



History of American Landscapes and Architecture

COURSE GUIDE

HIS/IAR 624

Fall 2005

Prof. L. Tolbert

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Hours: Tues. & Thurs., 2:00-3:00

and by appointment

Course Objectives

This course is designed as an advanced reading seminar in the history of American landscapes and architecture. The course will introduce you to the variety of methods developed by architectural and cultural historians to interpret buildings and landscapes as cultural artifacts with historically specific meanings that must be understood in particular context over time. An important objective of the course is to go beyond classroom reading and discussion to application of specific scholars' arguments and methodologies through analysis of particular buildings and landscapes.

By the end of the semester you should be able to do the following:

- Explain major changes in the development of the American landscape from the colonial period through the mid-twentieth century.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that architecture and landscapes document cultural and social change over time.
- Define particular architectural styles, use specialized architectural vocabulary/terminology, and explain the differences between vernacular and academic building traditions.
- Use different methodological approaches to evaluate particular landscapes in historical context.

Evaluation

Participation	10%
Unit Case Studies	60%
Comparative Methodology Analysis	30%

All written assignments should be typed, with appropriate citations in Turabian style [<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/handouts/turabian.html>]. You will submit your written assignments electronically to my email address on the appropriate due date. Late assignments will be penalized.

Participation (10%)

This assessment will be based on three criteria:

1. Consistent attendance—this is a seminar, not a traditional lecture course. We will be critically evaluating the content of the readings and practicing the application of analytical skills during each class period. You will not be able to make up for your absences by copying someone else's notes. For this reason, consistent attendance is essential to your learning in this course.
2. Thorough preparation for class—readings must be completed before class and assignments must be turned in on time.
3. Regular contributions to class discussions—the success of this course for your learning depends on active intellectual engagement with your peers.

Comparative Methodology Analysis (30%)

Due 13 October, 7-10 double-spaced pages.

You will compare and contrast at least two different scholars' approaches to the study of landscape and architecture demonstrated in the assigned reading for either unit 1 or unit 2. Papers should consider the following issues (not necessarily in the order listed below):

- Explain how each author defines the central research problem of the study.
- Explain the significance of the timeframe for the research problem.
- Describe the most important primary source material for the scholar's study.
- Explain the importance of field work (if relevant) for the scholar's analysis.
- Explain any key terms or concepts the scholar defines for readers of the study.
- Explain the most important ways that the scholar uses architecture or landscape as evidence. In what ways, for example, does the scholar consider building technology, materials, space, form, or style as evidence? What are the most important features or parts of a building or landscape for the scholar's analysis?

- What is the scholar's academic specialization and what, if any, interdisciplinary theories, concepts, or approaches does the author employ to develop the interpretation of landscape or architectural evidence?
- You may use illustrations in your analysis if you find them useful for explaining your ideas.

Case Study Building/Landscape Analyses (60%; 20 % each)

This course is organized into three chronological units. The goal of each unit assignment is to go beyond basic reading knowledge of the materials we discuss to begin to USE the knowledge you are acquiring in a "real world" case study. In each case you will evaluate evidence from a particular building or landscape by applying appropriate arguments from assigned readings to put the designated site in historical context. The case studies may also introduce you to different types of primary sources (HABS drawings and Sanborn insurance maps, for example) that are useful for doing architectural history. Above all, you will practice really looking at and analyzing the historical evidence that is documented in particular buildings or landscapes. Unit papers are not intended as research papers; therefore, you are not required to consult references beyond those identified in the assignment. You will find the McAlester field guide to be a useful reference for identifying appropriate architectural vocabulary for specific features of the assigned site, but be sure to focus your analysis on arguments of other authors in the unit.

Each paper should do the following:

- Use specific and appropriate visual evidence from the assigned site to develop your analysis. It may be necessary to take photographs of specific building or landscape features for your analysis.
- Use specific arguments from assigned scholars in the unit to interpret and evaluate the assigned landscape in an appropriate historical context.
- Use appropriate architectural vocabulary to describe key features of assigned buildings for your analysis.

All unit essays should be typed and double-spaced, 7-10 pages long, with appropriate citations in Turabian style [<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/handouts/turabian.html>]. You will submit your essays electronically to my email address: lctolber@uncg.edu.

Criteria for evaluation of unit essays:

For each essay, I will evaluate how effectively you accomplish the following:

- Analysis of specific architectural and spatial evidence documented by the assigned subject.
- Creative application of historical and methodological content of readings assigned in the unit.
- Application and understanding of appropriate authors' arguments. [Note: You are not required to mention every author assigned in the unit, but you should certainly address the content of more than one or two authors in the unit.]
- Use of appropriate architectural terminology.
- Polish and presentation of prose, and accuracy of citations.

Due dates:

Unit 1: 13 September, Evaluate house and plantation landscape at Drayton Hall

Unit 2: 1 November, Blandwood including its relationship to downtown Greensboro;
or Revolution mill village (northeast Greensboro)

Unit 3: 1 December, Compare and contrast suburban design of Sunset Hills and Starmount; or
compare and contrast downtown Elm St. commercial district and Lawndale Shopping Center

Course Readings

Books (Available at the UNCG bookstore)

Hayden, Dolores. *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000*. New York: Pantheon, 2003. 0-375-72721-3

Heath, Kingston Wm. *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England Industrial Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001. 1-57233-138-0

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984. 0-394-73969-8

Roth, Leland. *American Architecture: A History*. Boulder, CO: Icon Editions/Westview Press, 2001. 0-8133-3662-7

Shaw Diane. *City Building on the Eastern Frontier: Sorting the New Nineteenth Century City*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004. 0-8018-7925-6

Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. 1-57233-236-0

Upton, Dell and John Vlach, eds. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1986. [Note: see the course schedule for specific chapters assigned in CP.] 0-8203-0750-5

Book Chapters/Journal Articles (Available on electronic reserve or online as noted.)

Bluestone, Daniel. "Academics in Tennis Shoes: Historic Preservation and the Academy" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58, no. 3 (September 1999): 300-307. [JSTOR]

Brucken, Carolyn. "In the Public Eye: Women and the American Luxury Hotel." *Winterthur Portfolio* 31 (1996): 203-220. [JSTOR]

Chappell, Edward A. "Housing a Nation: The Transformation of Living Standards in Early America." In Cary Carson, Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert, eds. *Of Consuming Interests: The Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1994. [ereserves]

- Chappell, Edward A. "Open-Air Museums: Architectural History for the Masses" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58, no 3 (September, 1999): 334-341. [JSTOR]
- Doucet, Michael J., and John C. Weaver. "Material Culture and the North American House: The Era of the Common Man, 1870-1920." *The Journal of American History* 72 (December 1985): 560-587. [JSTOR]
- Limerick, Patricia Nelson. "Disorientation and Reorientation: The American Landscape Discovered from the West." *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 79, No. 3, Discovering America: A Special Issue. (Dec., 1992), pp. 1021-1049. [JSTOR]
- Longstreth, Richard. "Architectural History and the Practice of Historic Preservation in the United States" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58, no: 3 (September 1999): 326-333. [JSTOR]
- Pogue, Dennis J. "The Domestic Architecture of Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 37, No. 1 (Spring 2002): 3-22. [infotrac]
- Prussin, Labelle. *Hatumere: Islamic Design in West Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986, pp. 3-23. [ereserves]
- Southern, Michael. "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont." In *Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape*. Edited by Doug Swaim. North Carolina State University, 1978. [ereserves]
- Wells, Camille, "The Planter's Prospect: Houses and Rural Landscapes in 18th c. Virginia," *Winterthur Portfolio* 28 Spring 1993: 1993 28(1): 1-31. [JSTOR]

Course Schedule

16 August Introductions

18 August **Architectural History and Professional Practice**

Read:

Bluestone, Daniel. "Academics in Tennis Shoes: Historic Preservation and the Academy" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58, no. 3 (September 1999): 300-307.

Longstreth, Richard. "Architectural History and the Practice of Historic Preservation in the United States" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58, no: 3 (September 1999): 326-333.

Chappell, Edward A. "Open-Air Museums: Architectural History for the Masses" *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 58, no 3 (September, 1999): 334-341.

23 August Vernacular Architecture Methodologies
Learning to Look at Architecture: Foust Building Evaluation

Use the McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, to identify the architectural style of the Foust Building and to describe its defining architectural features. Type a one-page, single-spaced description of the building defining and explaining your identification. Your grade on this assignment will be part of your participation score.

Read:

McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 2-175.

In *Common Places*:

Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," pp. 3-26

Kniffen and Glassie, "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States," pp. 159-181.

Hubka, "Just Folks Designing," pp. 426-432.

Unit 1: Pre-Colonial and Colonial Architectures

This assignment introduces you to materials in the Historic American Buildings Survey. Use the readings assigned in this unit to evaluate the architectural evidence of Drayton Hall [<http://www.draytonhall.org/about/habs.html>] in historical context. You may also use any information provided on the Drayton Hall website about the history of the site to develop your analysis. Due 15 September.

25 August What is Architecture? Part 1

Read:

Roth, Ch. 1. The First American Architecture: Ceremonial Enclosures and Homes

30 August What is Architecture? Part 2

Read:

Limerick, Patricia Nelson. "Disorientation and Reorientation: The American Landscape Discovered from the West." *The Journal of American History*, Vol. 79, No. 3, Discovering America: A Special Issue. (Dec., 1992), pp. 1021-1049. [JSTOR]

Prussin, Labelle. *Hatumere: Islamic Design in West Africa*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986, pp. 3-23.

1 September Seventeenth-Century European Architectures

Read:

Roth, Ch 2. Europeans in the New World, 1600-1700: Transplanted Vernaculars

In *Common Places*:

Neiman, Fraser D. "Domestic Architecture at the Clifts Plantation: The Social Context of Early Virginia Building," pp. 292-314.

Isham and Brown, "Early Rhode Island Houses, pp. 149-158.

Prudon, "The Dutch Barn in America," pp. 204-218.

St. George, "Set Thine House in Order," pp. 336-366.

6 September The Georgian Revolution

Read:

Roth, Ch. 3. In the Latest Fashion, 1690-1785: Georgian Architecture and Vernacular Themes
In *Common Places*:

Chappell, Ed. "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the
Massanutten Settlement," pp. 27-57.

Glassie, Henry. "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk
Building," pp. 394-425.

Upton, Dell. "Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," pp.
315-335.

8 September Regionalism and Landscapes of Slavery

Read:

Pogue, Dennis J. "The Domestic Architecture of Slavery at George Washington's Mount
Vernon." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 37, No. 1 (Spring 2002): 3-22.

Wells, Camille, "The Planter's Prospect: Houses and Rural Landscapes in 18th c. Virginia,"
Winterthur Portfolio 28 Spring 1993: 1993 28(1): 1-31.

13 September Unit 1 Case Study due

Unit 2: Nineteenth-Century United States

Use assigned readings to evaluate one of the following landscapes in historical context: (a.) Blandwood including its relationship to downtown Greensboro; or (b.) Revolution mill village (northeast Greensboro). I recommend that you consult Marvin A. Brown, *Greensboro: An Architectural Record*. Preservation Greensboro, 1995 (on reserve in Jackson Library). You should also consult evidence in Sanborn insurance maps: [<http://libproxy.uncg.edu:2048/login?url=http://sanborn.umi.com>; enter your university ID at this webpage in order to gain access to the digital Sanborn map collection.] Include appropriate photos and illustrations of the particular landscape that is the subject of your essay. Due 1 November.

15 September Early Republic: Architecture and National Identity

Read:

Roth, Ch. 4. A New Architecture for a New Nation, 1785-1820: Searching for Symbols of
Democracy

McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 176-437.

20 September Early Republic: Vernacular Gentility

Read:

Chappell, Edward A. "Housing a Nation: The Transformation of Living Standards in Early America." In Cary Carson, Ronald Hoffman, and Peter J. Albert, eds. *Of Consuming Interests: The Style of Life in the Eighteenth Century*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1994.

22 September Early Republic: Regional Perspective

Read:

Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. [pp. 1-43]

27 September Early Republic: Regional Perspective

Read:

Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. [44-123]

29 September Antebellum

Read:

Roth, Ch. 5. Appropriation and Innovation, 1820-1865: Images of the Past, Visions of the Future

4 October Style vs. Form in the Market Economy

Read:

Southern, Michael. "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont." In *Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape*. Edited by Doug Swaim. North Carolina State University, 1978.

In *Common Places*:

Vlach, John Michael. "The Shotgun House: An African Architectural Legacy," pp. 58-78.

Bishir, Catherine W. "Jacob Holt: An American Builder," pp. 447-481.

6 October Urban Landscapes

Read:

Shaw Diane. *City Building on the Eastern Frontier: Sorting the New Nineteenth Century City*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004. [pp. 1-63]

Brucken, Carolyn. "In the Public Eye: Women and the American Luxury Hotel." *Winterthur Portfolio* 31 (1996): 203-220. [JSTOR]

11 October **Fall Break**

13 October **Methodology Assessment due**

18 October **Urban Landscapes**

Read:

Shaw Diane. *City Building on the Eastern Frontier: Sorting the New Nineteenth Century City*.
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004. [pp. 64-156]

In *Common Places*:

Borchert, James. "Alley Landscapes of Washington," pp. 281-291.

20 October **Architecture of the Gilded Age**

Read:

Roth, Ch. 6. Architecture in the Age of Energy and Enterprise, 1865-1885: Parvenu Taste in an
Expanding Economy

25 October **Multifamily Housing and Industrial Landscapes**

Read:

Heath, Kingston Wm. *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England
Industrial Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001. [pp. 1-118]

27 October **Multifamily Housing and Industrial Landscapes**

Read:

Heath, Kingston Wm. *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England
Industrial Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001. [119-186]

1 November **Unit 2 Case Study due by 5:00 p.m.**

Unit 3: Twentieth-Century United States

Use assigned readings to evaluate one of the following landscapes in historical context: (a.) compare and contrast suburban design of Sunset Hills and Starmount; or (b.) compare and contrast downtown Elm St. commercial district and Lawndale Shopping Center. I recommend that you consult Marvin A. Brown, *Greensboro: An Architectural Record*. Preservation Greensboro, 1995 (on reserve in Jackson Library). You should also consult evidence in Sanborn insurance maps: [<http://libproxy.uncg.edu:2048/login?url=http://sanborn.umi.com>; enter your university ID at this webpage in order to gain access to the digital Sanborn map collection.] Include appropriate photos and illustrations of the particular landscape that is the subject of your essay. Due 1 December.

3 November Redefining the Single Family House

Read:

Roth, Ch. 7. The Architecture of the American City and Suburb, 1885-1915: The Search for Order
McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 438-500.

8 November Bungalows and Beyond

Read:

Doucet, Michael J., and John C. Weaver. "Material Culture and the North American House: The Era of the Common Man, 1870-1920." *The Journal of American History* 72 (December 1985): 560-587. [JSTOR]

10 November Inventing the Commercial Strip

Read:

Roth, Ch. 8. Nostalgia and the Avant-Garde, 1915-1940: Architecture for a New Century
In *Common Places*:
Rubin, Barbara. "Aesthetic Ideology and Urban Design," pp. 482-508.

15 November Suburbanization—Nineteenth Century Revisited

Read:

Hayden, Dolores. *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000*. New York: Pantheon, 2003. [pp. 1-96]

17 November Suburbanization—Twentieth Century

Read:

Hayden, Dolores. *Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000*. New York: Pantheon, 2003. [pp. 97-248]

22 November **Modernism**

Read:

Roth, Ch. 9. The Emergence of Modernism, 1940-1973: Social Agenda or the Latest Aesthetic?

24 November **Thanksgiving Holiday**

29 November **Beyond Modernism**

Read:

Roth, Ch. 10. Responses to Modernism, 1973-2000: Modernism and Its Discontents.

1 December **Unit 3 Case Study due**