

winter 2026 TTh 11:30AM -2:20PM
Gould Hall 322

uw department of landscape architecture

OPEN TO ALL! A&H (Arts & Humanities), SSc (Social Sciences) and optional writing credit (W)

larch 353 | larch 553 history of modern landscape architecture

LAND | SCAPE HISTORIES LAB

public spaces, personal stories, shifting grounds

Land | Scape Histories Lab explores **landscape sites, systems, and symbols in landscape architecture history** from the early 19th century until the present moment. The course stresses the critical relevance of outdoor environments and the **intersections of people and place in design history with current practices, experiences, and ecologies**. Together we will interrogate

historic narratives about land and landscape across diverse disciplines and vital frameworks: **land and ownership**; memory and representation; **creativity and community**; labor and production; **accessibility and identity**; materiality and technological innovation; **climate disruption and social change**; and issues of race, class, and gender. We will examine both familiar and new landscapes, while re-centering neglected geographies and marginalized voices in historic designed, vernacular, and ethnographic landscapes. Through creative hands-on “lab” exercises, diverse media, and collaborative processes, we will critically examine the **writing, production, and performance of landscape and its histories**.

INSTRUCTOR | ADD CODES Elizabeth Umbanhowar at umbanhow@uw.edu

UNDERGRADUATE SLN SLN 16247

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS SLN 16248

GRADUATE SLN 16261

*“Landscapes are not just backdrops to human action;
people make them and are made by them...
Landscapes are thus always evolving and are often
volatile and contested.”*

~ Barbara Bender and Margot Winer *Contested Landscapes: Movement, Exile and Place* 2001

Webster and Stevens, photograph of Denny Regrade in Seattle, Washington, labeled “3rd Ave looking south from Battery” 1910 **SOURCE** Seattle Municipal Archives

3rd. Ave. looking South from Battery