

GEO 5934, Section 1: PLACE, MOBILITY, AND IDENTITY
Spring 2006
Thursday, 10:00-12:30; Bellamy 317

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Perhaps few terms seem as obvious as “place.” In the traditional sense, place is both where you are, and reflects (and constitutes) who you are.

In recent decades, however, this common sense notion of place, and its relation to identity, has been subject to questioning across the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. If we live in a world increasingly characterized by movement and crossings, then what is the continuing significance of place? Does it still ground identity? Are there new ways of thinking about place that are simultaneously fixed yet mobile, local yet global, constraining yet liberating?

Although rooted in the interrogation of a geographic concept, this course is explicitly interdisciplinary, engaging readings and concepts from a range of disciplines including Anthropology, Communications, Cultural Studies, History, International Relations, Literary Studies, Philosophy, Science Studies, and Sociology, as well as Geography.

REQUIRED BOOKS

There are three books required for this class:

Chatwin, Bruce (1988) *The Songlines*, London: Penguin. ISBN 0140094296

Cresswell, Tim. (2004) *Place: A Short Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell. ISBN 1405106727

Cresswell, Tim (2006) *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*. London: Routledge. ISBN 0415952565

In addition, there are several articles and book chapters that we will read and discuss during the semester. These will be posted on the course blackboard site.

Ordering books: Books have been ordered through the FSU Bookstore. The books are also available through on-line bookstores.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES NEEDING ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); and (2) Bring a letter to me from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility to (1) uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

COURSE EVALUATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Your grade will be determined based upon the following:

-- **Class Participation (25%):** I expect you to read the assigned readings before class and to be able to discuss and/or debate the readings in class.

-- **Short Paper (25%):** This paper will be due on Thursday, February 8, the final class that deals exclusively with place, before we move onto the topic of mobility. The readings for this class session concern memorialization as a way to honor, preserve, and/or produce place and, in the process, construct and/or reaffirm identity. Your assignment is to write about a memorial that exists or could/should exist and to discuss how that memorial builds upon and/or contributes to a sense of place. Aim for about 6-8 pages.

-- **Seminar Paper (45%):** You may choose to write on any topic relating to place, mobility, and identity. This paper may be an expanded version of your short paper, although that's not required. I expect the paper to be of journal length (approximately 20 pages [excluding figures, tables, and references]) and journal quality. Note that this length is meant to be suggestive rather than definitive. I would prefer you turn in a well-written concise 17 page paper than a convoluted 25 page paper. Please make sure that your paper is double spaced, in a 12 point font, with 1 inch margins.

Note that I view this project as contributing toward your degree (and, especially if you're seeking a Ph.D., your postgraduate career) rather than simply as an exercise to assign grades. I would suggest using the project as a means towards exploring potential dissertation topics, a potential

chapter of an established dissertation topic, and/or a first draft of an article that you consider submitting for publication.

First drafts of the paper are due Thursday, April 5. The due date for the final paper is Thursday, April 26. You will receive a letter grade only for your final version of this paper.

-- Seminar Paper Presentation (5%): You will be expected to make an oral presentation of your paper to the class. Consider this as a paper presentation at an academic meeting. You will have fifteen minutes to make your presentation. Note that since you will be given only fifteen minutes for your presentation, you will not likely have time to read your entire paper. Plan accordingly! Presentations will take place on April 5.

COURSE READINGS

January 10: Introductory Class

January 17: The Significance of Place

This week's class serves as a general introduction to various interpretations of what "place" is and why "place" matters as a crucial concept for organizing, experiencing, and understanding social processes and interactions.

Cresswell, Tim (2004) *Place: A Short Introduction*, Oxford: Blackwell. Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-51).

Staeheli, Lynn (2003) "Place." In Agnew, John, Mitchell, Katharyne, and Toal, Gerard (Eds.). *A Companion to Political Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell (pp. 158-170).

Agnew, John (1987) *Place and Politics: A Geographic Mediation of State and Society*. Boston: Allen and Unwin. Chapters 1 and 3 (pp. 1-6, 25-43).

Massey, Doreen (2005) *For Space*, London: Sage. Introduction to Part One and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-15).

Bachelard, Gaston (1958) *The Poetics of Space*, Boston: Beacon. Chapter 1 (pp. 3-37).

Tuan, Yi-Fu (1975) "Place: An Experiential Perspective." *Geographical Review* 65: 151-165.

Casey, Edward (1996) "How to Get from Space to Place in a Fairly Short Stretch of Time: Phenomenological Prolegomena." In Feld, Steven and Basso, Keith H. (Eds.) *Senses of Place*. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press (pp. 13-52).

Rose, Gillian (1993) *Feminism and Geography: The Limits of Geographical Knowledge*, Oxford: Polity. Chapter 3 (pp. 41-61).

January 24: Place as a Site/Tool of Struggle

This week's class considers the broad question of why places are worth struggling for. Answers must invariably consider related questions: whether place is connected with a distinct domain of individual experience, whether place is inherently progressive (or regressive), and whether place is being (or should be) superseded in an increasingly "globalized" world. Each of these answers, in turn, forces a reconsideration of the relationship between place (and space) and time.

Cresswell, Tim (2004) *Place: A Short Introduction*, Oxford: Blackwell. Chapters 3 and 4 (pp. 53-123).

Cresswell, Tim (1996) *In Place/Out of Place: Geography, Ideology, and Transgression*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapters 1, 2, and 5 (pp. 3-27; 97-145).

Massey, Doreen (2005) *For Space*. London: Sage. Chapter 15 (pp. 177-195).

Relph, Edward (1976). *Place and Placelessness*. London: Pion. Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-28).

Lefebvre, Henri (1991). *The Production of Space*. Oxford: Blackwell. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-67).

January 31: Memory, Time, and Sense of Place

Part of why place matters is because it grounds human experience and memory to times past and future that are not directly experienced, thereby forming a foundation for culture (and for imagination).

Feld, Steven and Basso Keith (1996) "Introduction," in Feld, Steven and Basso, Keith H. (eds.), *Senses of Place*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, pp. 3-11

Basso, Keith (1996) "Wisdom Sits in Place: Notes on a Western Apache Landscape," Feld, Steven and Basso, Keith H. (eds.), *Senses of Place*. Santa Fe: School of American Research Press, pp. 53-90.

Boym, Svetlana. (2001) *The Future of Nostalgia*. New York: Basic Books. Introduction and Chapter 10 (pp. xiii-xix; 173-218).

Till, Karen (2005) *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-57).

Ramaswamy, Sumathi. (2004) *The Lost Land of Lemuria: Fabulous Geographies, Catastrophic Histories*, Berkeley: University of California Press: Berkeley. Chapter 1 (pp. 1-18).

Spelman, Elizabeth (2007) "Repair and the Scaffold of Memory," in Steinberg, Philip and Shields, Rob (Eds.), *The Urban After Katrina: Place, Community, Connections, and Memory*, Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Harvey, Daina (2007) "Remembering the Forgetting of New Orleans," in Steinberg, Philip and Shields, Rob (Eds.), *The Urban After Katrina: Place, Community, Connections, and Memory*, Athens: University of Georgia Press.

February 8: Preserving Place

If place grounds memory (and imagination) and thereby is crucial for the construction of culture, then choices regarding how to memorialize/preserve place are key moments in the construction of cultural ideals, morals, and identities.

Mini-paper due

Till, Karen (2003) "Places of Memory." In Agnew, John, Mitchell, Katharyne, and Toal, Gerard (Eds.). *A Companion to Political Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell (pp. 289-301).

Nora, Pierre (1989) "Between Memory and History: Les Lieux de Memoire." *Representations*. 26 (Special Issue: Memory and Counter-Memory): 7-24.

Leib, Jonathan (2002) "Separate Times, Shared Spaces: Arthur Ashe, Monument Avenue and the Politics of Richmond, Virginia's Symbolic Landscape." *Cultural Geographies*. 9: 286-312.

Savage, Kirk (1994) "The Politics of Memory: Black Emancipation and the Civil War Monument." In Gillis, John R. (Ed.) *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (pp. 127-149).

Young, James E. (1993) *The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*. New Haven: Yale University Press. "Introduction: The Texture of Memory" and "Germany: The Ambiguity of Memory" (pp. 1-16; 17-26).

February 15: Mobility, Place, and Placelessness

Up to this point, this course have largely equated place with rootedness, which suggests that mobility is something that exists between or within places. With this class, we consider various ways in which mobility (or efforts to control mobility) may play a role in *constituting* place.

Cresswell, Tim (2006) *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*. London: Routledge. Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-56).

Deleuze, Gilles & Félix Guattari (1988) *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press Chapter 14 (pp. 474-500).

Virilio, Paul (1986) *Speed and Politics*, New York: Semiotext(e). Part One, sections 1 and 2, and Part Two, section 1 (pp. 3-49).

Augé, Marc (1995) *Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*. London: Verso. "Prologue" and "From Places to Non-Places" (pp. 1-6; 75-115).

DeCerteau, Michel (1984) *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Part III (pp. 91-130).

Castells, Manuel (1996) *The Rise of the Network Society*. Oxford: Blackwell. Chapter 6 (pp. 407-459).

Harvey, David (1985) "The Geopolitics of Capitalism" in Derek Gregory and John Urry (eds.), *Social Relations and Spatial Structures*, London: Methuen, pp. 128-163.

February 22: Moving bodies and the construction/knowledge of place I

This class turns from movement in general to the human body moving through space, with a focus on how the moving body constructs/knows the spaces through which it travels.

Cresswell, Tim (2006) *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*. London: Routledge, Chapters 3-5 & 8 (pp. 57-146, 195-218).

Wylie, John (2005) "A Single Day's Walking: Narrating Self and Landscape on the South West Coast Path," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 30: 234-247.

Morin, Karen (1999) "Peak Practices: Englishwomen's 'Heroic' Adventures in the 19th century American West," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 89: 3, 489-514.

McDowell, Linda (1996) "Off the Road: Alternative Views of Rebellion, Resistance, and 'the Beats,'" *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21: 412-419.

Cresswell, Tim (1996) "Writing, Reading and the Problem of Resistance: A Reply to McDowell," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21: 420-428.

Massey, Doreen (2005) *For Space*, London: Sage. Final part of Chapter 11 (pp. 117-125), Chapter 12 (pp. 130-142), Chapter 13 (pp. 149-162).

Connery, Christopher (2006) "There was No More Sea: the Supersession of the Ocean, from the Bible to Cyberspace." *Journal of Historical Geography*. 32(3): 494-511.

March 1: Moving bodies and the construction/knowledge of place II

This class follows through on themes from the previous class, through an in-depth study of Chatwin's work on the songlines through which one marks time, space, and self in the Australian outback.

Chatwin, Bruce (1988) *The Songlines*, London: Penguin. Entire book.

March 8: SPRING BREAK

March 15: Movement, Knowledge, and Power

This class considers movement within the context of power, looking specifically the role that projecting things across space (and managing movement) plays in constructing (as well as projecting) power and territories.

Law, John (1986) "On the Methods of Long-Distance Control: Vessels, Navigation and the Portuguese Route to India," in John Law (ed.), *Power, Action and Belief: A New Sociology of Knowledge?* London: Routledge, pp. 234-263.

Latour, Bruno (1986) "Visualization and Cognition: Thinking With Eyes and Hands," in Henrika Kuklick and Elizabeth Long (eds.), *Knowledge and Society: Studies in the Sociology of Culture Past and Present, Vol. 6*, Greenwich: JAI Press, pp. 1-40.

Steinberg, Philip (2006) "Calculating Similitude and Difference: John Seller and the 'Placing' of English Subjects in a Global Community of Nations," *Social and Cultural Geography* 7: 687-707.

Carter, Paul (1999) "Dark With Excess of Bright: Mapping the Coastlines of Knowledge," in Denis Cosgrove (ed.), *Mappings*, London: Reaktion, pp. 125-147.

Richardson, Brian (2005) *Longitude and Empire: How Captain Cook's Voyages Changed the World*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, Introductions, Chapter 1, and final section of Chapter 4 (pp. 2-45, 130-135).

Steinberg, Philip (2005) "Insularity, Sovereignty, and Statehood: The Representation of Islands on Portolan Charts and the Construction of the Territorial State," *Geografiska Annaler* 87B: 253-265.

Cresswell, Tim (2006) *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*. London: Routledge, Chapter 9 (pp. 219-258).

March 22: Places and Identities of Mobility and Betweenness

Building on the last class session, which discussed the role of movement in constructing territories, this class session brings in the third key topic of this class: identity. How are

identities (or peoples as well as places) forged amidst movement, what does it mean to have identities of betweenness, and, in a world characterized by incessant movement, can identity be delinked from the concepts of place and territory?

Clifford, James (1997) *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1 and 9 (pp. 17-46; 244-277).

Bhabha, Homi (1990) "DissemiNation: Time, Narrative, and the Margins of the Modern Nation," in Homi Bhabha (ed.), *Nation and Narration*, London: Routledge, pp. 291-322.

Gilroy, Paul (1993) *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, Excerpt to be determined.

Appadurai, Arjun (1996) "Sovereignty Without Territoriality: Notes for a Postnational Geography," in Patricia Yeager (ed.), *The Geography of Identity*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 40-58.

Morris, Meaghan (1988) "At Henry Parkes Motel," *Cultural Studies* 2: 1-47.

Hau'ofa, Epeli (1993) "Our Sea of Islands," *The Contemporary Pacific* 6: 148-161.

Borovnik, Maria (2005) "Seafarers' 'Maritime Culture' and the 'I-Kiribati Way of Life': The Formation of Flexible Identities?" *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 26: 132-150.

Crang, Philip, Dwyre, Claire, & Jackson, Peter (2003) "Transnationalism and the Spaces of Commodity Culture," *Progress in Human Geography* 27: 438-456.

Massey, Doreen (2005) *For Space*, London: Sage. Chapter 14 (pp. 163-176).

March 29: The Politics of Border Crossings

If, as many of the readings from the previous class session suggest, increased mobility is straining the bonds between nation, identity, and territory that historically have formed the foundation (and justification) for the modern state, then the role and constitution of the state itself, as the predominant institution organizing (post)modern society must be questioned.

Albert, Mathias (1999) "On Boundaries, Territory and Postmodernity: An International Relations Perspective," in David Newman (ed.), *Boundaries, Territory and Postmodernity*, London: Frank Cass, pp. 56-68.

Brown, Chris (2001) "Borders and Identity in International Political Theory," in Mathias Albert, David Jacobson, and Yosef Lapid (eds.), *Identities Borders Orders: Rethinking International Relations Theory*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 117-136.

Newman, David (2001) "Boundaries, Borders, and Barriers: Changing Geographic Perspectives on Territorial Lines," in Mathias Albert, David Jacobson, and Yosef Lapid (eds.), *Identities Borders Orders: Rethinking International Relations Theory*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 137-151.

Wastl-Walter, Doris & Staeheli, Lynn (2004) "Territory, Territoriality, and Boundaries," in Lynn Staeheli, Eleonore Kofman, and Linda Peake (eds.), *Mapping Women, Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography*, London: Routledge, pp. 141-152.

Doty, Roxanne (1999) "Racism, Desire, and the Politics of Immigration," *Millennium* 28: 585-606.

Mandaville, Peter (1999) "Territory and Translocality: Discrepant Idioms of Political Identity," *Millennium* 28: 653-674.

Raghuram, Parvati (2004) "Crossing Borders: Gender and Migration" in Lynn Staeheli, Eleonore Kofman, and Linda Peake (eds.), *Mapping Women, Making Politics: Feminist Perspectives on Political Geography*, London: Routledge, pp. 185-198.

Price, Patricia (2004) *Dry Place: Landscapes of Belonging and Exclusion*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. Chapters 2-4 (pp. 33-120).

Maier, Charles (2000) "Consigning the Twentieth Century to History: Alternative Narratives for the Modern Era," *American Historical Review* 105: 807-831.

Elden, Stewart (2005) "Missing the Point: Globalization, Deterritorialization, and the Space of the World," *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 30: 8-19.

April 5: STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATIONS and FIRST DRAFTS DUE

April 12: Constructing places of mobility and immobility

For the final class session, we return to the issue of place: How are places constructed and differentiated by movement, and how are moving bodies key to the ongoing constitution of places? These questions are approached through a focus on New Orleans before, during, and after the ravages of Hurricane Katrina.

Cresswell, Tim (2006) *On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World*. London: Routledge. Epilogue (pp. 259-266).

Bartling, Hugh (2007) "Mobility and the Regional Context of Urban Disaster" In Steinberg, Philip and Shields, Rob (Eds.), *The Urban After Katrina: Place, Community, Connections, and Memory*, Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Tiessen, Matthew (2007) "Uneven Mobilities and Urban Theory: The Power of Fast and Slow" In Steinberg, Philip and Shields, Rob (Eds.), *The Urban After Katrina: Place, Community, Connections, and Memory*, Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Fisher, C. Tabor (2007) "Repositioning the Theorist in the Lower Ninth Ward" In Steinberg, Philip and Shields, Rob (Eds.), *The Urban After Katrina: Place, Community, Connections, and Memory*, Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Shields, Rob (2007) "Delta City" In Steinberg, Philip and Shields, Rob (Eds.), *The Urban After Katrina: Place, Community, Connections, and Memory*, Athens: University of Georgia Press.

Silva Gruesz, Kirstin (2007) "The Gulf of Mexico System and the 'Latiness' of New Orleans," *American Literary History* 18: 468-495.

April 19: No Class; AAG Meeting

April 26: FINAL STUDENT PAPERS DUE

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.