

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

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Office Hours: Tu 3-4:00 pm, W 1:00-3:00 pm, and by appt.  
Class meets Wed 3-5 (9:30a-12:30p) 1208H TUR

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Section #128C - 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, 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 forms

**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 (Canvas, [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.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 relevant questions** drawn from at least **four** different readings.

They are to be posted on the e-learning discussion page for each week by **4:00 pm 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) 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. The 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 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 module 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 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** the content section of a grant submission (to NSF, NEH) for students lacking a finished analysis. The paper is due noon on 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. See full attendance and make-up policy below.

**Components of Final Grade:** Posting of discussion questions and responses, 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). The gradebook is “closed” at the due date for the research paper.

**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 (tentative - subject to change)**

All readings and other assignments are listed and updated on the weekly modules on e-learning.

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

#### **Policy related to class attendance, absences, make-up exams and other work**

Attendance per se is not recorded and does not figure into the final grade; however, participation in inclass activities is scored and recorded each class meeting, and does figure into the final grade. Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course (e.g., excused absences) are consistent with university

policies at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. University policy states that absences count from the first class meeting, whether or not you are enrolled. “In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (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. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Furthermore, 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 (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx#absences>) 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.

### **Religious Observances**

Students seeking modification of due dates for assignments and exams for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observances) should contact the Instructor and request this modification; it will then be granted. Please make requests early in the semester.

### **Accommodations for students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter (pdf). This letter *must be printed out* and formally given to the instructor to request an accommodation. This requires a face-to-face meeting. Only after the presentation of the letter and the meeting will accommodations be granted; they are not retroactive, as per university policy. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **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. DO NOT CHEAT—the penalties are too severe. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, or concerns about completing an assignment on time, please consult with the instructor.

### **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>

### **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](mailto: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 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

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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.