

UHON 402-010 The Archaeology of Walking

The University of New Mexico, Spring 2012

Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm, SHC 28

[Dr. Troy Lovata \(lovata@unm.edu\)](mailto:lovata@unm.edu)

<http://www.unm.edu/~lovata/spring12/walking>

Office Hours (Honors Room 2B): 12:45-1:30 and 3:15-4:00 Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment.

SYLLABUS & SCHEDULE

(Schedule Updated March 25th, 2012)

Course Description

Walking is a basic human act that drives human evolution and organization. This course is an Archaeological study of how the pace of travel by foot shapes both the cultural and physical environment. Students will examine material culture and the artifacts of behavior in order to understand people's motivations, actions and environmental constraints. Students will study the features of landscapes—like trails, traveler's shrines and lodges—as well as the mobile and personal artifacts of walking—including footwear, maps, companion animals, and cars—in order to understand how and why people walk and how researchers use walking in their work.

The course has two parts. The first is a culture history of walking. Topics include: bipedal evolution; the roles of companion animals; Prehistoric trails; walking in pilgrimages; the meaning of nature walks for philosophers such as Rousseau and Muir; the rise of recreational hiking; and the contentious relationships between walkers and cars in the modern, urbanized world. The second half of the semester focuses on how scholars use walking in their research. Foot travel is not just a topic of study; it is recognized as a valuable tool in studying the world. Archaeologists and geographers walk the land to find artifacts and a sense of scale. Anthropologists walk to observe peoples at a human pace. Philosophers and artists use walks to set the context of their explorations.

Much of the course will take place in the field rather than in the traditional classroom. There will be in- and out-of-class trips to study: Prehistoric and Historic roads; Albuquerque's network of sidewalks; recreational trails in the Bosque and Sandia Mountains; and the pilgrimage to Tome Hill and Chimayo. Students will also practice and gain skills in hiking, orienteering, route finding, map reading and navigation. Students will, of course, do a lot of walking.

Readings

Readings, except for the Gamble and Jacobson books and the chapters from Joseph Amato's *On Foot*, are available from E-reserves. The Amato text is available in digital format from the UNM Library's LIBROS System: search for the title and select the electronic version. You are also required to print the articles and chapters on electronic reserve at the library. You must bring all readings to class when discussion is listed on the schedule.

Readings include: *Archaeology: The Basics* by Clive Gamble; *Basic Illustrated Map and Compass* by Cliff Jacobson; and a series of reading available on Electronic Reserves.

The E-reserves, online readings are available at: <http://ereserves.unm.edu/eres/coursepass.aspx?cid=10632>

The E-reserves password is: honors

Grading

As with all University Honors courses, only three grades are possible in this class—"A", "Credit", or "No Credit". There are no fractional grades (A+, A-, B+, etc.). This departmental policy encourages students to take demanding coursework without detriment to one's grade point average. Grades are based on a 1000 point scale with 10 points equaling 1% of the final grade and grades based on a 10% scale (an "A" is earned at 90% or 900 points and a "Credit" is earned between 700 and 899 points). There is no "curve" or grade adjustment—everyone has the opportunity to earn the highest grade based upon their own merits. No extra credit is available or given.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class of the date listed on each assignment. Work that is turned in late (without an excuse) will be docked 10% per day. In-class presentations CANNOT be done later or for partial credit unless the absence is excused. If you know you must miss a class in which you are to present a project, please contact your professor before the absence. Several of the projects in this course are cooperative, group work in which a single, same grade is given to the group as a whole. However, if a student fails to participate in the group, that individual may be given no credit for the project.

Grades are based on ongoing journal of notes and in-class assignments, a large final project/presentation and class participation. These assignments will be completed in a variety of forms: alone, in groups, in written form and in presentations. There are no tests or final exam. Class participation, and therefore attendance, is an essential part of this course. You are expected to come to class and talk. Attendance may not be taken everyday, but attendance will be noted at a variety of points throughout the semester.

Grading is as follows:

100 points Walking Journal

400 points Reading and Seminar Notebook

400 points Final Project

100 points Class Participation (including attendance and participation in field trips and seminar discussions)

Walking Journal

The Walking Journal is a semester long project required of everyone in the course. This assignment will give you a perspective on how your own experiences walking relate and compare to the readings and insight of others. Each student will be issued a pedometer at the beginning of the semester (one is included as part of your course fee and is yours to keep, but you may be charged for a replacement if the first is lost or broken). You are expected to use the pedometer to keep track of all your walking over the semester. Wear the pedometer regularly and keep track of your steps in a walking journal as much as possible. The journal may be on paper or electronic (to be printed out and turned in at the end of the semester). It should include daily and weekly cataloging of the number steps you take as well qualitative notes about your walking (for example: noting if you walked more or less than usual; noting if the pedometer was forgotten for a period of walking; or explaining if specific circumstances affected your routine walking). Your journal will be checked half way through the semester and collected at the end of the course for grading.

Reading and Seminar Notebook

Each student is required to keep an ongoing book with notes from each seminar meeting and about every assigned text over the course of the semester. Keep all your notes in a single notebook with the dates of classes and titles of readings clearly marked. Notes on the margins of readings will not be sufficient for this course. Your notebook will be checked several times over the semester and collected at the end of the class.

Notes from seminar discussions and field trips should include both general concepts discussed or exercises undertaken by the class as a whole as well specific comments relating to your own perspective. There are no minimum requirements for the notes or formatting rules, but they must provide a meaningful cataloging of the class. You are also expected to include worksheets and other handed out assignments in your notebook.

You are also required to take notes from every assigned reading. Your notes may be in full sentences, as bullet points or short observations, as an outline, may include visual aids or sketches, or be in any combination of the above. Your notes should include: title of the article; a brief overview of the reading; a short explanation of how this reading may relate to other readings or previous class discussions (including specifically parallel topics as well as general concepts from Gamble's *Archaeology: The Basics*); and specific reactions—judgments about the validity of ideas, things you agree or disagree with, statements about ideas you don't comprehend or understand—you have concerning the text.

Absences

Unexcused absences will severely and negatively impact your final grade. This is a seminar course and much material will be discussed only during class time. If you miss class and have a valid excuse, you must provide evidence (doctor's notes, etc...) as soon as possible. If you know you will miss class before hand, notify the instructor prior to the absence. Students who miss three or more classes (unexcused) will be docked their full class participation grade. No one who misses three or more classes (unexcused) can earn an "A" in this course.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Students who have special needs that may affect their ability to participate in this course are asked to disclose those needs to me as early as possible so appropriate accommodations can be made. For more information consult UNM's Accessibility Resource Center (<http://as2.unm.edu/>).

Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to act according to the Student Code of Conduct as outlined by the University. Work done in this class is essentially creative and should be of your own making. Plagiarism will severely impact your grade in a negative way. Remember that if you improperly use material from the web, it is easily discerned as such. Your instructor will gladly provide you help in properly citing and crediting other's work and ideas in your assignments.

E-mail and the Web

Students are expected to have e-mail and e-mail will be the preferable, primary form of out-of-class communication. Some of the readings are available online from outside sources. Occasionally these sites change or go down. If links to readings are not working, please notify your instructor as soon as possible. Finally, when sending materials to the professor, it is your responsibility to make sure that attachments are openable and readable.

SCHEDULE

January

18 First day of class, Philosophies of Archaeology and Philosophies Walking

Introduction to class policies and procedures; introduce walking journals and pedometers; first walk across campus.

Read: *Introduction: Walking is Talking* in Amato's *On Foot*; and Selections from Gamble's *Archaeology: The Basics*.

25 Walking Makes Us Human: Human Evolution and Bipedalism

In-class seminar discussion and group exercises

Read: eLucy's [*Step by Step: The Evolution of Bipedalism*](#); NOVA's *Origins of Bipedalism* and *How Bipedalism Arose*; and Trevathan's *Evolution of Bipedalism and Assisted Birth*.

Optional Reading: Sockol et al's *Chimpanzee Locomotor Energetics*.

February

1 We Rarely Walk Alone: People and Animals

Walks across campus with dogs and people (meet at regular classroom).

Read: Olwig's *Performing on the Landscape versus Doing Landscape*; Gooch's *Feet Following Hooves*; Chadwick's *Trackways, Hooves and Memory-Days*; and Laurier, Maze and Lundin's *Putting the Dog Back in the Park: Animal and Human Mind-in-Action*.

8 Shoes: Artifacts of Walking and Artifacts of Culture

In-class seminar discussion and footwear experiments.

Read: D'Aout et al.'s *The Effects of Habitual Footwear Use*; Geib's *Sandal Types and Archaic Prehistory on the Colorado Plateau*; Blundell's *Beneath Their Shining Feet*; and Riello and McNeil's *Walking the Streets of London and Paris*.

Weekend of February 10-12th Snowshoeing (weather and snow pack permitting)

Optional snowshoe hike in the Sandia Mountains; date and trail to be determined. Students must provide their own snowshoes (rent from UNM Rec Sports or REI).

Optional Reading: Selections from Davidson's *Snowshoes*.

15 No Scheduled Class (Professor at Conference)

22 Human Movement and Archaeological Evidence of Prehistoric Walking, Trails and Roads

In-class seminar discussion.

Read: Odgaard's *On the Trail of the Caribou Hunters: Archaeological Surveys in Western Greenland*; Robert's *Short Journeys, Long Distance Thinking*; Bauer's *Ritual Pathways of the Inca*; and Marshall's *The Chacoan Roads*.

Optional Reading: Motsinger's *Hohokam Roads at Snaketown, Arizona*.

Week of February 27th Pilgrimages

Walk up Tome Hill; in-field discussion of pilgrimages; hike day and time to be determined.

Read: Campos' *American Pilgrimage Landscapes*; Lane's *Giving Voice to Place*; and Fox's *Sacred Pedestrians*.

March

7 Aspects of Recreational Walking

Walk the Paseo del Bosque Recreational Trail in the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Meet at the Central Avenue Trailhead (parking area on the North side of Central Ave at Tingley Dr, just East of the Rio Grande Bridge).

Read: Chapter 4 *Mind Over Foot* in Amato's *On Foot*; Svarstad's *Why Hike?*; and Edensor's *Walking in the British Countryside*.

14 Spring Break, No Scheduled Class

21 Introduction to Map, Compass and Orienteering

In-class experiments with map and compass; Outdoor orienteering exercise.

Read: Jacobson's *Basic Illustrated Map and Compass*.

Weekend of March 23-25 Hike in the East Mountains or Jemez (weather permitting)

Optional hike in the Sandia, Manzano or Jemez Mountains; date and trail to be determined.

28 Orienteering

Outdoor orienteering exercise (meet first in regular classroom).

Read: Jacobson's *Basic Illustrated Map and Compass*.

April

4 No Scheduled Class (Professor at Conference)

11 Art and Walking

In-class discussion of artist's approach to walking. (3/4 class period); Outline final project options (1/4 class period).

Read: Richards and Horodner's *Walk Ways*; Selections from Tufnell's *Richard Long: Selected Statements & Interviews*; Selections from Fulton's *Walking Artist*; Selections from White and King's *The Archaeological Survey Manual*; Wasserman's *Cacti Transects & Census* website <http://www.cactitransects.com/> and *The Phoenix Transect* website <http://phoenixtransect.org>.

18 Final Project Preparation Day

In-class discussion of final research projects (Transect Walking).

25 Final Project Work Day

In- and out-of-class meetings with Professor and group members.

May

2 Last Day of Class

Required attendance; Course Evaluations, Presentation of Final Projects; Turn in final Journals and Notebooks.