Attention to space and place is nothing new to literary studies. For instance, setting is a key feature of almost all stories. Distinctive locales, regions, landscapes, or other pertinent geographical features are often crucial to the meaning and the effectiveness of literary works. Whole genres may be defined by such spatial or geographical characteristics, such as the pastoral poem, the travel narrative, utopia, or the urban exposé. Innumerable other examples could be cited. And yet, there is also a sense of moment or timeliness to the “spatial turn” in the humanities and social sciences, and the advent of various geocritical or spatial approaches to literary appears to be well suited to the our particular era. In this presentation, Robert T. Tally Jr. will discuss the significance of geocriticism at the present time, looking back at its critical precursors and forward to potential directions that geocritical research might take in the future. Tally argues that the geocritic’s emphasis on space, place, and mapping makes possible new ways of reading that are particularly timely and productive.