

## 070.376 – Social Ecology

*A community-based learning course in partnership with the Friends of Stony Run (FSR) in Baltimore, and the Center for Social Concern (CSC) at Johns Hopkins University*

Anand Pandian, 2019-20 CSC Faculty Fellow  
Department of Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University  
Fall 2019, Thursdays 1:30-3:50 PM, Mergenthaler 439

This course explores the social and cultural dimensions of the contemporary ecological crisis. We do so from the perspective of a small place on earth – the riparian landscape of the Wyman Park that adjoins our Homewood campus – and in partnership with the community organization that stewards this environment, Friends of Stony Run ([stonyrun.org](http://stonyrun.org)). As an effort in community-based learning, our work in the course will be guided by this partnership, and the practical needs of our collaborators. We aim to understand better what draws some people to this wilder tract, what keeps others away, and what this implies about human-environment relations in the city. We also attend to relationships between the Homewood community and the forest on its edge.

**Expectations** (and % of total grade). This class is a seminar; attendance and participation in all class sessions and field trips is required (10%). We will frequently leave the classroom for the park; be prepared for trail walking, rain, and other inclement weather. By the crack of dawn each Thursday morning, please post a paragraph reflecting on the week’s materials on the Blackboard discussion forum (20%). Our work in the class will center on the development of an interpretive strategy regarding the human history and experience of the Stony Run landscape. You are expected to spend time in the community and environment each week, working in teams to develop this project. You will keep a journal to make weekly notes on your activities, and to make narrative reflections on this experience (20%). Each team will assume responsibility for a different aspect of this project, to be planned in partnership with FSR and to be presented to the community at a public event in December (20%). You will be asked to write a short reflective paper on your experience of the project and collaboration (20%). FSR will be invited to evaluate the contribution to their work made by the class as a whole (10%). You are expected to work with academic and personal integrity, as the university requires, and to meet our ethical obligations to the human subjects of our research, as anthropology demands.

September 5

### **Introduction**

CSC, “An In-Depth Look at Community-Based Learning”  
[Field visit with FSR representatives, Wyman Park](#)

September 12

### **Social ecology**

Murray Bookchin, “What is Social Ecology?” – William Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness” – Anna Tsing, “More-Than-Human Sociality” – Kay Milton, “Ecologies: Anthropology, Culture, and the Environment” – Tim Ingold, “Culture, Nature, Environment”

September 19

### **Wyman Park**

William Marye, “Stony Run, Its Plantations, Farms, Country Seats and Mills” – Olmsted Brothers, *1904 Report Upon of the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore* – Kevin Loughran, “Urban Parks and Urban Problems” – Boone et al, “Parks and People” – David Holden and Tom McGilloway, “Wyman Park: A Fractured Legacy Update”  
Field visit with National Parks Service archeologist David Gadsby

September 26

### **Social life of urban parklands**

Setha Low et al, *Rethinking Urban Parks*, selections  
Presentation on community-based learning by Shawntay Stocks (CSC)

October 3

### **Watershed imagination**

Lawrence Buell, “Watershed Aesthetics” – Jacob Napieralski & Thomaz Carvalhaes, “Urban Stream Deserts” – Matthew Gandy, “Tracing the Los Angeles River” – Elmore & Kaushal, “Disappearing Headwaters”  
Van tour, Stony Run watershed

October 10

### **Strategies for cultural and natural interpretation**

Lisa Brownell, “Values in Place” – Woodward & Oswald, “Interpreting Cultural Landscapes in the North York Moors” – Clarke & Waterton, “A Journey to the Heart” – Kevin Markwell et al, “Footsteps and Memories”  
Field visit to Wyman Park and environs  
*Field journals due*

October 17

### **Wyman Park management plans, past and present**

Roland Park Community Foundation & Friends of Stony Run, *Upper Stony Run Strategic Plan* – Greater Homewood Community Corporation, *Wyman Park* – JHU Office of Community Affairs, “Greater Homewood Environmental Focus” – newspaper clippings, JHU and Wyman Park

October 24

### **Nature and aesthetic intervention**

Elissa Rosenberg, “Gilpin in the city: The Baltimore Stream Valley Parks”; Olmsted Brothers on Herring Run; Eric Holcomb, *The City as Suburb*, excerpts; Natasha Myers, “How to Grow Livable Worlds”  
Field visit to Herring Run and Function with artist Jordan Tierney  
*Field journals due*

October 31

### **Walking and movement as landscape interpretation**

Lekies and Whitworth, “Constructing the Nature Experience”; Fiannuala Morgan, “What Lies Beneath”; Tim Ingold, “Footprints through the Weather-World”

November 7

### **Green and community mapping**

Brenda Parker, “Constructing Community Through Maps?”; Chris Perkins, “Community Mapping”; Elwood and Mitchell, “Another Politics Is Possible”; Jeremy Kargon, “One City’s Urban Cosmography”

Workshop with Janet Felsten, Baltimore Green Maps

- November 14      **Digital interfaces for urban experience**  
Hjorth and Pink, “New Visualities and the Digital Wayfarer”; Bengs et al,  
“Designing for Suburban Social Inclusion”; Liao and Humphreys,  
“Layar-ed Places”; Forster and Metzger, “Time Window Weimar”
- November 21      **Signage, space, and nature interpretation**  
Jason Byrne “When Green is White”; Nate Gabriel, “The Work that Parks  
Do”; Campbell et al, “The Written Park”  
Workshop with Tom McGilloway, FSR and Mahan Rykiel  
*Field journals due*
- December 5        **Imagining ahead and beyond**  
Lee Maracle, “Water,” and Janine MacLeod, “Permeable Toronto: A  
Hydro-Eutopia,” from *Downstream: Reimagining Water*
- December 16      Public presentation of project ideas to Friends of Stony Run and  
community members, Café Azafran
- December 20      Reflective responses due