



HONR 1133 (H): Place-as-Text **Oklahoma State University**

Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. John Andrews

Time: MW 4:00 – 5:15

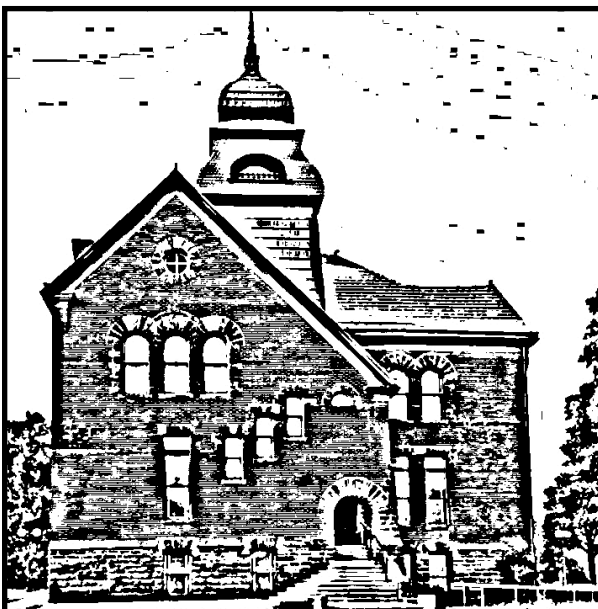
Location: Old Central 103

Office Hours: M 3 – 4, T 1:30–2:30 W 1 – 3, & appt.

Email: john.r.andrews@okstate.edu

Required Texts/Materials (all provided):

- Readings on Canvas
- EXPAT Folder



Course Description: Was there really a cow in the Old Central bell tower? How does the architecture on campus shape the game-day experience? What do statues, building names, and homecoming have to say to us today? Which traditions and legends ring true, which are simply myth, and who keeps them alive? Utilizing a Place-as-Text™ curriculum developed and taught by honors colleges and programs around the country this course will focus on reading and exploring Oklahoma State University as a text.

Counting as an honors seminar with a Humanities designation, This course will focus on OSU and explore life and culture through immersive, experience-based activities. Through numerous campus excursions and field trips, students will learn to observe closely, "read" what they encounter and experience, and independently analyze how cultural ideas create the real living conditions at OSU. This course is limited to first semester Honors students.

This course carries a General Education: Humanities (H) designation. What this means:

- It is appropriate for students of all majors and does not require prior knowledge or study of the subject matter.
- The course provides ample opportunities for analyzing and interpreting the ideas, aesthetics, and values that form and inform our society. Class assignments and meetings will focus on experiencing and analyzing the physical and cultural environments that make up our campus, and thinking through the way in which they represent and construct identities. For instance, we will explore the campus and consider the official and unofficial art displays there. Students will gather information and then analyze what kinds of narratives public art intends to create, and may inadvertently create, about a community. We will also consider the counter-narratives that unsanctioned art forms like graffiti can represent.
- We will read and discuss literature and archival material about Oklahoma State, and we will take into consideration the historical events that are crucial for understanding the present.
- During our excursions, students will practice observing closely, listening carefully, and navigating campus with confidence. This will require good communication skills and practical problem-solving abilities. Students will get to experience, understand, and develop respect for diverse people and perspectives as they diverse social and ethnic, and economic make-up of OSU.
- Students will have ample opportunity for critical thinking and writing in this course. Students will give group and individual presentations, and write three out-of-class essays. These assignments are designed to teach you to engage in cultural analysis while helping you sharpen your critical thinking and writing skills. You will receive feedback on your writing assignments.



Assignment Percentages:

EXPATs Excursions 15% (10 @ 1.5%)
Mapping Essay 5%
Observing Essay 30%
Listening Essay 30%
Reflection Essay 15%
Final Exam Presentation 5%

Grade Descriptions:

A – excellent, insightful work, commanding attention in its fulfillment of requirements.

B – work of good quality, intelligent, organized.

C – work of average quality that fulfills all of the requirements of the assignment in a satisfactory manner; may be characterized by oversimplification, repetition, underdevelopment, minor composition errors.

D – work of below average quality; may be characterized by illogical structure or inadequate development.

F – work that in some prominent way fails to fulfill the requirements of the assignment. Plagiarism earns an F.

Requirements and Assignments

EXPATS (10 Required @ 1.5% each – Total 15%):

During the semester we will lean into experiencing OSU the way an expatriate, living in a new country, would. We will map the terrain, look closely at our surroundings, listen to the people, and reflect on what this teaches us about the place we live through experiencing a place as a text (hence the name EXPAT). There will be a total of 12 EXPATs done in class. You will need to complete 10 of them for credit. On days we designate to our excursions I recommend wearing comfortable, weather appropriate, clothing and shoes as we will be exploring campus first hand.

Mapping Essay (5%):

Prior to getting too deep into exploring OSU, you'll critically think about your own process of mapping out a new place by writing a brief 2-page inquiry based essay on our early course readings, discussions, and your own expectations about OSU. Write about the questions you have or things you're most interested in exploring on campus (or what you aren't) and how you are orienting yourself in the first few weeks at OSU. This is exploratory writing; it should be clearly written but can be reflections on the course readings in the context of your own personal thoughts.

Observing Essay (30%):

For this essay you will critically observe a place or event here at Oklahoma State University and critically render a description of it considering its social/cultural importance to OSU. You'll consider things like artistic aesthetics, architecture, and layout to look closely at OSU in a 4-5 page paper.

Listening Essay (30%):

In this mode you'll need to listen carefully to the people of Oklahoma State University to gain insight into the lived experience of the people in the community. You'll again select a person or group of people and listen to what they have to say about life at OSU then critically render what you've heard into a 4-5 page paper.

Reflective Project (15%):

In this mode you'll reflect on what you've learned about OSU through your Place As Text research by synthesizing your experiences, discoveries, and further questions into your own guided EXPAT with the option to lead it for other honors students in the spring for our . This will involve selecting a place or event that we didn't explore through one of our class EXPATs and outline your very own EXPAT.

Final Presentation (5%):

For your final exam/presentation you will give an overview of the EXPAT you created. This will be short, 3 minute pitch of why your EXPAT is interesting, what you want people to get out of the experience, and why you believe it is relevant to life and culture at OSU.

Course Policies

Add/Drop Information

Classes begin 8/22. The nonrestrictive drop/add deadline is 8/29. The restrictive drop/add deadline is 9/2. The instructor must sign your add card, so give yourself sufficient time to find the instructor prior to the deadline; however, the instructor is not required to allow you late entry into the course, nor does his or her signature guarantee you a seat. The W drop/withdraw deadline is 11/11. The W/F withdraw deadline is 12/2. Class work ends 12/9. For more information, see the academic calendar on the Registrar's Website.

Student Accessibility Services

If you think you need special accommodations for this course, you should notify your instructor and request verification of eligibility for accommodations from the Office of Student Accessibility Services (155 UHS) as soon as possible. Accommodations cannot be made until the instructor receives a verification letter from the SAS office, and accommodations cannot be made retroactively for assignments already completed or absences already accrued. Call 405-744-7116 or go to accessibility.okstate.edu for further information.

Attendance

You are expected to be present every day class meets, and parts of your grade require in class work and participation. That being said, the attendance policy is designed to make sure that if you are ill you are able to remain at home without penalty. If you are required to participate in university sponsored activities (not including Greek life or student organizations) or military training, please be sure to provide appropriate documentation so that these absences do not count against you. Since this course meets only twice per week the attendance policy breaks down as such: 5 absences with no penalty; 6 absences will result in a 100-point deduction from the final grade. 7 absences will result in a 200-point deduction from the final grade; 8 Absences will result in failure of the course.

Late Work

Grades of work defined as "late" (coming in after established due date and time) will be reduced by 5% of the total points possible for the assignment each day it is late.

Electronics

Because this course will primarily draw on discussion, laptops and tablets are not necessary during class, but you may utilize them for note taking and reading if you choose. With this please be courteous of your fellow classmates when using electronic devices in the classroom so as to not disrupt or distract from other's learning. The instructor reserves the right to limit or bar the use of electronic devices if deemed necessary.

Plagiarism

According to University Policy, plagiarism is "presenting the written, published or creative work of another as the student's own work. Whenever the student uses wording, arguments, data, design, etc., belonging to someone else in a paper, report, oral presentation, or other assignment, the student must make this fact explicitly clear by correctly citing the appropriate references or sources. The student must fully indicate the extent to which any part or parts of the project are attributed to others. The student must also provide citations for paraphrased materials." Plagiarism can result in failure of the course or suspension from the University. For more information, see the policies listed at <http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu/>.

Course Calendar*

Date	Activities in Class	Read/Do Before/Bring to Class
8/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Course Introduction - Syllabus - PAT Methods 	
8/21	UNIT 1: Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EXPAT 1: Where's Pete Walk 	"Awe Walks"
8/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three Pillars of the Land Grant Mission - Mapping Essay Assigned 	"OSU Land Grant Mission"
8/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Buildings as Text - EXPAT 2: Old Central 	"Constructing The Building" Fisher 5-55
9/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NO CLASS Holiday 	
9/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mapping and Planning Campuses 	"Greatness Began With A Man and a Plan."
9/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EXPAT 3: Library Lawn 	Mapping Essay Due
9/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNIT 2: Observing 	"The Waldorf of Student Unions"
9/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EXPAT 4: Student Union 	"Students at Play" Fisher 125-152
9/18	-Transportation and Human Movement	
9/23		Read "Glue" By Dinah Con
9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EXPAT 5: Multimodal Transportation 	
9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EXPAT 5: Multimodal Transportation 	
10/2		"A Tale of Two Bills: Racism, Anti-Semitism, and the Sensibilities of a Public Historian."
10/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EXPAT 6: Nancy Randolph Davis 	
10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Class Workshop 	

Date	Activities in Class	Read/Do Before/Bring to class
10/16	EXPAT 7: Pistol Pete	"Oral History Interview with Lance Mills"
10/21	UNIT 3: Listening	Essay 1 Due
10/23	-Homecoming History - EXPAT 8: Alumni Center	"America's Greatest Homecoming Traditions"
10/28	- Chase Carter, Senior Director - Alumni Center Talk - EXPAT 8: Alumni Center	"Oral History with Gary Shutt"
10/30	-EXPAT 9: Walk Around (No Class NCHC)	
11/4	- Library Haunting	
11/6	- -EXPAT 10: OSU Archives	
11/11	- EXPAT 11: Choose Your Own Adventure	
11/13		Essay 2 Due for Workshop
11/18		Essay 2 Due
11/20	- UNIT 4: Reflecting - EXPAT 12: Labyrinth	
11/25	- EXPAT 12: Labyrinth	
11/27	- UNIT 4: Reflecting - EXPAT 12: Labyrinth	
12/2	- UNIT 4: Reflecting	Final Project Workshop
12/4	- EXPAT 12: Labyrinth	
12/2	Final Project (EXPATs) Presentations	
12/4	Virtual: Turn in Reflection (EXPAT) final project to canvas	

***Subject to change at instructors discretion.**