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**Landscapes and Places**  
**American Studies 151**  
**University of California, Davis**  
**Summer Session I, 2010, David de la Peña, Instructor**

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Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12:10 pm – 1:50 pm  
Location: Olson 141 and field trips  
CRN #: 53237  
Office Hours: 2401A Hart Hall, by appointment  
Email: delapena@berkeley.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Lecture—2 hours; discussion—1 hour; fieldwork—3 hours. Prerequisite: course 1, upper division standing.  
Comparative study of several American cultural populations inhabiting a region, including their relationship to a shared biological, physical, and social environment, their intercultural relations, and their relationships to the dominant American popular and elite culture and folk traditions. GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt.—II. (II.)

This seminar will explore the themes of landscape and place in U.S. culture. These themes are broad, but the focus of this course will be on histories and theories of public open spaces. Each week covers a specific theme as we move somewhat chronologically from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Beginning with the culturally-constructed notions of “nature” and “wilderness” we will explore the context around the creation of our first National Parks. Next we will cover cultural landscapes and the introduction of parks into American cities. Finally, we tackle the theme of “place.” We will learn how theories of place, localism, and phenomenology inform current movements for bioregionalism and even the locavore movement.

This course is a small seminar format for upper-division students. Students are expected to complete the readings, help lead discussions about the topics, and to engage in original research. This course is also a course of the outdoor environment, and so we will be spending time each week “in the field.” Field trips are generally held each Wednesday and will be around Davis. Students are encouraged to bring bicycles, but other modes of transit will be accommodated. Additionally, there is an optional (but highly recommended) camping trip to Yosemite National Park. A group campsite has been reserved for one night, and students may bring significant others or friends as long as they are willing to participate in discussions and hikes.

**READINGS**

AMS 151 Reader, Available at Davis Copy Shop, 231 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*  
Richard Walker, *The Country in the City*

## **GOALS**

We will become familiar with discourses about Landscape and Place.

We will be able to define key terms relevant to these topics (Landscape, place, nature, wilderness, civilization, culture, sublime, picturesque, pastoral, beauty).

We will outline the key historical and contemporary thinkers on these topics and we will learn about their key contributions.

We will learn about the history of American park creation.

We will learn how to “read” the landscape.

We will explore actual places in order to expand our knowledge and apply our readings.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

### **IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%)**

#### **LEADING DISCUSSIONS (20%)**

Assigned readings will be discussed in class, generally on Mondays and Tuesdays. These discussions will be led by students. Throughout the session we will have a total of 20 discussions. Each student will organize two discussions. Working in groups of two or three (based on class size), students should give the class background on the authors and the topic, summarize the readings, and pose several questions for discussion. As a courtesy to fellow students, all students should be prepared for discussion by completing the readings and having questions and comments ready.

#### **FIELD TRIP REPORTS (45%)**

Submit a report for 3 of the first 4 field trips (Arboretum, Yosemite, Davis Central Park, or Simmons Estate). The report should be typewritten and may be accompanied by drawings or photographs. The report should be 2-3 pages (min 1000 words in body of text) about one of the landscapes we observe in the field. Use at least three of the relevant authors in your essay. USE PROPER CITATIONS. Essays are due the Monday following the field trip.

#### **FINAL ESSAY (25%)**

Your final essay question will be given on the last week of class. The question will allow you to discuss the broad range of topics covered throughout the class. This final essay should be thought of as a “take-home” exam. Students should work on their own to produce a 5-7 page essay (min 2500 words in body of text). As with the field trip reports, this essay should use relevant authors and use proper citations. The final essay is due by 5pm on Friday July 30. NO EXCEPTIONS

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Any test, paper or report submitted by you and that bears your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course unless you obtain prior written approval to do so from your instructor.

In all of your assignments, including your homework or drafts of papers, you may use words or ideas written by other individuals in publications, web sites, or other sources, but only with proper attribution. "Proper attribution" means that you have fully identified the original source and extent of your use of the words or ideas of others that you reproduce in your work for this course, usually in the form of a footnote or parenthesis.

As a general rule, if you are citing from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short (up to a sentence or two) place it in quotation marks; if you employ a longer passage from a publication or web site, please indent it and use single spacing. In both cases, be sure to cite the original source in a footnote or in parentheses.

If you are not clear about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or examination, be sure to seek clarification from your instructor beforehand.

Finally, you should keep in mind that as a member of the campus community, you are expected to demonstrate integrity in all of your academic endeavors and will be evaluated on your own merits. So be proud of your academic accomplishments and help to protect and promote academic integrity at UC Davis. The consequences of cheating and academic dishonesty—including a formal discipline file, possible loss of future internship, scholarship, or employment opportunities, and denial of admission to graduate school—are simply not worth it.

Please refer to the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct for additional information:

<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html>

## **COUNSELING**

At times, we can all use help with our mental health. Please take advantage of the campus services.

Counseling and Psychological Services, 219 North Hall, (530) 752-0871, M - F: 8AM - 4:45PM

<http://caps.ucdavis.edu/>

**Week 1:**

**Landscape Studies – Theories and Definitions**

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**Monday:** Introductions, Syllabus, Definitions  
**June 21** DW Meinig, “The Beholding Eye: Ten Versions of the Same Scene”

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**Tuesday:** Yi-Fu Tuan, “Topophilia and Environment.”  
**June 22** Anne Spirn, *The Language of Landscape*.

- GROUP 1 – YI-FU TUAN
  - GROUP 2 – ANNE SPIRN
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**Wednesday:** FIELD TRIP TO ARBORETUM, PUTAH CREEK  
**June 23**

**Week 2:  
Nature and Wilderness**

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**Monday:  
June 28** FIELD TRIP REPORTS DUE (ARBORETUM)  
Roderick Nash, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, 1981. (read through ch. 5) [95 pgs]  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays* (1836-41).  
Henry David Thoreau, "Walking."

- GROUP 3 – NASH AND HISTORY OF "WILDERNESS"
- GROUP 4 – ROMANTICS & TRANSCENDENTALISTS

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**Tuesday:  
June 29** Nash, Chapters 8 & 10  
John Muir, "The Yosemite," esp. Ch. 1 & 16

- GROUP 5 – JOHN MUIR
- GROUP 6 – HETCH HETCHY

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**Wednesday:  
June 30** Watch PBS Video, *The National Park: America's Best Idea*  
PLAN FOR FRIDAY'S TRIP TO YOSEMITE

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**Fri – Sat.:  
July 2-3** FIELD TRIP TO YOSEMITE / HETCH HETCHY  
Staying at HODGDON MEADOW (CA), Yosemite National Park, CA  
D, Tent Only Group Area Arriving: Fri Jul 02 2010 Leaving: Sat Jul 03 2010

**Week 3:**  
**Cultural Landscapes**

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**Monday:** NO CLASS – ACADEMIC HOLIDAY FOR JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>  
**July 5**

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**Tuesday:** FIELD TRIP REPORTS DUE (YOSEMITE)  
**July 6** William Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness”  
Leo Marx, “The American Ideology of Space.”

- GROUP 7 – CRONON
  - GROUP 8 – MARX
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**Wednesday:** Patricia Nelson Limerick, “Disorientation and Reorientation: The American Landscape Discovered  
**July 7** from the West”  
Helen Horowitz, “J.B. Jackson and the Discovery of the American Landscape.”  
J.B. Jackson, “The Accessible Landscape.”

- GROUP 9 – LIMERICK
- GROUP 10 – HOROWITZ & JACKSON

**Week 4:**  
**Parks in the City**

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**Monday:** Richard Walker, *The Country in the City: The Greening of the S.F. Bay Area.*  
**July 12** Fredrick Law Olmsted, "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns (1870)."  
F.L. Olmsted JR & John Nolen, "The Normal Requirements of American Towns and Cities in  
Respect to Public Open Spaces."

- GROUP 11 – WALKER
  - GROUP 12 – OLMSTED, OLMSTED JR., & NOLEN
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**Tuesday:** J.B. Jackson, "The Past and Future Park."  
**July 13** Kevin Lych, "The Openness of Open Space."  
Jane Jacobs, "The Uses of Neighborhood Parks."  
Patrick Arden, "The High Cost of Free Parks."

- GROUP 13 – JACKSON & LYNCH
  - GROUP 14 – JACOBS & ARDEN
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**Wednesday:** FIELD TRIP TO CENTRAL PARK DAVIS  
**July 14**

**Week 5:  
Place Theory**

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**Monday:** FIELD TRIP REPORTS DUE (CENTRAL PARK)  
**July 19** Tim Cresswell, *Place: An Introduction*.  
Lucy Lippard, *The Lure of the Local*.  
Edward Relph, "Placelessness."

- GROUP 15 – CRESSWELL & LIPPARD
- GROUP 16 – RELPH

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**Tuesday:** Doreen Massey, "Places and their Pasts."  
**July 20** Walter J. Hood & Mellissa Erickson, "Storing Memories in the Yard: Remaking Poplar Street, Shifting Black Cultural Landscape."  
John Chase, "The Giant Revolving (Winking) Chicken Head and the Doggie Drinking Fountain: Making Small Distinctive Public Spaces on Private Land by Using Commonplace Objects."  
James Rojas, "The Enacted Environment: Examining the Streets and Yards of East Los Angeles."

- GROUP 17 – MASSEY & HOOD
- GROUP 18 – CHASE & ROJAS

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**Wednesday:** FIELD TRIP TO SIMMONS ESTATE  
**July 21**



**Week 6:**  
**Sustainability – Regionalism and Localism**

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**Monday:** FIELD TRIP REPORTS DUE (SIMMONS ESTATE)  
**July 26** Robert Thayer, *LifePlace: Bioregional Thought and Practice*.  
Mike Madison, *Walking the Flatlands: The Rural Landscape of the Lower Sacramento Valley*.

- GROUP 19 – BIOREGIONALISM

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**Tuesday:** Mark Francis & Randy Hester, “The Garden as Idea, Place, and Action.”  
**July 27** Michael Pollan, *Second Nature*.  
Wendell Berry, “Conservationist & Agrarian,” & “The Pleasure of Eating.”

- GROUP 20 – GARDENS, LOCAL FARMING

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**Wednesday:** FIELD TRIP TO VILLAGE HOMES  
**July 28**

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**Friday:** FINAL ESSAYS DUE 5PM.  
**July 30**

## AMS 151 Reader

### Table of Contents & Bibliography:

#### Week 1

- 1 Meinig, D.W. "The Beholding Eye: Ten Versions of the Same Scene." *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes: Geographical Essays*, ed. D.W. Meinig, 33-48. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979.
- 12 Tuan, Yi-Fu, "Topophilia and Environment," in *Topophilia: A Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes, and Values*, 92-112. New York: Columbia University Press, 1974.
- 23 Spirn, Anne. *The Language of Landscape*, 3-81. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1998.

#### Week 2

- 60 Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays (1836-41)*, in *19<sup>th</sup>-Century Theories of Art*, ed. Joshua C. Taylor, 275-285, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
- 66 Thoreau, Henry David/ "Walking," *Excursions, The Writings of Henry David Thoreau, 1893*. (from 1851 talk). Project Gutenberg Ebook. [http://www.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/](http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/)
- 82 Muir, John. *The Yosemite. Ch. 1 & 16*. Project Gutenberg Ebook. [http://www.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/](http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/)

#### Week 3

- 107 Cronon, William. "The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing a Nature*, ed. William Cronon, 69-90. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1995.
- 129 Marx, Leo. "The American Ideology of Space," in *Denatured Visions: Landscape and Culture in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Stuart Wrede and William Howard Adams, 62-78. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1991.
- 146 Limerick, Patricia Nelson. "Disorientation and Reorientation: The American Landscape Discovered from the West." *The Journal of American History*, 1021-1049. December, 1992.
- 161 Horowitz, Helen. "J.B. Jackson and the Discovery of the American Landscape." *Landscape in Sight: Looking at America*, ix-xxxi. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997.
- 173 Jackson, John Brinckerhoff. "The Accessible Landscape." *Landscape in Sight: Looking at America*, 68-77. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1997.

#### Week 4

- 178 Olmsted, Fredrick Law. "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns (1870)." *Civilizing American Cities: A Collection of F.L.O.'s Writings on City Landscapes*, ed. S.B. Sutton, 52-99. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1971.
- 183 Olmsted, Frederick Law Jr. and John Nolen, "The Normal Requirements of American Towns and Cities in Respect to Public Open Spaces." *Charities and the Commons*. 411-426. XVI/14, July 7, 1906.
- 193 Jackson, John Brinckerhoff. "The Past and Future Park." *A Sense of Place, a Sense of Time*, 105-116. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1994.
- 202 Lynch, Kevin. "The Openness of Open Space." *The Arts of Environment*, ed. G. Kepes. New York: Braziller, 1972.
- 211 Jacobs, Jane. "The Uses of Neighborhood Parks." in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, 89-111. New York: Random House, Inc., 1961.
- 223 Arden, Patrick. "The High Cost of Free Parks." *Next American City*, 42-47. Issue 27, 2010.

#### Week 5

- 229 Cresswell, Tim. *Place: A Short Introduction*, 1-14. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd., 2004.
- 239 Lippard, Lucy R. *The Lure of the Local*, 4-20. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1997.
- 257 Relph, Edward. *Place and Placelessness*, 79-121. London: Pion Limited, 1976.
- 279 Massey, Doreen. "Places and their Pasts." *History Workshop Journal*, No. 39, 182-192. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Spring 1995.
- 291 Walter J. Hood & Mellissa Erickson, "Storing Memories in the Yard: Remaking Poplar Street, Shifting Black Cultural Landscape." *Sites of Memory: Perspectives on Architecture and Race*, 171-189. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2001.
- 301 Chase, John. "The Giant Revolving (Winking) Chicken Head and the Doggie Drinking Fountain: Making Small Distinctive Public Spaces on Private Land by Using Commonplace Objects." *Everyday Urbanism*, ed. John Chase, Margaret Crawford, and John Kaliski, 110-119. New York: The Monacelli Press, Inc. 1999.
- 311 Rojas, James. "The Enacted Environment: Examining the Streets and Yards of East Los Angeles." *Everyday America*, eds. Chris Wilson and Paul Groth, 255-274. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

## Week 6

- 321 Thayer, Robert L. *LifePlace: Bioregional Thought and Practice*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.
- 342 Madison, Mike. *Walking the Flatlands: The Rural Landscape of the Lower Sacramento Valley*. 1-32, 93-116. Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2002.
- 399 Francis, Mark and Randolph T. Hester, "The Garden as Idea, Place, and Action." *The Meaning of Gardens*, ed. Mark Francis and Randolph T. Hester, Jr., 2-19. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1990.
- 417 Pollan, Michael. *Second Nature: A Gardener's Education*, 37-78. New York: Grove Press, 1991.
- 439 Berry, Wendell. "Conservationist & Agrarian," and "The Pleasure of Eating," *Bringing it to the Table: On Farming and Food*. Berkeley: Counterpoint Press, 2009.