

History 9414B
Landscape and History: England from 1700

Professor Allyson N. May
Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30 pm
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This half-course examines both the forces which created the modern English landscape, from empire and agricultural revolution through urbanization and industrialization, and reactions to the changes themselves, which included a new appreciation of wilderness as well as the long-standing affection for pastoral, cultivated landscapes which continues to underpin definitions of 'Englishness' today. It exposes the way in which a rural landscape now celebrated as traditional was in fact the relatively recent product of radical and much-resented innovation, and explores responses to the new reality of a heavily populated industrial urban England. The dual emphasis throughout the course is on the intersection of man and nature and changing perceptions of their combined influence on the English landscape.

Grading scheme:	Book review (1500 words)	15 %
	General participation	25 %
	Introduction of readings	15 %
	Research paper (6000 words)	45 %

Seminar attendance is mandatory and does not in itself contribute towards the general participation mark. Students are expected to keep weekly reading notes; submission of these notes may be requested at the end of term.

Required texts:

Keith Thomas, *Man and the Natural World: Changing attitudes in England 1500–1800* (1983; London: Penguin, 1991)

Nicola Whyte, *Inhabiting the Landscape: Place, custom and memory 1500–1800* (London: Windgather Press, 2009)

- 1) Introduction: Man and the ‘Natural’ World
- 2) The eighteenth-century naturalist: Gilbert White
 Gilbert White, *The Natural History of Selborne* (1789; illustrated ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 2007; also available online)

 David Elliston Allen, *The Naturalist in Britain: A Social History* (London: Allen Lane, 1976)
- 3) Botany and empire: The gardens of England
 Thomas, chapter V
 Andrea Wulf, *The Brother Gardeners* (London: William Heinemann, 2008)
 Jenny Uglow, *A Little History of British Gardening* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2004)
 D.D.C. Chambers, *The Planters of the English Landscape Garden* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993)

 Philip Miller, *The Gardener's Dictionary containing the Methods of Cultivating and Improving the Kitchen Fruit and Flower Garden* (1731; various revised editions available online)
- 4) ‘Capability for improvement’: The 18th c landscape gardeners
 Dorothy Stroud, *Capability Brown* (London: Faber & Faber, 1975)
 Stephen Daniels, *Humphry Repton: Landscape gardening and the geography of Georgian England* (New Haven: Yale University Press, c1999)
 Tom Williamson, *Polite Landscapes: Gardens and society in eighteenth-century England* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, c1995)
- 5) Hedgerows and the closure of the landscape
 Whyte, chapters 4 and 5
 M. Overton, *Agricultural Revolution in England 1500–1850* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
 G.E. Mingay, *Parliamentary Enclosure in England: An Introduction to its causes, incidence and impact, 1750–1850* (Harlow, Essex: Longman, 1997)
 J.M. Neeson, *Commoners: Common right, enclosure and social change in England, 1700–1820* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993)

 John Clare, ‘The Mores’ and ‘The Fallen Elm’
- 6) ‘Bewailing the rural past’: William Cobden’s *Rural Rides*
Rural rides in the counties of Surrey, Kent, Sussex, Hants, Berks, Oxford, Bucks, Wilts, Somerset : Gloucester, Hereford, Salop, Worcester, Stafford, Leicester, Hertford, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Nottingham, Lincoln, York, Lancaster, Durham, and Northumberland, in the years 1821, 1822, 1823, 1825, 1826, 1829, 1830, and 1832: with economical and political observations relative to matters applicable to, and illustrated by, the state of those counties respectively (London: J.M. Dent, [1957–66]; also available online in various editions)
- 7) Cities and suburbia
 Tristram Hunt, *Building Jerusalem: The rise and fall of the Victorian city* (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 2004)

R.J. Morris and Richard Roger, eds., *The Victorian City: A reader in British urban history, 1820–1914* (London: Longman, 1993)

H.J. Dyos and Michael Wolff, eds., *The Victorian City: Images and realities* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1973)

8) The railway revolution

Lesley James, *A Chronology of the Construction of Britain's Railways, 1778–1855* (London: Ian Allan, 1983)

Michael J. Freeman, *Railways and the Victorian Imagination* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999)

David Turnock, *Railways in the British Isles: Landscape, land use and society* (London: A. & C. Black, 1982)

9) 'England is no longer what it was'

Thomas, chapter VI

Edward Thomas, *The South Country* (1909; Dorset: Little Toller Press, 2009)

George Bourne, *Change in the Village* (London: Duckworth, 1912)

E.W. Bovill, *English Country Life 1780–1830* (London: Oxford University Press, 1962)

G.E. Mingay, *A Social History of the English Countryside* (London: Routledge, 1990)

10) 'Must England's Beauty Perish?': G.M. Trevelyan and the countryside

G.M. Trevelyan, *English Social History: A survey of six centuries, Chancer to Queen Victoria* (London: Longmans, Green, 1943)

G.M. Trevelyan, *Must England's Beauty Perish: A Plea on Behalf of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty* (London: Faber & Gwyer, [1929])

David Cannadine, *G.M. Trevelyan: A Life in History* (London: HarperCollins, 1992)

11) Steeple-chasing: England's Christian landscape

Whyte, chapter 2

John Betjeman with Paul Hogarth, *In praise of churches* (London: John Murray, 1996)

Basil Fulford Lowther Clarke, *English Churches* (London: Vista, 1964)

Richard Morris, *Churches in the Landscape* (London: Phoenix, 1990)

John Harvey, *The English Cathedrals* (London: Batsford, 1950)

Gerald Cobb, *English cathedrals, the forgotten centuries: restoration and change from 1530 to the present day* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1980)

Philip Larkin, 'Church Going'

12) Naturalists and New Romantics?

Jacquetta Hawkes, *A Land* (1951; London: Collins, 2012)

Roger Deakin, *Wildwood: A Journey Through Trees* (London: Hamish Hamilton, 2007)

Roger Deakin, *Notes from Walnut Tree Farm* (London: Penguin, 2009)

Robert Macfarlane, *The Wild Places* (London: Granta, 2007)

Robert Macfarlane, *The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot* (London: Hamish Hamilton, 2012)