

Geography 711: Cultural Landscapes

Spring 2005

Tuesdays 12:30-3:15, CB305

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Office Hours: By appointment

Introduction: Underlying the seminar is the conceptual premise that the cultural landscape is everywhere and always implicated in the never-finished processes of cultural and social reproduction; or, simply put, that the landscape is not innocent. This premise, however, may also be seen as an end point, and in order to reach that point the seminar is designed: to briefly explore the concept of *the cultural landscape*, especially as it has been employed within geographic literatures (although we will make brief forays into ancillary disciplines, and the interstitial, interdisciplinary realms of landscape study more generally); to read a number of empirically focused and theoretically informed books and essays which explore particular landscapes as either a direct object of study or for their implication in general social processes (or both); to explore the manner in which specific, local landscapes might be interrogated in light of knowledge gained from the other two objectives above (and this through both group and individual projects). We will begin with a naïve attention to the simple existence of the landscape (and its form), move to the proposition that “the cultural landscape is our unwitting autobiography...” (as Peirce Lewis has written), and, finally, move toward a more processual conception of the landscape where “it” is implicated in the ongoing formulations of social, political, economic, and cultural (re)production, and perhaps, with luck, begin to hone and critique that proposition as well.

Structure, Assignments, Grading: We will follow the traditional seminar format. All participants are expected: to attend all seminar meetings; to have read all of the assignments for that meeting; to be prepared to discuss those assigned readings. The success of the seminar will hinge on participants' preparations, openness to ideas and discussion, and willingness to take each other seriously. While I may have set an agenda for the seminar, I am prepared to be flexible (to a point), should we agree upon a useful break from the charted course.

A provisional seminar schedule is attached below. Readings will be drawn from journals, books, and edited volumes. You will want to buy several of these books (**most immediately: Cosgrove: *Social Formation...***). Other readings will be placed “on reserve” at Johnny Print. Additionally, many of them should be accessible as non-circulating materials in Young Library. Scholarly courtesy is imperative for the success of any seminar. Please remember to use library readings in a timely fashion, to return journals to their library shelves (despite librarians' admonitions otherwise), etc. The seminar's weekly reading format may vary slightly (e.g. some weeks there may be individual assignments as well as general class readings, some weeks I may ask you to prepare several “leading questions” to be handed in by Tuesday morning, some weeks individual participants may be responsible for beginning discussion of a particular reading, etc.). In other words, *specific* weekly requirements will be contingent upon our ongoing progress. More generally.....

Course grades will be determined by:

(1) Performance in seminar meetings, reflecting preparation and discussion participation (60%). Preparation (30%) includes (for now) a weekly assignment in which you write a one page critical summary of the readings. This can include points that you find unclear or in need of further explication and should include one or two questions/discussion points for the group (which we may or may not use). The weekly assignments are due by 8:00 am on the days of seminar meetings. Both 'hard copy' form and e-mail are acceptable. I reserve the right to change these deadlines. Discussion participation (30%) is what it sounds like.

(2) A paper, with several components (40%). The first requirement of your term paper project is that you choose a landscape/element of the landscape/site/space/etc. in Lexington. Second, visit "your" landscape/site; then write a brief (two pages, single-spaced maximum) "naive description" of that place as you see it. You should include a brief explanation as to why you chose that landscape. This essay is due on February 1; and you should come to seminar that day prepared to present the rest of us with a *brief* description of your landscape. A longer essay interrogating/interpreting/analyzing your landscape/site is due at the end of the semester (May 3). Between then and now, you will visit your site often. You will explore "the archive" regarding your site. You will keep your landscape in mind as we work through, together, concepts of landscape, and as we discuss the many examples of landscape interpretation and analysis that are part of the syllabus. In short, your paper will be "locally grounded" but informed by (and informing?) the concepts, theoretical constructs, and places that we read about and discuss over the course of the semester.

Provisional Schedule:

Note that required texts are indicated with a ‘*’ – buy or borrow them now.

January 18: Introductions

January 25: No Meeting. Required attendance at Prof. Michael Heffernan’s talk

February 1: Learning to Look?

Some context:

Cosgrove, Denis. 2000. Cultural landscape. In R.J. Johnston *et al* Eds. *The Dictionary of Human Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell, 138-141.

Groth, Paul. 1997. Frameworks for Cultural Landscape Study. In Paul Groth and Todd W. Bressi, eds., *Understanding Ordinary Landscapes*. New Haven: Yale, 1-24.

Henderson, George: *from JBJ book...*

Progress Reports: *PIHG* 1995, 2001, 2002, 2003 (James Duncan [1] and Don Mitchell [3])

Some statements and examples:

Jackson, J.B. 1979. The Order of a Landscape, in D.W. Meinig Ed. *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes: Geographical Essays* NY: Oxford University Press, pp. 153-163.

Jackson, J.B. 1984. The Word Itself. In J.B. Jackson *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape* New Haven: Yale UP, 1-8.

Jackson, J.B. 1980. By Way of Conclusion: How to Study the Landscape. In *The Necessity for Ruins and Other Topics*. Amherst: U. Mass Press, 113-126.

Lewis, Peirce. 1979. Axioms for reading the landscape: some guides to the American scene, in D.W. Meinig Ed. *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes: Geographical Essays*. NY: Oxford University Press, 11-32.

Meinig, D.W. 1979. Introduction. In D.W. Meinig, Ed. *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes* New York: Oxford University Press, 1-7.

Meinig, D.W. 1979. Symbolic Landscapes: Models of American Community. In D.W. Meinig Ed. *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes: Geographical Essays*. NY: Oxford University Press, 164-194

Raitz, Karl. 1995. Rock Fences and Preadaptation. *Geographical Review* 85, 1,50-62.

Sauer, Carl. 1956. The Education of a Geographer, *Annals, Association of American Geographers* 46, 287-299; Reprinted in John Leighly, Ed. 1963. *Land and Life*. Berkeley: UC Press, 389-404.

Stilgoe, John. 1998. *Outside Lies Magic*. NY: Walker and Company, 1998, 1-20.

February 8: Book, pp. TBA

*Cosgrove, Denis. 1984. *Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape*. Reprinted 1998. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

February 15: Problematizing assumptions?

Bondi, Liz. 1992. Gender symbols and urban landscape. *Progress in Human Geography* 16,2: 157-170.

Daniels, Stephen. 1989. Marxism, culture, and the duplicity of landscape. In *New Models in Geography, Vol. II*, ed. R. Peet and N. Thrift, pp. 196-220. London: Unwin Hyman.

Duncan, James S. 1990. Landscape as a signifying system, chapter 1 of *The City as Text: The Politics of Landscape Interpretation in the Kandyan Kingdom*. New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 11-24.

Duncan J. and N. Duncan. 1988. (Re)reading the landscape. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 6: 117-126.

- Ford, Susan. 1991. Landscape Revisited: A Feminist Reappraisal. In *New Words, New Worlds: conceptualizing Social and Cultural Geography. Proceedings of a Conference Organized by the Social and Cultural Geography Study Group of the Institute of British Geographers. Department of Geography, University of Edinburgh, 10-12 September 1991*. Compiled and Produced by Chris Philo, pp. 151-155.
- Goss, Jon. 1988. The Built Environment and Social Theory. *The Professional Geographer* 40(4): 392-403
- Gregory, Derek. 1994. *Geographical Imaginations*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 140-xxx.
- Nash, Catherine. 1996. Reclaiming Vision: Looking at Landscape and the Body. *Gender, Place, and Culture* 3,149-169.
- Rose, Gillian. 1992. Geography as a Science of Observation: The Landscape, the Gaze, and Masculinity, in Felix Driver and Gillian Rose, eds., *Nature and Science: Essays in the History of Knowledge* Historical Geography Research Series, No. 28, pp. 8-18.
- Rose, Mitch. 2002. Landscape and Labyrinths. *Geoforum* 33, 455-467.
- Smith, Jonathan. 1993. The Lie and Blinds: Destabilizing the Text of Landscape. In James Duncan and David Ley, Eds. *Place/culture/representation*. NY: Routledge, pp. 78-92.

February 22: Book

- *Duncan, James S. and Nancy G. Duncan. 2004. *Landscapes of Privilege*. NY: Routledge

March 1: Book

- *Mitchell, Don. 1996. *The Lie of the Land*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

March 8: Book

- *Domosh, Mona. 1996. *Invented Cities*. New Haven: Yale UP.

March 15: Spring Break

March 22 and 29: Technique, Method, Methodology, Group project (more later)

- Hanlon, James. 2001. Spaces of Interpretation: Archival Research and the Cultural Landscape *Historical Geography* 29,14-25.
- Holdsworth, Deryck. 1997. Landscape and Archive as Texts. In Paul Groth and Todd W. Bressi, eds., *Understanding Ordinary Landscapes*. New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 44-55.
- Kurtz, Matthew. 2001. Situating Practices: The Archive and the File Cabinet *Historical Geography* 29,26-37.
- Rose, Gillian. 2001. *Visual Methodologies*. London: Sage. Selections TBA
- Other material TBA

March 5: No Seminar (AAG)

April 12: Nuala Johnson Visit: Schedule change to be agreed upon

Readings TBA

April 19: Book

- *Bunce, Michael. 1994. *The Countryside Ideal*. NY: Routledge

April 26: Empirical Readings/overflow

TBA