Assignment 1: Metroplex Landscape Photoessay

Instructions:

In this assignment, you will set out to duplicate the methodology that Hayden and Wark use in *A Field Guide To Sprawl*. You will present images of three locations in the DFW Metroplex and provide a one or two sentence caption for each.

You will complete the assignment by inserting three digital image files into the document file provided on WebCT. Your images can come from several sources.

1: You may go out into the field and photograph sites on your own. Use a digital camera or cell phone camera to take digital pictures, or use a film camera and either have the photos developed on a disk or scan the printed photos into a digital image. Quality of image is not important as this is not a photography class! I only want to see that you are identifying a place that has some relevance to how you or others live in the Metroplex.

2: If you do not have access to a camera or you do not have the opportunity to go out into the field, you may use Google Maps (either street view or aerial satellite view) or a similar map site to zoom in on a place that you have identified. Then make a screen capture of the picture from the website and insert that into your document.

For Windows computers, refer to this link if you are unfamiliar with how the screen capture function works: [http://graphicssoft.about.com/cs/general/ht/winscreenshot.htm](http://graphicssoft.about.com/cs/general/ht/winscreenshot.htm)


This method will put the image on your clipboard and you can copy/paste into the document.

3: Use the Web to find images of the locations you want to show, save these images, and insert them into the document. Please include the url for the site where you found the images.

Provide a caption for each image (a sentence or two) that explains the significance of the site and why it has an effect (good or bad) on the public or how it affects your life or others’ lives in the area.

**IMPORTANT RULE:** Do not take pictures of people or include them in your assignment without their permission (anonymous people in a crowd=OK, an identifiable person featured at the center of the image=ask permission).

Your caption should do three things:
1: Identify the location clearly

2: how the site reflects a some particular aspect of economic, social, cultural, political, or lifestyle patterns in the Metroplex.

3: Express a question about the site that could be answered by research (Do large entertainment or sports venues benefit a city? Does transit service make a university more attractive and accessible to students? Do parking lots encourage crime? How have ethnic food stores spread in the area? What challenges face an immigrant entrepreneur in the DFW metroplex?)

The goal is to connect everyday observances to larger patterns and social forces and think about how research might help us understand our environment better.

In the following example, I present a photo I took of the UTA campus:

Image 1:

Caption 1: Faculty and Staff Parking at UTA. Since Arlington is not served by public transit, students and employees must drive to campus daily, and real estate at the center of campus is devoted to parking lots instead of housing, academic, recreational, or park space. Could mass transit make universities more competitive in attracting students or faculty? Would UTA students benefit from mass transit to campus? How?
Your images need not be of the outdoor landscape; what we see indoors in various types of buildings also reflects forces at work in the society and affects how people live. The next photo is an example of how you could connect an interior image to a statement about the pattern of life in the Metroplex.

Image 2:

Caption 2: The Hong Kong Market in Arlington is a pan-Asian supermarket that stocks a wide variety of foods. The market is a clue that many American suburbs are now ethnically diverse and home to many immigrant communities. How do immigrant entrepreneurs fare in the local economy? Could Arlington encourage economic growth by encouraging ethnic businesses? Have there been political conflicts in Arlington as more ethnic minorities settle here? What is the best brand of seasoned rice vinegar?

Here is an example of using a Google Maps image.

Image 3:
Caption 3: The new Cowboys' Stadium, along with Six Flags and the Rangers’ Ballpark creates a large mass-entertainment district in Arlington. The large area of parking lots makes the area unattractive and a potential traffic problem. Do large-scale entertainment complexes benefit cities economically? How can the city more effectively manage traffic for Cowboys’ games? Was the Cowboys’ last game last season the worst football game ever played or just the worst in team history (just kidding, that’s not a research question)?

Or, you could use Google Maps Street View:

Image 4:
The construction of the new Cowboys' Stadium shows the massive size of the project. The area along Collins Street is made unattractive due to the construction, and construction traffic has hurt nearby businesses. The City of Arlington has planned a mixed-use development for the area around the stadium, but its future is uncertain. How do big developments affect the surrounding area? Can a mixed-use development thrive in this environment?