

Syllabus
Spring 2020

LA 4/572 Coloniality and Countervisuality in Landscape *Theory and Representation*



Taller 4 Rojo I
América 73: La Lucha es larga, comencemos ya

Time MW | 10:00am - 11:20am

Location TBD

Credits 4

Instructor Zannah Matson
Department of Landscape Architecture
Lawrence Hall, Room 316 [Office Hours Tuesday 12:00pm-1:50pm]
zmatson@uoregon.edu

Course Description While there is no commonly prescribed definition of landscape, throughout its evolution the term has involved the relationship between land, its social uses, and its visual interpretations. In this course, the analysis of colonial visual materials provides an entry point into understanding how these constitutive elements of landscape are shaped by hegemonic ways of seeing. This course specifically engages with the visual influences of landscape and its inherent tension between observing and inhabiting. Visuality within the landscape tradition has been fundamentally linked to the projects of colonialism and modernity; subsequently, its legacy must be understood as a way that racial classification and limitations on belonging have been reinforced. The hegemonic power of visuality has worked to exclude bodies from particular landscapes, while denying racialized and gendered bodies the subjective personhood associated with positions of observation. These histories of visuality both underlay its role in landscape formation and must be made explicit to ensure the constitutive logics of coloniality are not replicated in contemporary landscape representation and theory. In contrast to the hegemonic reading of landscape, Nicholas Mirzoeff's conception of countervisuality provides a starting point for considering the powerful slippages within the colonial visual project, and that recognizing these ways of seeing can help construct landscapes of belonging.

LA 4/572 Coloniality and Countervisuality in Landscape *Theory and Representation*

Prerequisites	None.
Curricular Context	This class is an elective open to all students.
Learning Objectives	<p>The content and evaluation for this course has been assembled and designed with the following learning objectives in mind. If you feel as though you could be better supported to achieve these objectives, please contact the instructor to discuss accommodations that can be made in the course materials or classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To identify the colonial processes that have constructed dominant landscape representations.• To clarify the role that epistemologies of modernity and coloniality have played in reifying landscape typologies and cultural attitudes.• To deconstruct perceptions of regions and people that are rooted within historical classification systems.• To critique the discourse of landscape theory that continues to perpetuate colonial interpretations of ecological and social relations.• To provide examples of countervisualities that have challenged dominant landscape representations.• To create forms of representation that continue to develop these practices of countervisuality.
Modes of Inquiry	This class will bring together several different modes of inquiry to achieve the learning objectives listed above. Students will engage in lectures, critical readings and written reflections individually, as well as group discussions of readings and lecture material. In addition to this content, students will engage in the critical analysis of visual materials, and for those in design programs, the production of visual materials. For those joining the course from other disciplines, written research and analyses of visual materials will form the basis of the individual inquiry and assignments produced for this class.
Class Format	Each week, there will be a lecture during the Monday meeting of class and a seminar-style discussion of readings or student presentation of in-progress work during the Wednesday meeting of class.