

Anthropology (ANG) 6421 Landscape ~ Place ~ Dwelling

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

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Course # 22526 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 Delivery: This is an in-person class; however, a zoom link will be provided for those unable to attend due to illness or other absence. Tell the instructor if you need to use zoom; it is not automatic. 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.

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 (March 1), with a very brief presentation to the class on that day. An in-class powerpoint oral presentation (15 minutes) is required together with the final paper. The paper should be formatted like 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 **Apr 26**.

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.

ACCEPTANCE OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS: By remaining registered in this class, you indicate your agreement to accept the course requirements and expectations as stated in this syllabus. These are in addition to other general University requirements and codes of conduct as stated in official documents. *Please fill out the grad information form on Canvas and return it to me by the second class meeting.*

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

WEEKLY TOPICS

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

Jan 11	1.	Introduction: The Anthropology of Space and Place
		PART I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES
Jan 18	2.	Practice and Agency Theories: Habitus and Structuration
Jan 25	3.	Space-Time: Production, Consumption, Power
Feb 1	4.	Space to Place: The Body in Movement: Practice and Phenomenology (I)
Feb 8	5.	“Dwelling” and “Being-in-the-World” (Phenomenology II)
Feb 15	6.	Materiality and Non-Human Agency (Posthumanism and Relational Ontologies)
		PART II: SPECIAL TOPICS
Feb 22	7.	PANEL 1: Landscape as Process
Mar 1	8.	PANEL 2: Nature/Culture Deadline this week to confirm your paper topic (by Mar. 1)
Mar 8	9.	PANEL 3: “Natural” and “Monumental” Landscapes
Mar 15		<i>Spring Break</i>
Mar 22	10.	PANEL 4: Place, History, Memory: Linking/Denying the Past in Present Places
Mar 29	11.	PANEL 5: Place and Person: Gendering Place
Apr 5	12.	PANEL 6: Representations and Semiotics of Place (Signs, Allegories, Maps)
		PART III: RESEARCH PAPER AND PRESENTATIONS
Apr 12	13.	No class; every student must meet with professor to discuss their paper
Apr 19	14.	Presentations (last class meeting)
Apr 26	15.	All written papers due by noon

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 (e.g., excused absences) are consistent with [University Policy](#): “Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in

class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate. The university recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences." [The UF Twelve-Day Rule](#) states that students who participate in athletic or scholastic teams are permitted to be absent 12 scholastic (regular class) days per semester without penalty. Students seeking this exemption *must provide documentation* to the instructor. It is the student athlete's responsibility to maintain satisfactory academic performance and attendance.

2. Religious observances

Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons should contact the instructor in advance to request and be granted this modification.

3. Accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (352-392-8565). It is important for students to *share their accommodation letter* with their instructor and discuss their access needs. Do not simply assume that the instructor has the letter. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. No accommodations will be granted until after the letter is received; they are not retroactive.

4. 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>) If you are accused of academic dishonesty, you are not allowed to drop the course until the matter is resolved. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, or have concerns about completing an assignment on time, please consult with the instructor.

5. In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media

platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

6. Campus Resources: Counseling and Emergency Services

U Matter, We Care serves as the umbrella program for UF's caring culture and provides students in distress with support and coordination of a wide variety of appropriate resources. Contact umatter@ufl.edu seven days a week for assistance if you are in distress. Call 352-392-1575 for a crisis counselor in the nighttime and weekends.

- the [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- [Student Health Care Center](#), 392-1171, for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need
- [UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center](#): For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608
- 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
- [GatorWell Health Promotion Services](#): For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, call 352-273-4450.

7. Campus Resources: Academic Services

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- [On-Line Students Complaints](#): Online distance learning programs have a process for resolving student complaints at different levels.

8. Online course evaluation process

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. These evaluations are conducted online at gatorevals.aa.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 ufl.bluer.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/

9. Electronic Course Reserves

The electronic course reserve service is offered by the George A. Smathers Libraries. See information below on using the VPN app to access electronic resources from off-campus computers. The Course Reserves Unit will work with patrons needing assistance or accommodations to access course reserves materials. Please contact them at [352-273-2520](tel:352-273-2520), or email at eres@uflib.ufl.edu for information or assistance. 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. To ensure this right, students with disabilities: 1) Have the responsibility to identify themselves to the Library Course Reserves Unit as needing appropriate, reasonable accommodations for their disabilities; 2) Have the responsibility for making their needs known in a timely manner; and 3) Have the same obligation as any library user to comply with library policies and procedures. Students who have registered with the 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 DRC at 352-392-8565.

10. Accessing E-Journals: Some of the reading assignments are from online journals. To get off-campus access to these and other UF Library electronic materials (e-books, databases, course reserves), you must **use the UF VPN client**. The VPN (virtual provider network) client is easily installed. For more information on using the VPN client, go to <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/login/vpn.html>