ANG) 6421
Landscape ~ Place ~ Dwelling

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Office Hours: TBA
Class meets Wed 3-5 (9:30a-12:30p)

Spring 2021
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Course # 27331 Section #328B - 3 credits

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 bodily 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, representing, 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 will identify and explain specific anthropological approaches that draw on theories of practice, phenomenology, and materiality to characterize or comprehend the social experience of crafting and inhabiting meaningful places. From case studies they will analyze a variety of methods and techniques, including those suitable for their own research on place and landscape. Students will formulate and develop an original analysis of empirical data using a selection of these theories and methods on a topic relevant to their research interests. Students will communicate their analysis and findings in oral and written formats.

Course Content Delivery: In the section designated 100% online, class meetings will be delivered over Zoom during the scheduled time on Wednesday. Each student is required to have access to a web camera, microphone, and internet connection. There is no plan to audio-visually record class meetings. If you cannot attend, please consult a classmate to get the notes. All assignments will be submitted on the Canvas website for this course (elearning.ufl.edu). Reading materials and readings guides are organized by weekly Modules on Canvas.

Office Hours and Meetings with Instructor: All meetings will be virtual, over Zoom. Scheduled office hours will appear on the Canvas calendar. Special appointment times can also be arranged. **Contact the instructor** using regular email or the email function in Canvas.

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 lead discussions in the second half of the semester.

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 relevant questions** drawn from at least **four** different readings. They are to be posted on the Canvas discussion page for each week no later than **noon on Tuesday afternoon 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 **respond to at least four** of them (responses are in addition to questions) by **8:00 pm** Tuesday evening. You may respond to questions drawn from the same reading from which you created a question, as long as it is a different question from the one you asked. Everyone is expected to have read all questions and responses before class begins Wednesday morning. Panels are expected to use those questions, as well as their own, to direct discussion. Posting and reading questions and responses account for 50% of the class participation grade (50 points). The other 50% is based on active and informed contributions to in class discussion each week. Passive individuals who prefer to listen to others cannot earn an A in this course.

Panels: After week 6 a panel of students may be asked to 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 **9:00 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 will be put 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 module on Canvas, provided as pdf files except for 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 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 Week 8, with a brief presentation to the class on that day. 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** the content section of a grant submission (to NSF, NEH). The paper is due noon on **Apr 21**.

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. 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 will not be penalized for missed discussion but are expected to learn the material on their own and to submit discussion questions and responses 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 grade. See full attendance and make-up policy below.

Components of Final Grade: Posting of discussion questions and responses (50 points), and participation in every class discussion (50 points) 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). The gradebook is “closed” on the University-assigned final exam date.

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 Canvas) by the second week of class.

WEEKLY TOPICS

All readings and other assignments are listed and updated on the weekly modules on Canvas.

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| Jan 13 | 1. Introduction: The Anthropology of Space and Place |
| | PART I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES |
| Jan 20 | 2. Practice and Agency Theories: Habitus and Structuration |
| Jan 27 | 3. Space-Time: Production, Consumption, Power |
| Feb 3 | 4. Space to Place: The Body in Movement: Practice and Phenomenology (I) |
| Feb 10 | 5. “Dwelling” and “Being-in-the-World” (Phenomenology II) |
| Feb 17 | 6. Materiality and Non-Human Agency (Posthumanism and Relational Ontologies) |
| | PART II: SPECIAL TOPICS |
| Feb 24 | 7. PANEL 1: Landscape as Process |
| Mar 3 | 8. PANEL 2: Nature/Culture
Deadline this week to confirm your paper topic (by Mar.3) |
| Mar 10 | 9. PANEL 3: “Natural” and “Monumental” Landscapes |
| Mar 17 | 10. PANEL 4: Place, History, Memory: Linking/Denying the Past in Present Places |
| Mar 24 | 11. PANEL 5: Place and Person: Gendering Place |
| Mar 31 | 12. PANEL 6: Representations and Semiotics of Place (Signs, Allegories, Maps) |
| | PART III: RESEARCH PAPER AND PRESENTATIONS |
| Apr 7 | 13. No class; every student must meet with professor to discuss their paper |
| Apr 14 | 14. Presentations (last class meeting) |
| Apr 21 | 15. All written papers due by noon |

* NOTE: Spring break is cancelled for spring semester 2021.

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:

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>

Accommodations for students with disabilities <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student and instructor. Upon receipt of documentation, the *student must meet* with the instructor to clarify the accommodation, after which it will be granted. Students with disabilities should follow these procedures as early as possible in the semester.

Online course evaluation process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Religious Observances

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

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. 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 (see the full list at url above). All suspected instances of violations of the Honor Code (plagiarism, copying, cheating) will be reported to the Dean of Students Office (DSO). Students who have not committed any prior violations according to the DSO will be sanctioned by the instructor; the usual penalty is a loss of all credit for the plagiarized assignment, or a grade of 0 on an exam. Students with prior violations will be sanctioned according to the Honor Code Resolution Process (<http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/4042.pdf>)

Counseling and Emergency Services

U Matter, We Care serves as UF’s umbrella program for UF’s caring culture and provides students in distress with support and coordination of the wide variety of appropriate resources. Contact umatter@ufl.edu seven days a week for assistance for students in distress.

- the University Counseling and Wellness Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575 <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161
- Career Connections 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

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 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 (Cisco) 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.