

ANTH 5570: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF LANDSCAPES

University of Pennsylvania
M. Lycett

Spring 2024

DRAFT – FINAL SYLLABUS WILL INCLUDE FULL LIST OF READINGS

Drawing on case studies from diverse fields such as ethnography, ethnoarchaeology, experimental archaeology, ethnohistory, , history, botany, agriculture, cultural geography, ecology, rural sociology, and archaeology, this seminar explores the uses and limitations of landscape as theoretical, methodological, and analytical category. Traditionally, archaeological research has focused on the "site" or "sites." Regional investigation tends to stress settlement pattern and settlement system determined through archaeological site survey. This seminar will stress the space between the sites or "points" on the landscape. Most previous attempts at "landscape archaeology" tended to focus on the relationship of sites and the natural environment. This course will highlight the cultural, "anthropogenic," or "built environment"--in this case human modification and transformation of the natural landscape in the form of pathways, roads, causeways, monuments, walls, agricultural fields and their boundaries, gardens, astronomical and calendrical alignments, and water distribution networks. Features will be examined in terms of the "social logic" or formal patterning of cultural space. These can provide insights into indigenous structures such as measurement systems, land tenure, social organization, engineering, cosmology, calendars, astronomy, cognition, and ritual practices. Landscapes are also the medium for understanding everyday life, experience, movement, memory, identity, time, and historical ecology. Ethnographic, ethnohistorical, and archaeological case studies will be investigated from both the Old and New Worlds.

The format of the seminar will be primarily discussion. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and debate the readings for each week. Each participant will write a final seminar paper applying the landscape perspective to his/her own data

Office Hours

Drop-in office hours: W 10-12 or by appointment. *I will hold office hours in my LAB, Museum 415.* My email address is mlycett@sas.upenn.edu.

Assignments

This class will operate in a seminar format, focusing on close readings of course material and in-depth discussion. Your grades will be based on 1) your seminar paper and in-class presentation; and 2) participation, including in-class discussion and discussion posts on canvas.

1) **PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS.** Your paper will take the form of a proposed research design for a case of your choosing. It may be in the form of an NSF style proposal, or a technical research design. Your paper will be evaluated on the basis of how well you incorporate ideas and readings from the course into your research program. You will be asked to present a verbal synopsis of your topic/ case during the final class of the Semester. This presentation should be no more than 15 minutes long with an additional 5 minutes of Q and A following each presentation (60%). ***YOUR PAPER IS DUE ON THE LAST DAY OF FINALS.***

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2) **Discussion Posts.** For each week, you will be asked to submit a *one-paragraph discussion post based on one or more of the readings for that week*. You should identify a set of no more than three points for future discussion. These points may 1) identify the major issues raised by an author or authors, 2) consider the points of contrast or tension between authors, or 3) raise questions for future discussion based on your reading of the material. The format for these discussions is open and quite informal. You may complete the assignment as a narrative, a numbered list, or an outline. Keep in mind that you should provide enough context to help the other members of the class understand the importance of each discussion point. **DISCUSSION POSTS ARE DUE ON THE DATE OF THE IN-CLASS DISCUSSION OF THE RELEVANT ARTICLE(S).** (30%)

3) Finally, you will be evaluated on the basis of your contribution to class discussions. Each of you will be responsible for *participating in class discussions* on a day to day basis. On any given day, you should be prepared to introduce up to three questions based on the readings for that day. I will give every participant in the class the opportunity to frame our discussion of at least one of the articles. (10%)

All assignments for this class should be submitted via CANVAS. References should be cited using social science conventions, i.e. listing author's last name and date of publication in parentheses within the text, and the full citation for all referenced articles should appear at the end of your text.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to be familiar with the [Code of Academic Integrity](#). See tips for avoiding plagiarism on the [Library's website](#).

Support Resources for Students: Please read the [Canvas Student Resources page](#) for this course for more information on educational and support resources including:

Penn COVID FAQs
Support for Academic Skills
Wellness Resources
Disabilities and accommodations
Fairness in Course Administration policies

Reading

There are no assigned books for this course. Readings including journal articles or book chapters will be posted on Canvas as PDF files. Readings are assigned by week in the course outline, below. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

Course Outline

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The following list includes the topics we expect to cover this Semester and the readings most relevant to in-class discussion. Readings supplement but are not identical to class discussions. Most readings cross-cut topics. A few additions, deletions, and other changes will be announced throughout the Semester.

18 Jan 1.1 Locality and Spatial Production I

18 Jan 1.2 Locality and Spatial Production II

25 Jan 2.1 Critique of the site as ontological and analytical unit

25 Jan 2.2 Occupational History and the Archaeology of Place.

1 Feb 3.1 Memory, Embodiment, and Place

1 Feb 3.2 Monument, Commemoration, and Place

8 Feb 4.1 Landscape, Place, History

8 Feb 4.2 Social Geographies in Historical Time.

15 Feb 5.1 Time, Spatial Biography, and Sedimented Practice

22 Feb 6.1 Historical Ecologies.

29 Feb 7.1 Inscription and Experience

7 March Spring Break, no class

14 March 8.1 Gardens, Fields, Vernacular Landscapes

14 March 8.2

21 March 9.1 Sacred, Ritual, and Ceremonial Landscapes

28 March 10.1 Landscapes of Inequality, Politics, and Power

28 March 10.2

4 April 11.1 Landscapes of Movement

4 April 11.2

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11 April 12.1 Colonized Landscapes

18 April – SAA Meetings, no class

25 April Discussion and Presentations