

Fall 2023

# ENG 373-01 Place Matters: Place-Based Studies in Rhetoric and Writing

TR: 2:00-3:15 p.m.  
Dr. Susan DeRosa

*"Places matter. Their rules, their scale, their design include or exclude civil society, pedestrianism, equality, diversity (economic and otherwise), understanding of where water comes from and garbage goes, consumption or conservation. They map our lives."*

~Rebecca Solnit, *Storming the Gates of Paradise:  
Landscapes for Politics*

Why does place matter? This course immerses you in conversations about rhetorics of place and how place is constructed by social, historical, communal, and cultural forces in particular contexts. Using rhetorical and critical lenses, you'll explore how a sense of place is represented through performances, speeches, TedTalks, personal essays, scholarly essays, films and photos, speeches, monuments, neighborhoods, historical sites, and social movements.

The texts you'll research and create (e.g. interactive maps, collages, photo essays,) will engage you in re-mapping and re-writing and researching a rhetoric of place. This course invites you to think critically about how rhetors use language, symbols, and images to construct rhetorics of place that affect who we are, what we think, and how we live in the world with each other.



How does place influence who we are, and how we perform our identities in different places?

How do rhetorics of place affect the changing landscapes and people who inhabit them?

How do ideas about race, sexuality, culture, gender, and power affect the rhetorics of place? (e.g. the presence of confederate statues in a time of the post-Charleston church shootings?)

How do the discourses of social advocacy movements challenge the ideologies informing place? (e.g. March for Our Lives Protests).

How do the narratives about place influence our responsibilities to the communities and lives around us? (e.g. sanctuary cities and safe havens)

**ENG 373 Studies in Rhetoric and Writing counts towards the General English Concentrations, Rhetoric and Writing Concentration, and as an 300-level ENG elective.**