**Geography of the
United States
and Canada**

Course Introduction
Part 2

Prof. Anthony Grande
Hunter College-CUNY

©AFG 2013

LANDSCAPE

An underlying theme of the course is landscape development.

What is "landscape" in geography?

How would you define it?

Does a landscape convey anything to a person?

2

LANDSCAPE

1. The "look" of a place.
2. Landscapes can be either physical (natural) or cultural (man-made).
3. Landscapes evolve over time.
4. Landscapes convey messages (some real; some perceived) about a place.
5. People make decisions about the place's value by what they see.

3

Overlapping Themes in US&C's
Landscape Development

1. Urbanization
2. Industrialization
3. Mobility
4. Resources (availability/use/dependence)
5. High Income/High Consumption.
6. Political Complexity
7. Cultural Diversity
8. Environmental Impact

4

LANDSCAPE

Landscapes can be either
physical (natural) or cultural (man-made).
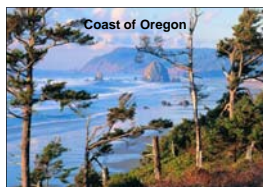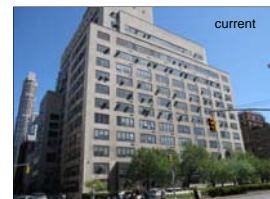

Coast of Oregon

Chicago skyline

5

Landscapes can be changed by the works of people:
New York Normal College now Hunter College-CUNY on Park Avenue in NYC.

1874

Visual perception of 1874 vs. present-day building?

1920

current

Development of the Cultural Landscape (from a natural landscape)

1. **The natural landscape sets the scene by influencing** (not controlling) **people.**
2. **People have an awareness of their environment** (surroundings).
3. **People interact and exploit their environ-ment** (use what is available to them).
4. **The result is the formation of the cultural landscape** (man-made environment) **that gives personality to the area.**

7

FARM LANDSCAPES

Landscapes <u>convey</u> messages about a place.
People <u>make</u> decisions about the place's usefulness.

Vineyards in Finger Lake region of NYS

Elk ranch in Utah

Farmland on the South Dakota prairie

8

FARM LANDSCAPES

Farm on the plains of Saskatchewan

Farm in the hills of Ohio

Irrigated cotton farm in the Arizona desert

9

LANDSCAPES and PERCEPTION

Gateway Arch-Jefferson National Expansion Memorial along the Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO

LANDSCAPES and PERCEPTION

11

LANDSCAPES and PERCEPTION

GEOGRAPHIC AXIOM

The quality of location changes with time.

As we study the historical geography of the US and Canada, it will become evident how true this statement is.

13

Old West Ghost Towns

14

Central Park in NYC

"Uptown Manhattan" was once farmland, then area of estates, now it has an artificial open space surrounded by dense urbanization.

15

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming

16

Salt Lake City, Utah

17

Saguaro National Park, Arizona

18

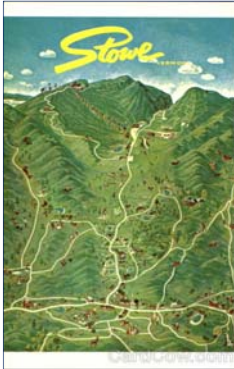**View from
Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah**

19

Shenandoah National Park, VA

20

Stowe, VT

21

Abandoned Housing, Baltimore

22

Smog over Los Angeles

23

**Recreation and Heavy Industry
Gary, IN**

24

Post-industrial Landscape, Detroit

25

ADDITIONAL GOALS

- **Convey a sense of "the look and feel" of the United States and Canada;**
- Learn the locations of important demographic, cultural and physical phenomena that characterize the two countries;
- **Understand why the above happen and how they interact to produce unique landscapes and conditions;**
- Appreciate the major human and environmental trends affecting our study area; and (hopefully)
- **Increase your interest in getting out of NYC and seeing the various regions of the US and Canada.**

26