

## *Heritage Resource Studies and The Landscape (a sample syllabus)*

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### ***Philosophy:***

The American Landscape is an ever-changing place. As those charged with preserving and interpreting the world around us, HRS professionals must be prepared to deal with a changing, vernacular landscape. Therefore, this course will be an introduction to the study of American landscape history from its colonial beginnings to the present day, emphasizing the historic and contemporary forces that have shaped the landscape. Students will also learn to recognize and acknowledge the impact of the landscape on individuals and American society. We will also explore, albeit briefly, the preservation of vernacular landscapes. Instead of using a lecture format, this course will focus on readings and discussion sessions. The atmosphere of the class will be relaxed, in the manner of a book discussion group, in order to encourage students to participate in class and to explore various viewpoints.

### ***Required Readings: (available in the bookstore)***

Mitchell, John Hanson. *Ceremonial Time*

Francaviglia, Richard V. *Main Street Revisited*.

Stilgoe, John. *Outside Lies Magic*.

Stilgoe, John. *Metropolitan Corridor*.

Favretti, Rudy J. *Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings*. (photocopied sections)

Selected photocopies from *Landscape* magazine and from National Park Service.

### ***Assignments:***

This course will be graded on three areas:

1. Participation. I feel that participation on the class is essential. Each student will be responsible for leading class discussion each week by preparing ten questions for the class. Class discussions and preparation for class will account for 20 percent of the grade.
2. Book reviews: Each student will be required to turn in a book review for each of the books. Articles will not require review. This will account for 10 percent per book, or 50 percent of your grade.
3. Final paper: A final research paper of approximately 15 pages will be required. This will include a bibliography. Topics will be selected in class and will pertain to the development of American landscape or its preservation. This will account for 30 percent of your grade.

**Schedule of class:**

September	
1	Introduction: pass out syllabus, discuss class, and assign dates of class discussions. Discuss what landscape is and what it means to HRS.
8	Read <i>Outside Lies Magic</i> . Book review due.
15	Read <i>Ceremonial Time</i> . Book review due.
22	Trip to Mount Hope Farm and Haffenreffer Museum to examine landscape and discuss the development over time.
29	Read first half of <i>Main Street Revisited</i> . Visit to Bristol's downtown.
October	
6	Read second half of <i>Main Street Revisited</i> . Book review due. Discuss development of Route 136 and sprawl.
13	Read <i>Metropolitan Corridor</i> . Discuss corridor idea and the industrial landscape.
20	Read second half of <i>Metropolitan Corridor</i> . Book review due. Discuss trip to Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor. Discuss vernacular landscape preservation.
23	Read National Park Service photocopies. Field Trip to Blackstone Valley National Heritage Corridor. Discuss vernacular landscape preservation.
27	No class. Release time for final project.
November	
3	Read <i>Landscape Preservation</i> . Book review due. Discuss preservation techniques for gardens and landscapes.
10	Read selected readings from <i>Landscape</i> magazine. Discuss the changing notion of what landscape is and how we perceive it.
17	Read photocopied readings from National Park Service. Discuss what HRS means to landscape preservation.
Thanksgiving	No class.
December	
1	No class. Release time for final project.
8	Final project due. Presentations of projects and discussion.
Final Exams	Class TBA.

**Paper Return Policy:**

All papers are kept on file in the instructor's office during the semester. On the day a paper is handed back, students will be given the opportunity to review their performance and ask questions. Students may also review papers by coming to the instructor's office during office hours.

**Computer Problems:**

When completing all assignments, students are expected to allow sufficient time for computer-related problems, including printing. However, every student in the course is allotted one (1), and only one, computer "freebie" for the semester with respect to late assignments. This "freebie" will be permitted, provided that the student notifies the instructor before class and turns the assignment in within 24 hours.