

**Assignment 4. Mapping Portland Land-Use & Ethnic Landscapes**

This assignment is a field mapping project that is designed to give you experience with field mapping, identifying and interpreting cultural & ethnic landscapes. You will work in teams of two (or three) to map land-use / building use, and signs of ethnic landscapes in a designated set of blocks in Old town / Pearl district. You can come up with general categories and have a legend or create the map with notes and observations. In any case, the map should represent the land uses & ethnic landscapes in the area. Each person will produce their own map(s).

1. Each team will be assigned a transect that runs through Old town & the Pearl district.
2. Create a field map(s) of the land use/building use & ethnic landscapes along the street frontage and take notes on your observations about the area. Include at least ONE hand drawn sketch – of a building, the streetscape, a sign, or something that forces you to look more closely at landscape elements than you might otherwise.
3. As you walk through the transect to create the field map, make sure that you are stopping from time to time to get a sense of what is happening in the surrounding area. Some things to consider include:
  - Age & size of landscapes
  - Street, block, and lot patterns
  - Building size and scale
  - Architectural style
  - Signs of change
  - Land use or building juxtapositions
  - Street activity and use of space
  - Use of sidewalks
4. Categorize your land uses/landscapes and create a legend for your map. The final map should incorporate your observations.
5. Questions to consider while conducting your field work:
  - What land/building uses predominate in your transect?
  - What ethnicities predominate or are visible?
  - Do you think it is representative of the district as a whole? Is there an area where you see a shift in land/building use or ethnicity?
  - What cultural influences (economic, political, demographic) are at work in shaping this landscape?
  - Who might feel like an 'insider' here? An outsider?
  - Do any land uses remain in your area that are evidence of a former landscape?
  - Are there markers/icons/symbols of an emerging landscape?

- What is the target audience for businesses in this area? What signs, symbols, or other cultural indicators are visible?

**Deliverables.**

1. Your field map and field notes (to include at least one sketch).
2. Any photographs you may have taken.
3. A final map with legend (for this final map you can use a base map (with tax lots), hand-draw it on graph paper, or you can create a simple map in some computer/design program – I am more concerned with how you interpret & synthesize your data than the format in which you create your map)
4. An essay (about 250-500 words) that addresses the questions in point 5, above, and also think about:
  - How do signs or symbols communicate (either through imagery, design, or style) to a specific group?
  - What differences do you see between Old town/ Chinatown and the Pearl District? How does the history of the two places play a role in the existing landscape?
  - Comment (if possible) on the kinds of changes the area has experienced in recent years.

**Transects.**

All transects will start at NW 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and finish at NW 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with one group assigned to each of the following streets:

1. NW Couch
2. NW Davis
3. NW Everett
4. NW Flanders
5. NW Glisan

