

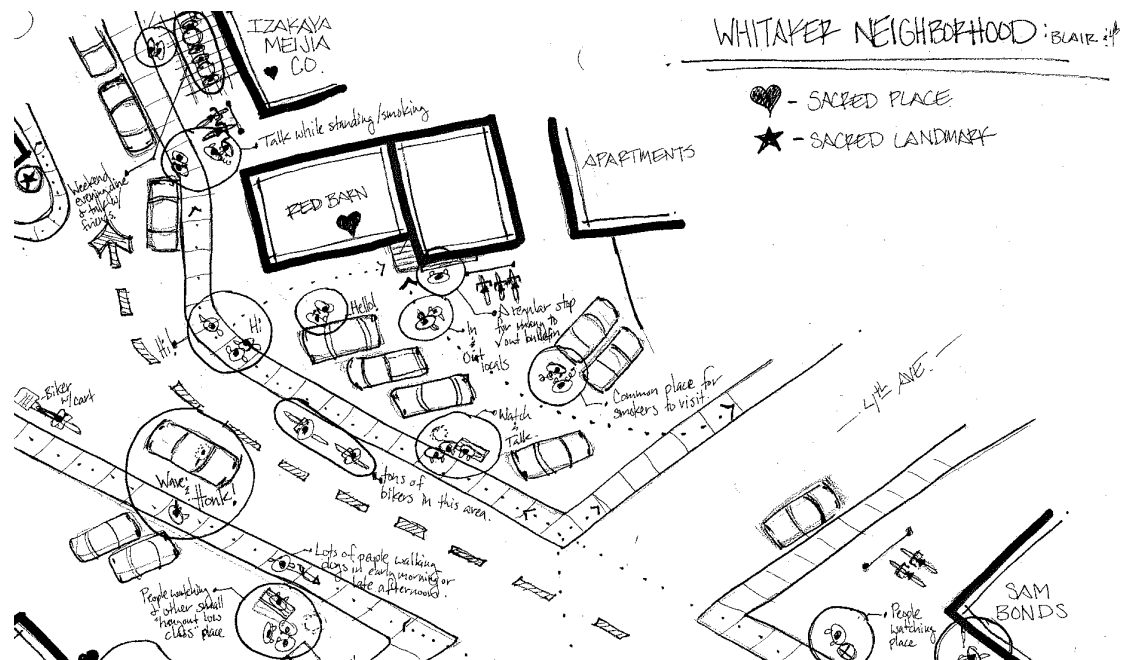
LA 4/510 SEMINAR: PLACE, IDENTITY AND THE LANDSCAPE

4 credits

Instructor: Dr. Deni Ruggeri

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:50pm – Room LA 222

CRNs 39793 & 39794



*Sacred Structure map of the Whitaker Neighborhood in Eugene –Ratana Soun and JoEllen Grandy*

**Course description**

This course is going to shed light on the complex relationship between people and the landscape(s) they inhabit. Place is a complex concept, and one whose dimensions are difficult to unpack. This course will give students an overview of the theories of place, place identity and place attachment, and expose them to methods that can help us understand the influence landscapes have on the establishment of our identities both as individuals and members of our communities.

Different fields define place and identity in ways that are often inconsistent. Environmental designers think of place identity mainly in terms of imageability and memorability; social psychologists are concerned with the aspects of identity that emerge from our membership in social groups and communities; anthropologists study place as a fabric of “material culture” whose embedded meanings are both socially and culturally constructed; psychologists think of identity mainly in terms of the self, each person’s understanding of what they are. In this class we will investigate place identity in all its facets and scales, according to a framework that considers identity as gestalt, which is more than the sum of the various dimensions of place.

The course is structured as a seminar, which will combine readings and discussions, lectures, student presentations, and a term-long project (either individual or in groups of two-three) consisting of an investigation of place identity in the context of a place chosen by the students. This investigation will lead to a final product (a paper, a visual essay, a short video, maps, a visual book, or a set of drawings) representing the identity of the selected places.

***The class is recommended to AAA students interested in urban design, environmental psychology, placemaking, cultural geography, identity, social capital, preservation and sense of place.***