

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 224

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3 Credits (Sect. 06BF)/2 credits (Sect. 08C6)

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, 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 philosophies of practice and phenomenology 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 be turned off and stowed.

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.

Required Readings: Two textbooks should be available for purchase at the bookstores or on-line:

Low, Setha M., and Denise Lawrence-Zúñiga, eds.

The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating Culture, Blackwell 2003

Bender, Barbara, ed. *Landscape: Politics and Perspectives*, Berg 1993

Other 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) for a journal such as *American Anthropologist*, **OR** a grant submission (to NSF, NEH) for students who do not have sufficient data to write a definitive analysis. The paper is due noon on May 2.

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: Missed discussions cannot be made-up. Students with excused absences (illness requiring a doctor’s care, religious holiday) will not be penalized 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). 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.

ABD students enrolled in the 2-credit section are required to finish the weekly readings, post discussion questions, participate in class and panel discussions (50% of grade), and to complete two short writing assignments, one due week 9 and the second the last class meeting, week 15 (50% of grade).

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)

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| Jan 11 | 1. Introduction: The Anthropology of Space |
| | 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: 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 Alternative Ontologies) |
| | PART II: SPECIAL TOPICS |
| Feb 22 | 7. PANEL 1: Landscape: Between Space and Place |
| Feb 29 | 8. PANEL 2: Nature/Culture |
| | Deadline this week to confirm your paper topic (by Feb. 24) |
| Mar 7 | SPRING BREAK |
| Mar 14 | 9. PANEL 3: “Natural” and “Monumental” Landscapes |
| Mar 21 | 10. PANEL 4: Place, History, Memory: Past and Present |
| Mar 28 | 11. PANEL 5: Gendering Place |
| Apr 4 | 12. PANEL 6: Representations of Place (Symbols, Allegories, Ideologies, Maps) |
| | PART III: PRESENTATIONS |
| Apr 11 | 13. No class meeting; every student must meet with professor to discuss their paper |
| Apr 18 | 14. No class meeting; finalize and practice your presentation |
| Apr 25 | 15. <i>All Presentations</i> (time may be adjusted to 9:00-12:30 to accommodate all) |
| May 2 | All written papers due by noon |

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) Students seeking modification of due dates for assignments for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observance) should feel free to contact the Professor and request this modification. 2) Students seeking any classroom accommodation to facilitate their education 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. 3) The University reminds every student of the implied pledge of Academic Honesty: on any work submitted for credit the student has neither received nor given unauthorized aid. This refers to cheating and plagiarism. Students should consult the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/ for information.