

Places and Spaces

Finding Meaning through our Spatial Narrative

ARC1101

UF Quest 1 – Nature and Culture

General Education – (H) Humanities, (N) International

Summer 2025

Days: MW2 Lectures and TR2 or TR3 Discussions

Location: CSE A101 for Lectures + RNK 210, RNK 215 or RNK 220 for Discussions
(see ONE.UF for yours)

Credits: 3

Website: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/534193>

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Course Description

Places and Spaces examines the manner in which humankind has shaped its world while framing particular relationships with Nature. Drawing on the Western Canon, this course asks: what does it mean to make a mark upon the land? What does it mean to *dwelt*? What forces drive the shaping of the constructed world, and what do the Places we inhabit mean to us?

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.

Quest and General Education Credit

- Quest 1
- Humanities (H)
- International (N)

This course accomplishes the [Quest](#) and [General Education](#) objectives of the subject areas listed above. A minimum grade of C is required for Quest and General Education credit. Courses intended to satisfy Quest and General Education requirements cannot be taken S-U.

Required Readings and Works

All required material is provided in Canvas course site.

II. Graded Work

Description of Graded Work

Assignment	Assignment Description	General Education SLOs Met	Quest 1 Humanities SLO Met	Grade
Final Essay	In a series of short responses, address the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Place dear to you 2. A Space at UF with meaning for you 3. An important Place you've read/heard about that has meaning for you 	<i>Communication, Content, Critical Thinking (Analyze and Connect)</i>	Develop and present clear and effective questions and responses to essential questions	200
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

Grading Scale

For information on how UF assigns grade points, visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

A	94 – 100%		C	74 – 76%
A-	90 – 93%		C-	70 – 73%
B+	87 – 89%		D+	67 – 69%
B	84 – 86%		D	64 – 66%
B-	80 – 83%		D-	60 – 63%
C+	77 – 79%		E	<60

III. Annotated Weekly Schedule

Schedule	Description	Summary	Course Readings
Week One			
June 30 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> DBP1 Due
July 1 Discussion			
July 2 Lecture	What is Place? What is Art, Architecture, Beauty 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.	Gaston Bachelard, <i>Poetics of Space</i> , 3-37 Christian Norberg-Schulz, <i>Place</i> , 228-231 DBP2 Due
July 3 Discussion	Independence Day		
Week Two			
July 7 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.	Robert L. Vickery, <i>Sharing Arch.</i> , 1-46 Peggy Carr presentation on Plaza of the Americas The Music Behind UF's Century Tower

			DBP3 Due
July 8	Discussion		
July 9	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, Anchoring, 1-8</p> <p>Steven Holl, Phenomena and Idea, 1-9</p> <p>Objectified Documentary</p> <p>DBP4 Due</p>
July 10	Discussion		
Week Three			
July 14	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, Towards a New Architecture</p> <p>(introduction, Regulating Lines 65-85, Architecture or Revolution 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 15	Discussion		
July 16	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 17	Discussion		
Week Four			
July 21	Lecture	Space that Knows Time	<p>Some <i>Places</i> around the world have a timeless quality to them, but can we explain why that is? Can recently constructed <i>Spaces</i> possess such a quality, or is chronological duration essential?</p> <p>WG Clark, <i>Replacement</i>, 1-3</p> <p>Peter Zumthor, <i>A Way of Looking at Things</i></p> <p>DBP7 Due</p>

July 22	Discussion			
July 23	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) DBP8 Due
July 24	Discussion			
Week Five				
July 28	Midterm		Green/Bluebook Required	Midterm Examination DBP9 Due
July 29	Discussion			
July 30	Lecture	Sustainable Place		Aldo Leopold, A Sandy County Almanac "The Land Ethic." William McDonough, AIA, Cradle to Cradle Design – TED Talk The Story of Stuff Video DBP10 Due
July 31	Discussion		Discussions at Baughman Center	Final Essay Due
Week Six				
August 4	Lecture	Tribal Space and Place in Africa Living lightly on the Land	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.	Bernard Rudofsky, Architecture Without Architects: A Short Introduction to Non-Pedigreed Architecture In Celebration of African Vernacular Architecture African Architecture + Nigeria - 3 Architects African Design with Fractals - Guys, this is AMAZING! DBP11 Due

August 5 Discussion			
August 6 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 7 Discussion		Last Day of Semester	Sacred Space Project Due

IV. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

This, like other Quest courses, aims not to survey or introduce topics but instead to actively engage essential questions of what it means to be human and humane, to be alive today and dwell with others on this one Earth of ours. Students are tasked at answering with their own voice these essential questions about shelter, settlement, and experiential impacts of space and place. Core knowledge gained by students includes the ability to identify, describe, and explain the design process, the different design determinants shaping the built environment, important spaces around the world and their role in culture as well as the philosophical positions and movements that have helped change the way humans have shaped their world.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the [Quest](#) and [General Education](#) learning outcomes as follows:

Content: *Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline(s).*

- Identify, describe, and explain the 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. **(Quest 1, H, N).**

Assessments: Discussion Board Posts, Midterm Examination, Analytic Essay

- Identify, describe, and explain the theoretical and philosophical movements associated with architecture and design, and how they have transformed the discipline internationally over time. **(Quest 1, H, N).**

Assessments: Discussion Board Posts, Midterm Examination, Analytic Essay

Critical Thinking: *Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the discipline(s).*

- Critically analyze and contrast between different place-making responses to the needs of humanity throughout history and across world cultures, and identify, describe, and explain the effect of and to socio-economic, political, religious, cultural, geographic contexts. **(Quest 1, H, N).**
Assessments: Discussion Board Posts, Midterm Examination, Analytic Essay
- Critically evaluate philosophical positions and contributions of key architects and designers throughout history. **(Quest 1, H, N).**
Assessments: Discussion Board Posts, Midterm Examination, Analytic Essay

Communication: *Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline(s).*

- Prepare and present in writing analyzed components of placemaking theory and space-making traditions as related to a specific cultural situation. **(Quest 1, H).**
Assessments: Midterm Examination, Analytic Essay

Connection: *Students connect course content with meaningful critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond.*

- Identify, describe, and explain prevalent architectural concepts of placemaking in shaping their personal world, and connect the concept of sacred space to their own lives. **(Quest 1).** **Assessments:** Discussion Board Posts, Sacred Space Project

V. Quest Learning Experiences

1. Details of Experiential Learning Component

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.

2. Details of Self-Reflection Component

It is essential for this Quest 1 course to relate to the life experiences of the student. Through reflective writing in the form of weekly Discussion Board Posts, you are asked to directly relate course material to your lived experience. This allows for each student to contextualize the course material in a meaningful way and utilize lessons in daily situations. The final Sacred Space Project requires students to consider a meaningful spatial experience in their lives and create a Sacred Structure map as introduced and illustrated in the course. It is the aim of this project that students are able to both quantify and qualify a meaningful Place from their own lived experience using vocabulary and learned methods from the course.

VI. Required Policies

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Student assessment of instruction is an important part of efforts to improve teaching and learning. At the end of the semester, students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course using a standard set of university and college criteria. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which 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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

It is assumed that you will complete all work independently in each course unless the instructor provides explicit permission for you to collaborate on course tasks (e.g. assignments, papers, quizzes, exams). It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For more information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see: <https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>

Artificial Intelligence

Society faces a new paradigm with Artificial Intelligence (AI). It as an intellectual accessory and learning tool offers immense computational power. Like any tool, for it to be useful it must be used correctly. AI

also creates a rather cumbersome obstacle in higher education where individual and collective knowledge is developed and assessed – but AI presents what many deem a *shortcut* to learning. Like many shortcuts, it often leads over a cliff. In this course, we will actively and strategically engage AI at **specific times** – it would be shortsighted to simply ignore AI and hope it goes away. However, any use of AI as a generative tool at any other point in the semester (i.e. DBPs, Essay, Exams) will be deemed an Honor Offense and referred to the Dean of Students Office (see paragraph above).

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.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

VII. Rubrics

Analytic Essay Rubric

Criteria	Ratings					
Content: Identification, description, and explanation of material in support of main claim/warrant	75 to >65.0 pts Excellent - Very Good A complete or nearly complete identification and explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	65 to >59.0 pts Good A thorough identification and detailed explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	59 to >53.0 pts Satisfactory A basic identification and explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	53 to >44.0 pts Incomplete A partial identification and explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	44 to >0 pts Unsatisfactory An incorrect identification and explanation of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	75 pts
Critical Thinking: Analysis of evidence in support of main claim/warrant	75 to >66.6 pts Excellent - Very Good A complete or nearly complete analysis of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	66.6 to >58.8 pts Good A thorough and detailed analysis of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	58.8 to >53.4 pts Satisfactory A basic analysis of content course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	53.4 to >44.4 pts Incomplete A partial analysis of content course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	44.4 to >0 pts Unsatisfactory An incorrect analysis of course content in support of the main claim/warrant.	75 pts
Communication: Clarity of writing.	25 to >22.0 pts Excellent - Very Good The paper is easy to follow, it is well organized, and the reader can understand the individual sentences and paragraphs without having to re-read them.	22 to >19.0 pts Good The paper is for the most part understandable and well organized, but a couple of sentences are confusing and difficult for the reader to understand.	19 to >17.0 pts Satisfactory The paper is understandable, but there are some points when it is difficult to follow the author's argument.	17 to >14.0 pts Incomplete The paper is difficult to follow, the argument is disorganized and confusing, and many sentences are difficult to understand.	14 to >0 pts Unsatisfactory The paper is very difficult to understand. The argument is presented in a manner that makes it very difficult for the reader to follow or the sentences are incomplete, disjointed, and/or confusing. Even after several readings, the argument of the paper remains unclear.	25 pts
Communication: Grammar, Spelling	20 to >18.0 pts Outstanding Without any grammatical, syntactical, or spelling errors.	18 to >17.0 pts Very Good With only one or two spelling or grammatical errors	17 to >15.0 pts Good Only a few minor grammatical and spelling errors.	15 to >14.0 pts Satisfactory Either many minor errors or a few serious errors.	11 to >0 pts Unsatisfactory Excessive number of serious grammatical and syntactical errors (e.g. fragmented sentences, missing subjects, missing verbs, etc.).	20 pts
Communication: Format, Citations	5 to >4.0 pts Consistent and with no more than 1 or 2 minor errors	4 to >3.0 pts Some minor inconsistencies but according to guidelines	3 to >2 pts Inaccurate use of guidelines	2 to >1 pts Incorrect and inaccurate use of guidelines	1 to >0 pts No citations	5 pts
TOTAL POINTS						200