

LA 333

Photography and Environmental Values

4:00– 5:50 pm TUTH MCK 229 CRN 16706 4 Credits

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office hours TBA LA 213

University of Oregon • Landscape Architecture • Fall 2015



Ansel Adams, Tetons and the Snake River, 1942, gelatin silver print, 16"x20".



Peter Goin, Helms Gravel Pit, Sparks, Nevada, 1990, chromogenic print, 16" X 20".

This course explores the major movements in Landscape Photography through the lens of cultural perceptions and policies about landscape and environment. From the Survey Photographers (1880-90's), Pictorialists and the Photo-Secession to the New Topographic (1970's) and Altered Landscape (1990's) photographers of the West, all express, reflect and reinforce values and perceptions about landscape, nature and environment.

The course will emphasize the interrelationship between cultural valuation of landscape/nature and how trends in the photographic representation of landscape reinforce, and at times produce these perceptions. The American West will serve as a case study, with landscape photographs from across North America, Asia and Europe contextualizing the discussion.

This course satisfies the Arts and Letters group because it presents issues of landscape representation and valuation from multiple disciplines and from multiple points of view. This course presents research and inquiry not only from landscape architecture and landscape studies, but also geography, environmental science, history, art, political science, American Studies and cultural studies. Students will engage in deeper inquiry of this subject through multiple methods including discussion, research, essays and making photographs.

Soon after the birth and early development of photography (mid to late 1800's), landscapes, especially the American West, were photographed to portray the sublime, different and fantastic. Like explorers in new terrains, photographers collected the extraordinary and different, bringing these photos home to share with an image hungry populace. These photographs shaped the way landscapes were perceived and valued at the time.

As resources become obviously depleted and human populations explode, ideas of stewardship and