History 697U/797U: Landscape and Memory

Spring 2014
Thurs 1:00-3:30
Herter 444

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office hours Tu/W 1:30-3:30 & by appt.

This seminar explores the relationship between historical consciousness and environmental perception, or "sense of history" and "sense of place." Among the topics we will consider are how individuals and groups identify with particular environments; represent those environments in words and pictures; and transform those environments through the creation of monuments and memorials, historic preservation, and heritage tourism. Of particular interest are issues associated with the identification and protection of cultural landscapes. We will discuss theoretical works and case studies drawn from a variety of disciplines, including cultural geography, history, anthropology, and landscape architecture. Students registering for 697U will be responsible for leading discussions and writing two short papers based on weekly readings, as well as a final presentation and short paper analyzing a particular site. Students registering for 797U will be expected to lead discussions and write an original research paper exploring some aspect of this phenomenon in a particular place and time.

Books on reserve and available for purchase at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street, Amherst

Alanen & Melnick, eds. Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America
Low, Setha On The Plaza
Basso, Keith Wisdom Sits In Places
Till, Karen, The New Berlin (also available on line)
Hayashi, Haunted By Waters (also available on line)
Page & Mason, eds. Giving Preservation A History
Glassberg, David Sense Of History (recommended)

Additional books with required readings are on Reserve; some chapters and articles are on ereserve (ER) (password “landscape14”) or available on the course Moodle site, and many journals are available online through JSTOR and other databases. Note also that the journal Places (20th floor of library) contains many additional articles of use and inspiration.

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

1/23 Introduction: What is Landscape? What is Memory?
Theories and Methods


Case Study: History and Public Space in San José Costa Rica

S. Low, *On the Plaza: The Politics of Public Space and Culture*

Forms of Representation: Words

K. Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places*


2/20 Forms of Representation: Pictures

M. Sandweiss, “Westward the Course of Empire,” in Print the Legend: Photography and the American West, pp. 156-206. ER
S. Schama, “The Verdant Cross,” Landscape and Memory, pp. 185-206. ER
R. Williams, “Ideas of Nature,” in Problems in Materialism and Culture, pp. 67-85. ER

D. Brown, Inventing New England: Regional Tourism in the 19th Century

2/27 Forms of Intervention: Marking and Obliteration

K. Till, The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place

K. Foote, Shadowed Ground: America’s Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy
Asaf’s (Blondi) memorial web site: www.Blondi.co.il
Israel's Terror victims commemorations: www.ezy.co.il
Landscape and Identity: Migration and Attachment


Landscape and Identity: Ethnicity, Gender, Race, Class

R. Hayashi, Haunted By Waters: A Journey Through Race & Place in the American West


D. Hayden, “Invisible Angelenos,” and “Workers Landscapes and Livelihoods,” in *The Power of Place*, pp. 82-137.


P. Kropp, *California Vieja* (chapters on Rancho Santa Fe and Olvera Street)


D. Upton, “White and Black Landscapes in 18C Virginia” in *Material Life in America* ed. R. St. George, 357-69.ER


**Spring Break**

3/27 Landscape and Identity: Locale and Nation


E. Linenthal, *The Unfinished Bombing: Oklahoma City in American Memory* (2001)

E. Linenthal, *Sacred Ground: Americans and Battlefields*

P. Shackel, ed. *Myth, Memory and the Making of the American Landscape*

A. Kelman, A Misplaced Massacre: Struggling Over the Memory of Sand Creek

4/3 Forms of Intervention: Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism


4/7 or 4/8 (time TBA; DG out of town 4/10) Forms of Intervention: Civic Engagement, Cultural Conservation and Protected Landscapes

“The National Park Service and Civic Engagement” (2001) & website

4/17 Discuss Paper Drafts
4/24 Discuss Paper Drafts
5/1 Presentations to Department  (time TBA)
5/8 Hand in final papers