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
Oof. 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 in 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation (discussion and responses)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Document (Case Study Book)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>400</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS


Suggested Reading - Additions at discretion of the instructor


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


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, 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](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**


**Calthorpe, Peter and Sim Vander Ryn.** *Sustainable Communities: A New Design Synthesis for Cities, Suburbs and Towns.* Sierra Club, 1986.


**Collins, Christiane, Werner Hegemann and the Search for Universal Urbanism.* New York: W. W. Norton, 2005


