

## Canadian Cultural Landscapes HIST 3210/CANA 3020/GEOG 3020

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00-11:30  
Room 1130, McCain Arts & Social Sciences Building

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### Course Description

From the mysterious ruins of L'Anse aux Meadows to the idyllic "Lake of Shining Waters," from fur trade posts "asleep by a frozen sea" to the open range of rancher's prairie -- Canada includes countless fascinating landscapes within its borders. This course takes us across the country as we explore the origins of a characteristic or signature landscape in each province. In each place, encounters with a particular kind of geography gave rise to a distinctively regional history; but at the same time, each landscape plays a role in the national narrative. We'll see how Canadians have understood and used nature since the fifteenth century, and how wildly different environments have been folded into national borders.

### Texts

1. Alan MacEachern and W.J. Turkel, eds., *Method and Meaning in Canadian Environmental History* (Thomson Nelson, 2008). Available at the university bookstore.
2. Course readings on BLS.

### Evaluation

Class Attendance and Participation	25%
Reading Responses	10%
Field Trip Assignment	15%
Place Biography	20%
Final Exam (in exam period)	30%

### Class Participation 25%

Participation is essential, as we discuss how the week's readings contribute to our understanding of different places. This mark will reflect equally your attendance and your contribution *based on your analysis of the readings*. Generally, lectures will be on Tuesdays, discussions on Thursdays.

Occasionally, you will be asked to submit a short reflection on the week's readings (10%). The element of surprise here is deliberate, if somewhat evil. These will only be accepted in class.

## **“Field Trip” Assignment**

15% Due in class February 2

For a small province, Nova Scotia encompasses a variety of diverse ecosystems – and human communities that have evolved to exist with or exploit them. Imagine you are in charge of organizing an excursion for visitors interested in the environment: where should they go, and what should they see, in order to understand the environmental history of the province? It might be the agricultural district of the Annapolis Valley, the tides of Fundy, the coal districts of Pictou and Cape Breton, the fishing communities of the eastern shore, the forests of the interior, the highlands...

But wherever you choose, it's best to think of a particular place, as a focus and destination, and then the larger environment and the human history (ie. the cultural landscape) which it represents.

The trip is one that would take 2 days to complete (including travel time – this means anywhere in Nova Scotia, from Yarmouth to Neil's Harbour, is fair game).

This assignment requires:

- a three-page description of the trip: where we would go, what we would see, and what we would learn from this or why it is relevant.
- a map of the trip.
- 1-2 appropriate background readings.

## **Place Biography**

20% Due in class March 9

*Each of us harbours [...] within ourselves the image of ecosystems where the main events of our family, love, professional, social and economic lives have unfolded.*

- Pierre Dansereau

What is that image for you? What is your “signature” landscape? Is it real (a place you lived or visited) or imagined (you have seen or read about)? It is prosaic or idealized? Singular or complex? Write a short (5 pages) piece that:

- briefly describes the physical and cultural features of the place
- explains why it should be characterized as a “cultural landscape” and places it in the context of Canadian environmental history
- uses *three* scholarly sources, from the “America History and Life” database and/or the Novanet catalogue
- and includes an image (artistic, documentary, commercial) that reflects the spirit of the place.

### **Points of Information**

- Late papers will be penalized. The penalty is 5% the first day, 1% each day thereafter, including weekends. It is advisable to keep copies of your assignments (electronic/paper).

- Read the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty in the Undergraduate Calendar at <http://registrar.dal.ca/calendar/ug/UREG.htm#12>. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. Academic Integrity is taken very seriously.

- Students with disabilities should register as quickly as possible at Student Accessibility Services if they want to receive academic accommodations. To do so please phone 494-2836, e-mail <[disabilities@dal.ca](mailto:disabilities@dal.ca)>, or drop in at the Killam, G28.

#### **- Flu Advisory:**

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to authorize Academic Units to change elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in course syllabi. Any change is intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff.

Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on students' academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations.

Changes may include but are not limited to:

- Adjustment to course assignments;
- Changes to the dates of exams;
- Arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected by H1N1 influenza virus;
- Adjustment to work terms;
- Modification of marks awarded for participation;
- Adjustment to attendance policies.

Any changes made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

Please see [http://flu.dal.ca/facultystaff/Pandemic\\_Advisory.php](http://flu.dal.ca/facultystaff/Pandemic_Advisory.php)

## Course Schedule and Readings

### **1. Ideas of Landscape (January 5-7)**

#### *Method and Meaning*

1. Alan MacEachern, "An Introduction, in Theory and Practice"
2. Donald Worster, "Ice, Worms, and Dirt: The Power of Nature in North American History"

### **2. The North: Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes (January 12-14)**

#### *Method and Meaning*

1. Lyle Dick, "People and Animals in the Arctic: Mediating Between Indigenous and Western Knowledge"

#### *BLS*

2. David Neufeld, "People of the River: The Athabaskan Conceptions of the Yukon River" (2003)
3. Beatrice Collignon, "Inuit Place Names and Sense of Place," in *Critical Inuit Studies: An Anthology of Contemporary Arctic Ethnography*, eds. Stern and Stevenson (University of Nebraska Press, 2006) p. 187-205.

### **3. Newfoundland: Exploration and the Fishing Reaches (January 19-21)**

#### *Method and Meaning*

1. Peter Pope, "Historical Archaeology and the Maritime Cultural Landscape of the Atlantic Fishery"

#### *BLS*

2. Jeffrey W. Bolster, "Putting the Ocean in Atlantic History: Maritime Communities and Marine Ecology in the Northwest Atlantic, 1500-1800," *American Historical Review* 2008 113(1): 19-47.

### **4. Quebec: Spires of Notre Dame - The Architecture of New France (January 26-28)**

#### *BLS*

1. Colin Coates, "Seigneurial Landscapes," in *The Metamorphoses of Landscape and Community in Early Quebec* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2000).  
[Also available as electronic book through Novanet]

2. Luc Noppen and Lucie K. Morisset, "The Architecture of Old Quebec, or the history of a palimpsest," *Material History Review* 1999 (50): 11-25.

3. Marcel Moussette, "The site of the Intendant's palace in Quebec City: The changing meaning of an urban space," *Historical Archaeology* 1996 30(2): 8-21.

## **5. Nova Scotia: Stone Fortresses and Imperial Wars (February 2-4)**

*BLS*

1. Jeffers Lennox, "An Empire on Paper: The Founding of Halifax and Conceptions of Imperial Space, 1744-55," *Canadian Historical Review* 2007 88(3): 373-412.

2. A.J.B. Johnston, "Fortress, Seaport, Community: Three Faces of 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Louisbourg," *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society* 2004 (7): 82-101.

## **6. New Brunswick: Inhabiting a Loyalist Landscape (February 9-11)**

*Method and Meaning*

1. Liza Piper, "Colloquial Meteorology"

*BLS*

2. Graeme Wynn, "'Deplorably dark and demoralized lumberers'? Rhetoric and reality in early nineteenth-century New Brunswick," *Journal of Forest History* 1980 24(4): 168-187.

## **7. Manitoba: Rivalry on the Rivers - The Fur Trade (February 16-18)**

*Method and Meaning*

1. Carolyn Podruchny, "Writing, Ritual, and Folklore: Imagining the Cultural Geography of Voyageurs"

*BLS*

2. Stuart Houston, Tim Ball, and Mary Houston, Chapter 11, "Climatology," *Eighteenth-Century Naturalists of Hudson Bay* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003), pp. 113-134  
[Also available as electronic book through Novanet]

3. Paul Kane, *Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America* (1859) Chapter VIII

## **Study Break, February 22-26**

## **8. Saskatchewan: Wheat Fields and the Triumph of Geometry (March 2-4)**

### *Method and Meaning*

1. John F. Varty, "Trust in Bread and Bologna: Promoting Prairie Wheat in the Twentieth Century"

### *BLS*

2. Peter A. Russell, "Subsistence, diversification, and staple orientations on Saskatchewan farms: Parklands vs. prairie, 1911-1926," *Saskatchewan History* 2005 57(2): 15-28.

3. Joan M. Schwartz, "More than 'Competent description of an intractably empty landscape': A strategy for critical engagement with historical photographs," *Historical Geography* 2003 31: 105-130.

## **9. Alberta: "1000 Switzerlands" in the Rocky Mountain National Parks (March 9-11)**

### *Method and Meaning*

1. Alan MacEachern, "Lost in Shipping: Canadian National Parks and the International Donation of Wildlife"

### *BLS*

2. C.J. Taylor, "The Changing Habitat of Jasper Tourism," in *Culturing Wilderness in Jasper National Park*, ed. I.S. MacLaren (University of Alberta Press, 2007) p.199-232.

## **10. Prince Edward Island: Green Gables and Rural Idylls (March 16-18)**

### *BLS*

1. James de Jonge, "Through the Eyes of Memory: L.M. Montgomery's Cavendish," *Making Avonlea: L.M. Montgomery and Popular Culture*, ed. Irene Gammel (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002) pp. 252-267.

2. L.M. Montgomery, Chapters 13-17 and 34, *Jane of Lantern Hill* (McClelland & Stewart, 1937).

## **11. British Columbia: Chinatowns and Urban Neighbourhoods (March 23-25)**

### *BLS*

1. Paul Yee, "Vancouver: On the Edge," in *Chinatown* (James Lorimer, 2005) p.39-52.  
[Also available as electronic book through Novanet, as pp.41-54]

2. Brian K. Ray et al, "The changing 'face' of the suburbs: Issues of ethnicity and residential change in suburban Vancouver," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 1997 21(1): 75-99.

## **12. Ontario: Cottage Country and the Wilderness Myth (March 30-April 1)**

### *Method and Meaning*

1. Colin M. Coates, "Seeing and Not Seeing: Landscape Art as a Historical Source"

### *BLS*

2. Sharon Wall, "Totem poles, teepees, and token traditions: 'Playing Indian' at Ontario Summer Camps, 1920-1955," *Canadian Historical Review* 2005 86(3): 513-544.

3. Peter A. Stevens, "Cars and cottages: the automotive transformation of Ontario's summer home tradition," *Ontario History* 2008 100 (1): 26-56.

## **13. Class Review (April 6-8)**