

IDS 2935

Places and Spaces: Finding Meaning through our Spatial Narrative

UF Quest 1 – Nature and Culture

General Education – Humanities, International

Summer 2021

Days: MW3 Lectures and TR3 or TR4 Discussions

Location: CSE A101 for Lectures + FLI0109, MAT0005, or MAT0114 for Discussions (see One.UF for yours)

Credits: 3

Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/407507>

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<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99514816318?pwd=ZGpJSEQvcnlZSEVJdFpWRDNvRUIDQT09>

Course Description

Let's go on a journey around the world and across time in order to look at the world we have built and continue to construct around us every day. The *Places* we visit and the *Spaces* we use as human beings shape our perceptions in powerful and sometimes inconceivable ways. They impact our day-to-day experiences, and express our ultimate comprehension of what it means to *Dwell* between the Earth and sky. Did you ever wonder why music moves us more in particular places than others, or why certain places are dear to us? Why can we barely remember the conversation we had with a roommate this morning, yet walk through - in our minds - our grandparent's home like we had just been there, even though it has been years? In short, we are wired to have an inextricable relationship with the places and spaces of our lives, whether humble, grand, familiar or foreign. This fun and interactive course will ask essential questions about human existence and the reality we build around us. As entire cities are laid waste due to war, coastlines transformed due to a changing climate, and landscapes forever paved due to urban sprawl, there is no better time to examine why over time we have made the marks we have upon the land, and that they mean to us and future generations.

Course Credit Policies

General Education Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is a Humanities (H) subject area course in the UF General Education Program. Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

Humanities Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used in the course (Content).
- Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives (Critical Thinking).
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively (Communication).

This course also meets the International (N) of the UF General Education Program. International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

International Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world.

- Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world.

UF Quest 1 Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is a UF Quest 1 subject area course in the UF Quest Program. Grounded in the modes of inquiry and expression characteristic of the arts and humanities, Quest 1 courses invite students to explore essential questions that transcend the boundaries of any one discipline—the kinds of complex and open-ended questions they will face as critical, creative, and thoughtful adults navigating a complex and interconnected world.

Quest 1 courses are multidisciplinary explorations of truly challenging questions about the human condition that are not easy to answer, but also not easy to ignore: What makes life worth living? What makes a society a fair one? How do we manage conflicts? Who are we in relation to other people or to the natural world? To grapple with the kinds of open-ended and complex intellectual challenges they will face as critical, creative, and self-reflective adults navigating a complex and interconnected world, Quest 1 students use the humanities approaches present in the course to mine texts for evidence, create arguments, and articulate ideas.

UF Quest 1 courses...

- Address in relevant ways the history, key themes, principles, terminologies, theories, and methodologies of various arts and humanities disciplines that enable us to ask essential questions about the human condition.
- Present different arts and humanities disciplines' distinctive elements, along with their biases and influences on essential questions about the human condition.
- Require students to explore at least one arts or humanities resource outside their classroom and explain how engagement with it complements classroom work.
- Enable students to analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition clearly and effectively in writing and other forms appropriate to the discipline.
- Embed critical analysis of the role arts and humanities play in the lives of individuals and societies and the role they might play in students' undergraduate degree programs.

UF Quest 1 Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to examine essential questions about the human condition within and across the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Content).
- Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition using established practices appropriate for the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Critical Thinking).
- Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (Critical Thinking).
- Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written forms as appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Communication).

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of semester, students will be able to:

- Understand the role of creativity in shaping the world and see how it embodies the values and beliefs of different peoples, periods, and places.
- Understand primary considerations and determinants of design process: what *needs* and *wants* does humankind seek to answer and how is it done at different points in time and in different places around the globe.
- Compare and contrast between different place-making responses to the needs of humanity throughout history, and understand the effect of and to socio-economic, political, religious, cultural, geographic contexts.
- Understand theoretical and philosophical movements associated with architecture and design, and how they have transformed the discipline over time.

Assignment	Assignment Description	General Education SLOs Met	Quest 1 Humanities SLO Met	Grade
Final Essay	In a series of short responses, address the following: 1. A Place dear to you 2. A Space at UF with meaning for you 3. An important Place you've read/heard	Communication, Content, Critical Thinking (Analyze and Connect)	Develop and present clear and effective questions and responses to essential questions	200

	about that has meaning for you			
Midterm Examination	Using course material in timed open-notes written examination (primarily short answer and essay)	<i>Communication and Critical Thinking</i>	Analyze and evaluate essential questions	300
Discussion Board Posts (DBP)	Weekly written analytic responses to course material in relation to critical life questions.	Content (Analyze and Connect), Communication	Connect course content to life students own lives	300
Sacred Space Project	Using course material in creative design-based project	<i>Communication, Content, Critical Thinking (Analyze and Connect)</i>	Identify, explain, and, describe theories and methodologies	200
Total Points				1000

Course Format

Course format will consist of faculty led lectures with discussion sections – including topical readings, assigned short position essays (based upon lectures and discussions) and assessments. Lecture will consist of works of sublime creativity acts from across time and around the world. We will discuss human's responses to cultural valuation and identity, sustainability through climate, population growth, and energy conservation. These issues will be expanded through the discussion of integrative design methodologies that actively mediate geopolitical challenges through spatial and built responses that extend beyond public policy.

In addition to primary faculty, guest lecturers will be invited to present their own expertise in order to discuss the ramifications of critical place-making decisions on the environment from the global to the immediate scale of the human body.

Texts

All texts and media will be available in Canvas (elearning).

UF Grading Policy: Information on UF's grading policy can be found at the following location:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Grading Criteria

20% Final Essay
30 % Midterm Examination
30 % Discussion Board Posts
20% Sacred Space Project

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

Experiential Dimension: This course includes lectures being intentionally moved to meaningful Places and Spaces on the University of Florida campus and proximal Gainesville area to explore constructed space, Nature immersion, and noteworthy architecture. These activities are to be led by your instructor with one on one discussion about your observations and experiences. When relevant, community professionals will engage the class with their expertise.

Critical Course Engagement: You are expected to take part in class and online discussions, answer posed questions, provide meaningful insight into class material, and be present for class. Course engagement will be assessed with routine short answer quiz questions posed at the start of class at multiple points of the semester.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Attendance and In-Class Experience : Attendance and engagement during class time are expected. Learning in this course happens over time spent engaging with the texts, through attentiveness and thoughtfulness during lectures, and with participation in class activities and discussion. Only those absences deemed excused according to [UF policy](#), including university-sponsored events such as athletics and band, (documented) illness, and religious holidays will be eligible for arrangements such as making up work. When you know ahead of time that you will miss class (such as for a university-sponsored event, religious holiday, or scheduled health event), you must contact the instructor ahead of time and make arrangements for making up any missed work. Tardiness disrupts the class. Excessive or frequent tardiness will result in an absence.

Schedule

Note: Subject to modification.

Schedule	Description	Summary	Course Readings
Week One			
June 28 Lecture	An In-troduction What is Art, Architecture, Beauty	We begin in the beginning, by doing like French Philosopher Gaston Bachelard freeing himself of his learned cultural ensemble of values (Foucault) and look at the little things. Before or in lieu of diving into the intellectual side of space making and space, let us first look, smell, hear, taste, and touch the world around us.	Edna St. Vincent Millay, <i>On Hearing a Symphony of Beethoven</i> Gaston Bachelard, <i>Poetics of Space</i> , 3-37 DBP1 Due
June 29 Discussion			
June 30 Lecture	What is Place? Design Determinants	We continue our introduction by contemplating the theories of ancient Roman architect/engineer/urbanist Vitruvius as interpreted by noted architectural educator Robert L. Vickery, Jr.. We will look to what determines the shape of things across various cultures, such as the space for worship, the space of large assembly (the dome), the shape of structure (holding things up), etc. Why do post and columns in Japan, Greece, Pennsylvania, China, India, Iran all look do different and yet perform the same exact function? Or do they?	Robert L. Vickery, <i>Sharing Arch.</i> , 1-46 Christian Norberg- Schulz, <i>Place</i> , 228-231 DBP2 Due
July 1 Discussion			
Week Two			
July 5 Lecture	What is Space?	So... we now discuss the space we make, the space we use. We will learn about the role of narrative and storytelling in recounting spatial histories and our use of these in creating what we deem "historical" space now. We will analyze the evolution of public space from the	Geoffrey Scott, <i>The Arch of Humanism</i> , 157-177 Christian Norberg-Schulz. <i>Genius Loci, Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture</i> . 50-77.

		invention of “street” to “piazza” to “cul-de-sac” and look at the cultures that formed them as well as formed because of them (yard sale anyone?). How does the spatial typology idiomatic to certain regions, places, people, shape the lives they live today?	<p>What is Space Lecture - Watch!</p> <p>Alfonso Perez- Gomez, <i>The Role of History</i>, 2-7</p> <p>Jeanette Winterson, <i>Art Objects</i>, 3-21</p> <p>DBP3 Due</p>
July 6	Discussion		
July 7	Lecture	What is Design?	<p>What goes into the decision making for the design of a usable space? How do the rituals of life and our cultural ideologies impact the shaping of our built environment, the one we use every single day? What is the difference between every day and iconic designs?</p> <p>Steven Holl, <i>Anchoring</i>, 1-8</p> <p>Steven Holl, <i>Phenomena and Idea</i>, 1-9</p> <p>Objectified Documentary</p> <p>DBP4 Due</p>
July 8	Discussion		
Week Three			
July 12	Lecture	<p>Modernism</p> <p>Industrial Revolution + Modernism</p>	<p>Why does modern space look different than historic space? When we discuss modernism, why are we talking about history at all? This week we will discuss that the industrial revolution that almost simultaneously took place around the world. How did the concept of space change in response to change in values, shifts in demographics, and degradation of natural conditions around emerging urban epicenters?</p> <p>Le Corbusier, <i>Towards a New Architecture</i></p> <p>(introduction, <i>Regulating Lines</i> 65-85, <i>Architecture or Revolution</i> 267-312)</p> <p>but let your eyes fall on every page of the book... read these but scan the rest, absorb it.</p> <p>DBP5 Due</p>
July 13	Discussion		
July 14	Lecture	<p>Sacred Structure</p> <p>Creation Myth + Aboriginal Space</p>	<p>Today we will explore the idea of sacred space, how they are shaped and why, and about some more profane examples. We look at Lakota Sioux star knowledge and its impact on shaping aboriginal space in the plains of what is now North America. We will learn about Australian aboriginal creation myths (comparable to Sioux star knowledge) called Dreamings and how they construct a social narrative that ties humans and land to create <i>Place</i>. Our conceptions of sacred space and sacred structure in the 21st century are so fundamentally different, so profane, or are they?</p> <p>Randy Hester, <i>Subconscious Landscapes</i>, 10-22</p> <p>Geraldine Brooks, <i>The Painted Desert</i>, 1-12</p> <p>Michael Rotondi, <i>Sacred Space</i>, 1-5</p> <p>DBP6 Due</p>

July 15	Discussion			
Week Four				
July 19	Midterm	Midterm	Let's see what you know!	Midterm Examination DBP7 Due
July 20	Discussion			
July 21	Lecture	UF Sacred Space	Class at University Auditorium Today we learn about sacred space here on campus at the University of Florida first hand. We will experience one of the most important spaces ourselves, and how it impacts us.	Peggy Carr presentation on Plaza of the Americas The Music Behind UF's Century Tower WG Clark, <i>Replacement</i> , 1-3 Peter Zumthor, <i>A Way of Looking at Things</i> DBP8 Due
July 22	Discussion			
Week Five				
July 26	Lecture	Sustainable Place	Today we discuss the 20th Century rise of sustainability as a major focus in architectural and urban design.	Final Paper Due Aldo Leopold, A Sandy County Almanac "The Land Ethic." William McDonough, AIA, Cradle to Cradle Design – TED Talk The Story of Stuff Video DBP9 Due
July 27	Discussion			
July 28	Lecture	Spiritual Space of Kyoto Ritual Space – The Japanese <i>Chanoyu</i>	Today's focus is on space shaped by ritual, and no better traditional culture in which to observe it, that of Japan. The traditional eastern cultures of Asia have had a much deeper connection between cultural beliefs, understanding of Place, and the architectural embodiment of this intersection right at the notion of ritual. Though ritualized at a more concentrated, conscious level, this will afford you the opportunity to examine the ritual/habitual/ceremonial incarnations of space and space use in your lives.	Richard Martin, Wabi- Sabi E.B. White, Once More to the Lake, 197-202 Junichiro Tanizaki, In Praise of Shadows, 17-32, and 30-42 (though whole essay is quite nice) DBP10 Due

July 29 Discussion			Discussions at Baughman Center
Week Six			
August 2 Lecture	Tribal Space and Place in Africa Living lightly on the Land	<p>Today's focus is on the idea of shared communal space and land ownership. Looking to traditional Australian Aboriginal and African space making traditions, we further contemplate the connection between humankind, the land, and community. We cannot discuss community without discussing private space versus public space – my space versus our space. Ownerships and rights of owning play a large factor in world culture throughout time including today. By looking to cultures that even today have a different conception of ownership can shed light upon our own issues of settlement, borders, migration, and place making.</p>	<p>Bernard Rudofsky, Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture</p> <p>In Celebration of African Vernacular Architecture</p> <p>African Architecture + Nigeria - 3 Architects</p> <p>African Design with Fractals - Guys, this is AMAZING!</p> <p>DBP11 Due</p>
August 3 Discussion			
August 4 Lecture	The Sarasota School Florida Space	<p>This last day of class, we return to Florida to examine the manifestation of a modernist spatial and tectonic vocabulary that emerged on the Nature Coast.</p> <p>How did the principles of design that emerged from the Parisian Esprit Nouveau movement and the German Bauhaus translate to the marshes, oyster beds, and sand dunes of Florida? We will discuss whether the adoption/adaptation retains the essence of the parent movements or became its own unique construction of space.</p>	<p>Lecture - Spaces Places at Harn.mp4</p> <p>Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature," The Oxford Companion to American Literature.</p> <p>Roy Baumeister, "Do You Want a Meaningful Life or a Happy Life?"</p> <p>Paul Rudolph, Finney Guest House Project - Siesta Key</p> <p>Paul Rudolph, Walker Guest House Project - Sanibel Island</p> <p>Making it BIG : The story of Bjarke Ingels</p> <p>DBP12 Due</p>
August 5 Discussion		Last Day of Semester	Sacred Space Project Due

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'"

The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. *If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors.*

UF's policies regarding academic honesty, the honor code, and student conduct related to the honor code will be strictly enforced.

This means that cheating and plagiarism will be penalized, and a report will be filed with the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution office. For a discussion of how to avoid plagiarism, consult *Misuse of Sources* on the course web site. *If you have any questions, please ask an instructor.* An online plagiarism checker service may be used to screen papers. In summary, this means a lot to me, and will be enforced.

Students with Special Needs and Accommodations: Students with special physical needs and requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. All attempts to provide an equal learning environment for all will be made.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.