

ADVANCED URBAN DESIGN: THE AMERICAN CITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

Summer Semester 2020
Course Number: ARC 6399 (all associated sections)

M/W: 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Instructor - Peter Sprowls
Office Hours by Appointment

OVERVIEW

This semester we will be examining urban design and planning issues as they relate to creation of the American city and how we may better create and preserve sustainable communities. To pursue this in the span of a single semester, we are going to focus on a unique aspect of urban places - public space as a method of comparison and analysis.

The modern city as it is typically understood, a place of vertical density, speed and complex interaction, was born in the United States where industrialized technologies were leveraged to build a vast new world and urbanize a continent. With this tremendous growth and invention, American cities quickly expanded into complex, often unruly, experimental landscapes and formed a (bumpy) roadmap for the modernization of cities around the world. This course looks at the American city's past present and future through topical discussions and lectures on a range of issues confronting all modern cities such as green space, transportation, economics and the elusive promise of Utopia.

Public space is a unique product of urbanism, born out of a critical mass of inhabitants, activity, economy and social views. What used to be easy to define as a public square or plaza, public space is now a complicated, blurry realm that straddles the public, private and digital worlds. In this class we will attempt to define for ourselves, what constitutes public space in America and to better understand how it functions by looking at different aspects of American urbanism.

To anchor our research, we will be using Alexander Garvin's book, *The American City: What Works What Doesn't* 3rd ed. is the primary text for this course and will form the basis for discussion about other theoretical positions. Specific readings from this book and for other weekly readings will provide us with a survey of American urban theory.

Participation in class is extremely important, as a group you all bring different perspectives to the classroom and it is critical that we have a free exchange of ideas so the course material has meaning for each of you. The course will be conducted thematically, with each lecture or lecture pair concerning itself with a specific urban/suburban issue. The readings in preparation for each lecture will address ideas and discussion points relating to this topic and case studies will provide specific examples and flash points for discussion in greater detail.

Themes for Lectures will cover but are not limited to:

Utopias

It's all fun and games until...

Transportation

Did the car kill the city?

Parks

Cities au naturale

Neon Signs Changed Everything

How we see cities

Infrastructure

*Trains of s**t in Alabama*

Industry (Shopping)

But what do we make here?

Safety

Do we let kids play in the street?

Preservation and Redevelopment

What stays and what goes

Politics and Money

Cities follow the money and some of the rules

SUB-Urbanism

Everyone gets 2.5 and a pool

The Future

Ooof. We'll see!

COURSE OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES

Course Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course you will have:

1. Participated in Seminar discussions
2. Become familiar with diverse schools of thought surrounding American urban theory
3. Developed a Case Study on a Floridian city
4. Developed a collective document identifying the "State of Public Space in Florida"

SCHEDULE

May 11	Start of Classes
May 13	Begin Case Study Research
June 22 - July 3	Summer Break
Aug. 5	Final Class Meeting
Aug. 12	Submission of Final Class Document

Field-Trips and Community Involvement

Students may be required to travel off-campus in order to conduct field-work, facilitate a meeting, and present findings; or make off-campus trips for data collection and observations. Students are responsible for arranging their own transportation, and when driving are to carry the appropriate insurances as required by State law.

Grades

The only passing grades for graduate students are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and S. Grades of B-, C+ or C count toward a graduate degree if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been earned with grades of B+, A- and A, respectively. Grade points are not given for S and U grades; S and U grades are not used to calculate grade point averages. All letter-graded courses eligible to count toward the graduate degree, except 1000- and 2000-level courses, are used to calculate the cumulative grade-point average. Letter grades of C-, D+, D, D- or E are not considered passing at the graduate level, although the grade points associated with these letter grades are included in grade point average calculations.

Please note that The University requires that a graduate student maintain a 3.0 (B) average to remain in good academic standing. Every possible effort is made to counsel students in academic difficulty to determine the cause and possible solution so that the student can continue and complete their studies in the University.

Your final grade may be based on standardized scores (curving the final point values); however, minimum points for a specified grade shall be no greater than:

100-94	93-90	89-87	86-84	83-80	79-77	76-74	73-70	69-67	66-64	63-60	59-0
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E

Course Requirement

Course Requirement	Points	Percent
Seminar Participation (discussion and responses)	100	25%
Case Study Presentations	100	30%
Class Document (Case Study Book)	100	20%
Attendance	100	25%
<i>Total</i>	400	100%

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

Garvin, Alexander. *The American City: What Works What Doesn't* (3rd Edition). New York: McGraw Hill, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0071373678; ASIN: B00GMD7O6C.

Suggested Reading - Additions at discretion of the instructor

Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* [50th Anniversary Edition]. New York: Modern Library, [1961] 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0679644330

Lynch, Kevin. *The Image of the City*. ISBN-13: 978-0679644330 Cambridge: MIT Press, 1960. ISBN-13: 978-0262620

Crowe, Beryl. *The Tragedy of the Commons Revisited* [1969]. Reprinted in Hardin, Garrett and John Baden. *Managing the Commons*. New York: W.H. Freeman, 1977.

Gallagher, Leigh. *The End of the Suburbs: Where the American Dream is Moving*. USA: Portfolio Hardcover. 2013. ISBN-13: 978-1591845256, ASIN: B008EKMCM2

Hanson, Jay. *The Fatal Freedom* (rev. 8/29/97).

Hardin, Garrett. *The Tragedy of the Commons*, *Science*, 162:1243-1248 (1968).

Lukez, Paul. *Suburban Transformations*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press. 2007. Pages 10-73

Suggested Viewing

"The City" (1939) directed by Ralph Steiner and Willard VanDyke. Producer American Documentary Films. San-Francisco: Prelinger Archives. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGL1jZ4Zxv8>

"Housing Act Peps Building" (1935). San-Francisco: Prelinger Archives.

"Cities Why they Grow: Second Edition" (1952). Collaborator: Robert Lynd PhD.

Stories from the Great Depression (U.S. National Archives (27:46) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TpfY8kh5IUw>

Encyclopedia Britannica Films Inc. San-Francisco: Prelinger Archives.

"Community Growth: Crisis and Challenge" (1959). National Association of Home Builders. San-Francisco: Prelinger Archives.

"Urban Sprawl" (ca 1955). Dearborn, MI Department of Libraries San-Francisco:Prelinger Archives

"Make No Little Plans: Daniel Burnham and the American City" (DVD-2010) directed by Judith Paine McBrien. The ArchiMedia Workshop.

Tenement Life 1860-1910 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzT8EquuYxA>

Gay Nineties (1890s) Live Again (9:41 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBYh2lXsyNw1920's>

This Was New York (1900) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_A7jLlNQ92I

What The Future Will Look Like 1920s (5:38 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czr-98yo6RU>

The Century: America's Time - 1920-1929: Boom To Bust <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN7ftyZigYs>

The Great Depression (1929-1939) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TttXC9tFPU>

Life in the 1930s (5:26) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BldBXjqmI>

The City 1939 (US National Archives (31:39) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGL1jZ4Zxv8>

1940 - Your Town: A Story of America <http://youtu.be/4kmlm>

1952 Day In The Life Of A 1950's Small Town (10 min) <http://youtu.be/Jqe4W08124M>

David Halberstam's The Fifties: "The Fear and the Dream" Part 1 (48:46) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ooU8B2MBF8>

The 1950s - PBS Documentary - Segment 1 of 3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXOq04idCi4>

CONDUCT

Attendance Requirements

Attendance is mandatory for the scheduled duration of the class session. More than three unexcused absences may constitute grounds for placement on attendance probation. It is important that all students arrive promptly at the beginning of class. Arriving late or leaving early, unless authorized by the instructor, will be considered an unexcused absence.

Course Management System - CANVAS

CANVAS is UF's Course Management System (CMS), Students are responsible for accessing the content of this course online. Whenever possible, assignments, supplementary reading, and other materials will be provided and collected in a digital format. Students are responsible for accessing the CANVAS course site daily.

Class Etiquette (Online)

Students are asked to be curious to classmates and instructors by engaging in video conferencing whenever possible and providing active feedback to class instruction. In the online working environment, students are asked to make every effort to reduce distractions around them for the benefit of themselves and for their classmates. Class communication will be conducted primarily through Canvas but students are welcome to contact the instructor directly using the email provided.

Individuals Needing Accommodations

Any student needing special accommodations due to a disability must inform the instructor at the start of the semester and mutually develop an accessibility plan.

Reading and Writing Center

All CityLab-Orlando students have access to The Reading and Writing Center, a part of the Office of Academic Technology. It is located in the mezzanine area of Southwest Broward Hall on the Gainesville Campus. The Center offers one-on-one tutoring and writing help for both undergraduate and graduate students. The Center often helps people with application essays and personal statements for school applications. It also offers help on papers written for graduate school classes, and theses or dissertations. The Center guarantees 30 minute sessions (longer if staff are not busy) to look over a student's writing. While multiple visits will give students feedback on the strengths and weaknesses in their writing, it is difficult to provide anything like a comprehensive reading of any document as long as most theses and dissertations. For information, visit <http://at.ufl.edu/rwcenter>. Phone (352) 392-6420.

Academic Honesty

Academic misconduct is destructive to the central purposes of the University; is demeaning to the community of scholars in the School of Architecture; is unprofessional behavior, and inconsistent with an architect's code of ethics, and is universally disdained.

The university requires all members of its community to be honest in all endeavors. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and pursuit of knowledge is diminished by cheating, plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. See <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/4041.pdf> for the full text of the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

SELECTED URBAN DESIGN AND PLANNING BIBLIOGRAPHY

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