

ARKY 591
LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY

Instructor: Gerald (Gerry) Oetelaar
Office: ES 862
Phone: 220-7629
E-mail: gaoetela@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: TR 08:30-9:30 or by appointment
Lectures: TR 9:30-10:45 am
Room: ENC 127

Course Objectives

Landscape archaeology focuses on human perceptions and uses of the ecophysical and cultural environment. In the context of identifying places, paths, resources, and spaces, people humanize their environment whether they be hunters, collectors, agriculturalists or industrialists. More importantly, they modify their physical setting to some extent and react to perceived changes in this human setting, not necessarily to those fluctuations identified by researchers who reconstruct past environments. At the same time, it is important to recognize that landscape archaeology, although very popular in the recent literature, is actually an extension of regional settlement pattern studies and must therefore be placed in its proper historical context.

To achieve this goal, the course will focus on past and recent attempts to explain the arrangement and distribution of camps or settlements across humanized space. We will examine the shortcomings of earlier models of spatial organization and evaluate the merits of current approaches to this problem for both mobile and sedentary groups. The first half of the course will be dedicated to the study of hunter-gatherer landscapes while the second half will focus on the landscapes of sedentary populations. Most of the examples will be drawn from ethnographic accounts and archaeological reports from around the world although there will be an emphasis on the Americas.

Required texts

Bassie-Sweet, Karen

2008 *Maya Sacred Geography and the Creator Deities*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Bruno, David, and Julian Thomas (editors)

2008 *Handbook of Landscape Archaeology*. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA.

Texts on Reserve:

Ashmore, W., and B. Knapp, (editors) 1999 *Archaeologies of Landscape: Contemporary Perspectives*. Blackwell Publishers, Malden, Massachusetts.

Basso, Keith, 1996 *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache*. University of New Mexico Press,

Tilley, C. 1996 *A Phenomenology of Landscape: Places, Paths and Monuments*. Berg Publisher Limited.

Ucko, P.J., and R. Layton (editors) 1999 *The Archaeology and Anthropology of Landscape: Shaping Your Landscape*. Routledge, London.

Course Mechanics

The course grade will be based on a discussion paper due Oct 23 (20%), a presentation (20%), a term paper (40%) and participation (20%).

Grade Scale: A+ 95-100; A 90-95; A- 85-90; B+ 80-85; B 75-80; B- 70-75; C+ 65-70; C 60-65; C- 55-60; D+ 50-55; D 45-50; F <45

Tentative Schedule of Lectures and Discussions

Week 1: History of Research on Human Perceptions and Uses of Natural Landscapes

Hunter-Gatherers

Week 2: Mobility and Evolutionary Ecology

Week 3: Criticisms of Ecological Models

Week 4: Phenomenology and Landscapes

Week 5: Oral Traditions and landscapes

Week 6: Reading Week

Sedentary Horticulturalists

Week 7: Locational models in archaeology

Week 8: Criticism of resource models

Week 9: Oral traditions and landscapes

Week 10: History and political landscapes

Week 11: Presentations

Week 12: Presentations

Week 13: Presentations