

Adam T. Smith  
Office Hours:  
T12:30-2pm; F2:30-3:30pm

Fall Semester 2012  
Anthropology 6401  
T 10:10-12:05

## Material Theory I: Landscape & Place

Over the last two decades, space has come to be seen as an active element in social, political, and cultural processes, shaping actions and constraining possibilities. As space has been transformed from a passive setting for action to a critical force in social process, landscape and place have emerged as unifying concepts for the interpretation of distinctly "social" spaces. This course will consider the primary contemporary approaches to landscape and place, considering theoretical writings and spatial case studies drawn from archaeology, ethnography, art history, architecture, and geography. We will also consider contemporary methods of spatial analysis, particularly GIS frameworks) and assess their impact on human communities. The goal of the course is to provide students with a strong foundation in current spatial theory, familiarize them with the tools of spatial decision-making that are reshaping the world, and help them to develop the analytical tools required for making sense of landscapes and places. As the first offering in a sequence focused on material theory, this course is part of a wider effort to train students to be astute analysts of the material world.

### Course Requirements

A. In-class presentation on the readings (10%). Presentations will be done in pairs with dates to be assigned in class. Presentations should provide a brief (5 minutes) opening onto the readings and an equally brief reflection on a spatial object that illuminates a shared theme. Illustrations of landscape objects should be emailed to the instructor the evening before class for inclusion with the day's visual material.

B. 8 GIS Exercises (5% each). There will be four GIS laboratories during the semester. Students are expected to have worked through the assigned tutorial chapters in advance of each session and completed the assigned exercises. In class we will work through key tutorials and exercises will be due at the end of each lab period.

C. Term Paper (40%). Operationalize theoretical discussions in reference to a data set (can be original material related to your own research, developed out of the GIS laboratories, or drawn from a related literature). Paper topics must be cleared with me by November 1. Maximum length: 20 pages.

D. Participation in class discussions (10%).

### Texts and Readings

Our GIS training sessions will utilize the following text, available from the Cornell Bookstore:

Gorr, W. L. and K. S. Kurland  
2011 GIS Tutorial 1: Basic Workbook for ArcGIS 10.

All other readings are available on the course blackboard web site under the "readings" link.

### Technology Requirements

In addition to gaining an understanding of contemporary spatial thought, we will also develop basic proficiency in the predominant technology of spatial analysis: GIS. There are 4 lab sessions throughout the semester plus additional GIS assignments required as homework. In order to complete the homework assignments, you will need access to a computer with ArcGIS 10 installed. The LOL has 4 computers with ArcGIS 10 installed and we can make arrangements in class for open sessions if needed. In addition, the Mann Library "Classroom" computers (Stone, B30A, B30B) and public "Research" computers have ArcGIS software installed.

The in-class GIS laboratory sessions will require students to complete assignments in class on a laptop with ArcGIS 10 installed. The required text, *GIS Tutorial 1*, includes a 180 day license for ArcGIS desktop for you to install on your personal computer. A small number of laptops with ArcGIS are available in the LOL if needed. Please contact the instructor on the first day of class to discuss arrangements if you foresee needing use of the LOL laptops.

A note on software: ArcGIS 10 runs on Microsoft Windows systems only but can be installed on a Mac running OS X with Bootcamp, Parallels, or VMWare Fusion. For installation help, see the instructor.

If you have any concerns regarding the technology requirements for the course, please see the instructor.

### University Policies

Instruction in this class is guided by Cornell University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to the physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired student; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students should make themselves familiar with these regulations and should feel free to bring any concerns or questions to the attention of the instructor.

### Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: Please give me your Student Disability Services (SDS) accommodation letter early in the semester so that I have adequate time to arrange your approved academic modifications. Meeting with me in my office hours will help ensure confidentiality. If you need an immediate accommodation for equal access, please speak with me after class or send an email message to me and/or SDS at [sds\\_cu@cornell.edu](mailto:sds_cu@cornell.edu). If the need arises for additional accommodations during the semester, please contact SDS.

## Schedule of Readings and Discussions

### August 28. Landscape in the Social Sciences

#### September 4. Spatial Ontologies

Casey, E. S.

1997 *The Fate of Place*. University of California Press, Berkeley. Ch. 6, 8, 9.iv, 10.i, iii. iv.

Lefebvre, H.

1991 *The Production of Space*. Basil Blackwell, Oxford. Ch. 1.i-vii, x-xix.

#### September 11. Spatial Epistemologies

Agnew, J. A.

1989 The Devaluation of Place in Social Theory. In *The Power of Place: Bringing Together Geographical and Sociological Imaginations*, edited by J. A. Agnew and J. S. Duncan, pp. 9-29. Unwin-Hyman, London.

Harvey, D.

1989 *The Condition of Postmodernity*. Basil Blackwell, Oxford. Pp. 201-239.

Smith, A. T.

2003 *The Political Landscape: Constellations of Authority in Early Complex Polities*. University of California Press, Berkeley. Ch. 1.

#### September 18. GIS Laboratory I

Gorr and Kurland Chs. 1-2.

Exercise 1: Assignment 2-1 due before class.

Exercise 2: Assignment 3-3 due at end of class.

#### September 25. Landscape and Nature//Production and Vernaculars

Bradley, R.

2000 *An Archaeology of Natural Places*. Routledge, London. Ch. 3.

Harvey, D.

1996 *Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Difference*. Blackwell, New York. Ch. 8.

Smith, N.

1984 *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space*. Blackwell, New York. Ch.1

#### October 2. Urban Landscapes//Violence and Order

Davis, M.

1990 *City of Quartz : Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*. Verso, New York. Ch. 4.

Holston, J.

1989 *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasília*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Ch. 4.

O'Neill, B.

2009 The Political Agency of Cityscapes: Spatializing Governance in Ceausescu's Bucharest. *Journal of Social Archaeology* 9(1):92-109.

Sassen, S.

2010 When the City Itself Becomes a Technology of War. *Theory, Culture and Society* 27(6):33-50.

#### October 9: No Class

#### October 16. GIS Laboratory II

Gorr and Kurland Chs. 4-5.

Exercise 3: Assignment 5-2 due before class.

Exercise 4: Assignment 6-2 due at end of class.

#### October 23. Architecture and Built Environments//Order and Control

Benjamin, W.

1999 Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century: Expose of 1939. In *The Arcades Project*, pp. 14-26. Translated by R. Tiedemann. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Mass.

Bourdieu, P.

1970 The Berber House or the World Reversed. *Social Science Information* 9:151-170.

McGuire, R.

1991 Building Power in the Cultural Landscape of Broome County, New York 1880 to 1940. In *The Archaeology of Inequality*, edited by R. H. McGuire and R. Paynter, pp. 102-124. Blackwell, Oxford.

Markus, T. A.

1993 *Buildings and Power*. Routledge, New York. Ch. 3.

#### October 30. Bodies and Places//Performance and Memory

Basso, K. H.

1996 *Wisdom Sits in Places: landscape and language among the Western Apache*. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque. Ch. 1.

Bradley, R.

1998 *The Significance of Monuments: On the Shaping of Human Experience in Neolithic and Bronze Age Europe*. Routledge, London ; New York. Ch. 8.

Gordillo, G.

2004 *Landscapes of Devils: Tensions of Place and Memory in the Argentinean Chaco*, Duke University Press,, Durham N.C. Ch. 1-2.

Schama, S.

1996 *Landscape and Memory*. Vintage Books, New York. Pp. 100-120, 385-399.

#### November 6. GIS Laboratory III

Gorr and Kurland Chs. 7-8.

Exercise 5: Assignment 8-2 due before class.

Exercise 6: Assignment 9-1 due at end of class.

Kosiba, S. and A. M. Bauer

2012 Mapping the Political Landscape: Toward a GIS Analysis of Environmental and Social Difference. *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory*.

#### November 13. Landscape Aesthetics//Representation and Ideology

Feldman, M. H.

2010 Object Agency? Spatial Perspective, Social Relations, and the Stele of Hammurabi. In *Agency and Identity in the Ancient Near East: New Paths Forward*, edited by S. R. Steadman and J. C. Ross, pp. 148-165. Equinox, London.

Harmanşah, Ö.

2007 'Source of the Tigris': Event, Place and Performance in the Assyrian Landscapes of the Early Iron Age. *Archaeological Dialogues* 14(2):179-204.

Nye, D. E.

1994 *American Technological Sublime*. MIT Press, Cambridge. Ch. 4

Zarobell, J.

2010 *Empire of Landscape: Space and Ideology in French Colonial Algeria*. Pennsylvania State University Press, University Park, Pa. Ch. 1.

November 20: GIS Laboratory IV and Cartographic Representation

Gorr and Kurland Ch. 10.

Exercise 7: Assignment 10-1 due before class.

Exercise 8: Assignment 11-2 due at end of class.

Monmonier, M. S.

1991 *How to Lie with Maps*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Ch. 6-7

November 27: Landscape Futures//Places Past

Herzfeld, M.

1991 *A Place in History: Social and Monumental Time in a Cretan Town*. Princeton University Press, Princeton. Ch. 7.

Ingold, T.

1993 The Temporality of Landscape. *World Archaeology* 25(2):152-174.

Ross, A.

2011 *Bird on Fire: Lessons from the World's Least Sustainable City*. Oxford University Press, Oxford. Ch. 1

Zukin, S.

1991 *Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World*. University of California Press, Berkeley. Ch. 8.