

Anthropology (ANG) 6421 Landscape, Place, Dwelling

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Office Hours: Tu, Th 9:00-10:00, W 1:00-2:00
Class meets Wed 3-5 (9:35a-12:35p) Section # 9589

Spring 2008
www.clas.ufl.edu/users/sgillesp

3 Credits

Assigned readings and discussion questions are posted on E-Learning: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Course Description: Reading and discussion of 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 what has been called 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 attach meanings to spaces to create places, and how the experiences of inhabiting and viewing those places shape those meanings and practices. Greater concern is given to the materiality of this experience rather than to the discourse of place.

The first part of the course examines seminal writings of philosophers and social theorists of agency, practice, phenomenology, and relationism 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, but not all, of the analyses in this second part are guided by the theories that are highlighted here. Some issues are seemingly 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 focus of social organization. These are not ignored; rather, they appear as larger issues underlying many of the identified topics.

Course Format: This is a seminar, *not* a lecture course. Information for each week’s class is drawn entirely 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 the discussion of special topics in the middle part of the semester (see list of topics below). At the end of the semester each student will present the findings of an original analysis in class and prepare a formal written paper.

Discussion Requirements: Readings must be done before class meets so that you have thought about and are prepared to discuss them. Notes must be taken on each reading and made available for instructor inspection if asked. A discussion guide is posted to direct you to general questions that cross-cut the readings or go beyond them. In addition, *starting with the second week of class*, 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, because there should not be any duplication. If someone has already taken your question, then compose a different one. You are expected to read *all* postings before class, and if you wish, respond to them. In addition, the panels are expected to use those questions, as well as their own, to direct discussion. Posted discussion questions account for 10% of your class participation grade (posting and reading).

Required Textbooks: Two readers were requested to be available for purchase at the bookstores:

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 drawn from book chapters and journal articles will be made available as photocopies that can be checked out of the student lounge (B332 TUR) or downloaded from the library web site. Do NOT remove the readings for more than the few hours needed to photocopy them, and make sure to sign out and in the readings you take. You may wish to organize yourselves into **study groups** so that copies can be shared.

Research Paper: Each student will pursue an original analysis using one or more of the discussed theoretical perspectives to elucidate spatial concepts and experiences. The analyzed data must consist of material phenomena—e.g., meaningful land forms, structures, artifact patterns, artistic representations, burials, forests—not discourse or direct observation (although the latter may be used as secondary sources of information from historical documents or justified analogy). Paper topics must be pre-approved by mid-semester. An oral presentation (20 minutes, with powerpoint slides) 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 (e.g., to NSF, NEH) for students who do not have sufficient data to write a definitive analysis. The expectation is that the paper will be the kernel of an MA thesis, a chapter of a dissertation, a conference presentation, or a published article.

Components of Final Grade: Posting of discussion questions, participation in every class discussion and performance as panel participants (50%; 100 out of 200 points); research paper and oral presentation (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.

Please fill out and turn in the last page of this syllabus (information sheet) by the second week of class.

WEEKLY TOPICS

Jan 9	I. Introduction: The Anthropology of Space PART I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES
Jan 16	II. Practice and Agency Theories: Habitus and Structuration
Jan 23	III. Space-Time: Society, Production, and Power
Jan 30	IV. Space to Place: Practice and Phenomenology (I)
Feb 6	V. "Dwelling" and "Being-in-the-World" (Phenomenology II)
Feb 13	VI. Materiality and Non-Human Agency PART II: SPECIAL TOPICS
Feb 20	VII. PANEL 1: Nature/Culture
Feb 27	VIII. PANEL 2: Landscape: Between Space and Place Deadline this week to confirm your paper topic (by Feb. 28)
Mar 5	NO CLASS—work on your paper
Mar 12	SPRING BREAK
Mar 19	IX. PANEL 3: "Natural" and "Monumental" Landscapes
Mar 26	X. PANEL 4: Place, History, Memory: Linking Past and Present
Apr 2	XI. PANEL 5: Engendering Place
Apr 9	XII. PANEL 6: Landscape and Place as Myth, Symbol, Ideology PART III: PRESENTATIONS
Apr 16	No Class - prepare presentation, meet with professor
Apr 23	<i>Presentations</i>
Apr 30	Final papers are due

Please complete and return this page to the professor by the second class meeting. This is a course requirement. This information is used to create a class roster and to help the professor assist students and accommodate their interests, wherever possible.

Name: _____

Preferred nickname?: _____

Local Phone #: _____

LEGIBLY PRINT your primary Email address: _____

What are your research interests? Please list *topical* and any *theoretical* interests, followed by *regional or geographical* interests:

Please state your particular interest, whatever it might be, in taking this class: _____

Who is your Advisor? _____

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 and exams 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.