

Cultural Landscapes Syllabus

ANTH/GEOG 4017 FA

M/W 1-2:30 in RB 3026

Professor: Dr. Martha Dowsley mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca



Welcome to the class! I hope you will have as much fun taking it as I've had creating it. I'm excited to meet you and see what we can share with each other over the semester.

Cultural Landscape is a concept developed in Geography, with heavy influence and engagement with Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology over the past century. Therefore, we will examine the history of these disciplines in North America and use some Archaeology case studies as well as modern case studies in our discussions.

Communicating with the Professor

- Please submit assignments to the assignments folder on the mycourselink web site
- Email the prof anytime with questions or to set up a private meeting: mdowsley@lakeheadu.ca

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Become familiar with the concept of cultural landscapes
2. Understand and discuss the various theories and ideas that have contributed to the concept
3. Link and apply theoretical ideas to case study past and present cultural landscapes
4. Express your understandings through quizzes, written and verbal discussions, and a term paper



How to Succeed in this Course

This is a senior undergraduate course that is expected, (based on the university curriculum) to prepare you for graduate and professional schools or to launch your career. A higher level of independence and motivation is expected than in 3rd year courses. To this end, there is quite a lot of material in the



slides and readings, and a considerable amount of theory. Multimedia links, key terms, review questions, and suggestions for taking a break are included in the slides to help you engage with the material, reflect on it and help you learn in manageable pieces. **It is required that you go through the slide stack before class**, so you retain more information, engage with the questions and videos and better understand the theories presented. The readings are each accompanied by a question sheet that provides

background information and draws attention to the key points. Download the question sheets – they are Word docs and you can fill them in as you read and have a nice summary of the reading ready for reference. Class time is a discussion format where we answer questions, review the homework and summarize the slides.

Class Schedule

Date and Class Number	Topic	Due Dates and Homework
Wednesday Sept 3 rd Class 1	Introduction to Course Section 1 History to mid 20 th century -Geography and Archaeology as the Founders of Landscape Approaches	Mindeleff
Monday Sept 8 th Class 2	Birth of Cultural Geography and Environmental Determinism	Sauer Crown and Wills
Wed Sept 10 3	Human-Nature Relationships Criticisms of Environmental Determinism Chaco Canyon Case Study	Cameron and Toll
Mon Sept 15 4	Sauer, Hoskins, Jackson	Witt and Primeau Richards Creating the Centre of the World
Wed Sept 17 5	No class	Meinig, self-guided field trip assignment Anscheutz et al 2001
Mon Sept 22 6	No class - Chaco Canyon as a Centre Place in the Landscape	Read Example AI-Created Term Paper and Critique for discussion next class (can work together if you want) Submit Field trip Assignment by Midnight Tonight
Wed Sept 24 7	Review for quiz Discuss AI term paper	
Mon Sept 29 8	Quiz 1	Brace
Wed Oct 1 9	Martha Aways	Levkoe and Offeh-Gyimah Ontario Farm Internships
Mon Oct 6 10	Section 2 More Recent Theoretical Concepts of Landscape Non-material landscape Marxism, Feminism, Race	Duncan and Duncan Race and Landscaping
Wed Oct 8 11	Landscape and Race	Ingold
Mon Oct 13 th , Wed Oct 15 th	Reading week Submit AI-Paper Critique of Term Paper Topic By Sunday Midnight	
Mon Oct 20 12	Landscape and Time	Basso
Wed Oct 22 13	Phenomenology Posthumanism and Place	TBA
Mon Oct 27 14	Place and Property	TBA
Wed Oct 29	UNESCO's Program	TBA

15		
Mon Nov 3 16	Quiz 2	
Wed Nov 5 17	Section 3 Landscape as Relationship	TBA
Mon Nov 10 18	Indigenous Examples	TBA
Wed Nov 12 19	Indigenous Examples	TBA
Mon Nov 17 20	European Examples	TBA
Wed Nov 19 21	Other Examples	TBA
Mon Nov 24 22	Other Examples	Finish your term paper and presentation
Wed Nov 26 23	Term Paper Presentations	Term Paper Due by midnight to the assignments folder
Mon Dec 1 24	Term Paper Presentations	

Dec 2nd last day of class



Learning Evaluations

Field Trip Assignment	20%
Quizzes – 2 @ 10% each	20%
Participation	10%
AI Term Paper Critique	10%
Term Paper	30%
Term Paper Presentation	10%

Participation

Students should attend class and contribute to discussions. Other activities such as in-class warm-up quiz questions, posting or reviewing materials on the website etc. may also contribute to this evaluation.

Term Paper

Your term paper will compare two ways that a landscape can be viewed. Select a landscape as a case study and select two different ideas about landscapes to explore.

AI Term Paper Critique

Ask AI to write you a paper on your topic, with 1500 word length and Chicago formatting style. Treat this paper as an introduction to your topic. It will provide a summary but it will be very generic and probably contains errors.

For your first submission, you must critique this AI-created paper. Check the references and what AI has written. FIND and READ all the references it gives, and start reading more for your own paper (you will need 10-12 more) to help you become familiar with the topic. Then critique the AI paper by: writing a very brief summary (2-3 sentences), your assessment of its quality in 1-2 sentences and then a few paragraphs assessing the strengths and weaknesses. Most importantly, for each part of the analysis, indicate what is missing or could be expanded.

In your Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses, include these categories:

- **Content and Argument:** Evaluate the logic, clarity, and relevance of the claims (does it include the most discussed topics/issues that you can see from your lit review?).
- **Evidence & Research Methods:** Assess the quality, appropriateness, and effectiveness of the evidence and research methods used (are the references real? Are they reliable/strong references?).
- **Theoretical Framework:** Examine how the paper links to existing theories and literature.

Select two figures to add to the AI paper and explain your choice in a separate paragraph attached to your critique.

Conclude with a summary of four areas that you will correct or expand upon in your term paper and include 5 new references that you find will help address the weaknesses of the AI-generated paper (you will need more for your own paper).

Be sure to submit the AI-generated paper along with your critique.

Here is what Chatgpt drew for me when I asked for [an overflowing glass of red wine](#). You can see several errors. This illustrates some of the weaknesses with AI. Let it serve as a warning to use AI carefully. Do Not Trust It!



Term Paper

- Expand from the AI-generated paper as outlined in your critique. Assume the reader is familiar with the AI paper
- Length is 1500 - 1700 words
- Submit to the assignment folder by midnight of the due date, ensure your name is on the paper and a word count is on the first page/cover page – submit as Word doc so comments can be made on the paper
- Include 10-12 references that you cite in the text (beyond what AI used). Use Chicago style referencing including in-text and the works cited list

Marking scheme:

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| • Paper is appropriate length, proper grammar, style, format and referencing | 5% |
| • Content -expanding upon the weaknesses you noted in the AI paper,
Further developing detail in the comparison | 25% |

Examples of Cultural Landscape Theories:

- Cultural Marxism (issues of labour, power and economic organization, class and social organization power structures in economics – trade, geography of trade)
- Feminism (gender or other division of activities like age, ethnicity, of power structure, changes through time)
- Phenomenology – the sensory experience– Example What was naturally present, what sensory experiences were manipulated (visual, auditory etc.) and how was it used for cultural ends?

Reference Material

-There are 2 library folders on the D2L site: 1. Chaco canyon and 2. General Cultural Landscape readings. These give you the opportunity to browse topics and begin your investigation

Also, search for your topic on JSTOR, an article database available through the library.

Term Paper Presentation

Grading: Slides: 2%;

Verbal Presentation: 3%;

Time: pass/fail

Requirements: Discuss your term paper with the class for between 8 and 10 minutes. Provide at least 6 slides to support your discussion of your theory and case study.

Presentation Tips

- Do not force the audience to read a lot of text. It is hard to do while you are talking to them
- Use a font and colour scheme that are not too jarring (ex. Don't use a fancy script, or crazy colour scheme like yellow and blue)
- Do not leave a slide up for more than 1.5 minutes – it's boring
- Make the title slide interesting - you have just a few seconds to grab people's attention and engage them
- Use interesting pictures and summarize the main points on the slide - [the slide should illustrate what you are SAYING](#) not replace your voice (and technology sometimes fails, so you don't want to feel panicked if that happens in real life, instead you should be able to give the presentation with no visuals)
- Encourage audience engagement -ask them a question related to their own experiences, or ask what they think of a particular image

