

Landscape Seminar, Winter 2000: English 603/Art History 454: W. J. T. Mitchell

Office: Wieboldt 203 Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4 (weekly sign up sheet by door)

Seminar Website: <http://honeybee.uchicago.edu/landscape>

Texts available at Seminary Coop:

Mitchell, Landscape and Power (Chicago, 1994)
 Henri Lefebvre, The Production of Space (1974; Blackwell's, 1991)
 Simon Schama, Landscape and Memory (NY: Vintage, 1994)
 Hunt and Willis, The Genius of Place (Harper & Row, 1975)
Critical Inquiry 26:2 (Winter 2000): "Geopoetics"
 Jeff Malpas, Place and Experience (Cambridge, 1999).

Requirements:

1. Seminar paper, about 20 pages (due March 13)
2. Oral Presentation of Seminar project (in last 3 weeks)
3. Brief oral introduction of a critical text (as scheduled on syllabus)
4. Show and Tell presentation of a specific landscape (prepare immediately)

Session 1 (1/10): TOPICS: Space, Place, and Landscape:

Antony Gormley, Field; Wallace Stevens, Jar; Steinberg, New World; Hogarth's Line of Beauty & the Serpent in the Wilderness; Blake's serpent temple.

Session 2 (1/17): THEORIES OF SPACE (I)

Show and Tell: Places in the Heart (2 or 3 to open each session)
 Foucault, "Of Other Spaces," Diacritics (Spring 1986)
 De Certeau, "Spatial Stories," from The Practice of Everyday Life
 David Harvey, "From Space to Place and Back Again"
 Borges, "The Aleph"

Session 3 (1/24): THEORIES OF SPACE (II)

Henri Lefebvre, The Production of Space, 1-168.
 Gaston Bachelard, "Intimate Immensity" from The Poetics of Space
 Jeff Malpas, "Introduction: The Influence of Place," and "The Obscurity of Place" from Place and Experience

Session 4 (1/31): THE GENIUS OF PLACE: From Paradise to the Picturesque

In Hunt and Willis: Milton, description of Paradise; Andrew Marvell, "Upon Appleton House"; Rapin, Of Gardens; William Temple, Upon the Gardens of Epicurus; Roger de Piles, Course de Peinture; Anthony Ashley Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury; Joseph Addison, from The Tatler and The Spectator; William Chambers and William Mason, from Oriental Gardening; Chambers on Designs of Chinese Buildings; Alexander Pope; Horace Walpole, Thomas Wately; Richard Payne Knight, William Gilpin, Uvedale Price

Ann Bermingham, "The Picturesque Decade," from Landscape and Ideology; John Barrell, "The Public Prospect and the Private View" from Eade, Projecting the Landscape; Raymond Williams, from The Country and the City

Possible Screening: Peter Greenaway's The Draughtsman's Contract (should be seen in conjunction with Raymond Williams chapter on the 17th century country-house poem)

Session 5 (2/7): LANDSCAPE AND POWER

From Landscape and Power: Mitchell, "Imperial Landscape"; David Bunn, "Thomas Pringle's African Landscapes," Elizabeth Helsinger, "Turner and the Representation of England"; Snyder, "Territorial Photographs"; Charles Harrison, "The Effects of Landscape"

Session 6 (2/14): LANDSCAPE AND DISPLACEMENT

Simon Schama, "Introduction" to Landscape and Memory

Edward Said, "Invention, Memory, and Place,"; Mitchell, "Holy Landscape: Israel, Palestine and the American Wilderness," in Critical Inquiry 26:2 (Winter 2000) ; Michael Taussig, "The Beach

John Durham Peters, "Exile, Nomadism, and Diaspora," in Hamid Naficy, Home, Exile, Homeland (Routledge, 1999).

Session 7 (2/22): Earth Art: Guest lecture by Gilles Tiberghien (class to meet on Tuesday, time TBA)

Robert Smithson, "The Monuments of Passaic, New Jersey," ArtForum (December, 1967), 48-51.

_____, "Fredric Law Olmsted and the Dialectical Landscape," in The Writings of Robert Smithson, ed. Nancy Holt

Screening: Robert Smithson, The Spiral Jetty

Sessions 8-10: The final three weeks will be a landscape symposium organized by class members around topical clusters. Possible Topics: The Faces of Landscape; Body, Gender, and the Sex of Space; Wilderness; Cyberspace and Mediascapes; Textual, Discursive, and Literary Space; Mindscapes and Cognitive Mapping. Imperial, colonial landscapes; Nationalism; Diaspora, Exile, and

Nomadism; Vernacular, Ordinary, and Extraordinary landscapes; Sacred Space and Holy Lands.