

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING, 2008

MAXINE GOODMAN LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS

URBAN DESIGN SEMINAR - UST 420

OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS: UR 221, Monday, 11:00 AM-12:00 AM
or by appointment

MEETING TIME: SATURDAYS ONLY, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM MEETING
ROOM: UR 241, Sweet Seminar Room in Urban Building

OFFICE PHONE: (216) 687-2164

INSTRUCTOR: DR. VIRGINIA BENSON

E-Mail: virginia@urban.csuohio.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce basic concepts of urban design that have historic precedents in European and American cities through a review of urban design literature;
2. To demonstrate how those concepts apply to contemporary American cities, with emphasis on cities of the Great Lakes region such as Cleveland;
3. To relate urban design to public policies in the areas of physical planning and development including such issues as zoning, historic preservation standards, transportation policies and particularly urban design guidelines for specific districts of the American city.
4. To demonstrate, through class projects, how to evaluate the effectiveness of urban design in meeting the needs of the public while maintaining economic feasibility.

METHODS

In order to achieve the above objectives, the class will have lectures by the principal instructor, visiting lecturers, readings in the urban design field, films that present visual analysis of urban design and site visits with evaluations of development projects including collection of data

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a take-home midterm essay exam which will cover material assigned in the class, including that on film, course lectures and textbook material. Each of the four essays will be three pages (600 words). In addition, there will be one long term paper of 15 pages (3000 words) submitted by students in the Urban Design Seminar.

The term paper analyzes the results of the field surveys of waterfront developments following the criteria suggested by Whyte and elaborated below.

**This course is expected to fulfill the University writing-across-the-curriculum (WAC) requirement and, therefore, satisfactory writing skills on the take-home exam and the term paper must be demonstrated to pass the course. The take-home exam will consist of essays that will be evaluated by the instructor and returned to the student for revision and resubmission.

Criteria

1. Require students to write between 3,000 and 5,000 words (10-20 pages, double-spaced, in 12-point font, with 1" margins) in writing assignments (which may include drafts).
2. Final versions of at least one assignment should total at least 2,000 words (eight pages).
3. Teach students writing-to-learn strategies that foster students' experiences in learning and writing-to-communicate strategies that foster students' respect of readers' experiences. Whenever possible, planning assignments (e.g. reading logs, pre-writing strategies) and peer reviews should be included.
4. Assign writing complex enough to require substantive revision for most students. The instructor should give feedback to assist students in preparing subsequent papers or drafts of papers. This feedback should not consist entirely of mechanical correction of punctuation and grammar.
5. Provide instruction in discipline-appropriate forms of texts, arguments, evidence, style, audience and citation.
6. Assign writing throughout the semester.
7. Where appropriate, address the needs of students regarding library competency.
8. Assign writing in English unless the course is specifically geared to improving writing at the 300-level in another language.

Additional Criteria

9. In order to receive a C or better in the course, students must write at a satisfactory skill level (C or better). If the student's writing is weak, but shows understanding of the course material, the student may be assigned a D, in which case WAC credit will not be received for the course.
10. Maximum enrollment for this course is 35 or 45 with a graduate assistant.

Paper

This paper will summarize the analysis of two waterfront developments according to criteria described by William Whyte in his film and book entitled Social Life of Small Urban Spaces. Although the paper will focus on each student's choice of a particular aspect of Whyte's criteria, it is expected that the whole development will be placed into a political, economic and social context by discussion of characteristics of the individual part of the city. Students may work together to gather material for their papers but each student will submit his or her own paper.

The term paper will be at least 15 pages, typed, double-spaced. The first draft must be submitted, corrected and handed back to the student to be resubmitted in final draft form.

Students are expected to present the results of their research, together with slides or PPT. illustrating design elements, to the class on the final day.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week One - March 22 (meet at 9:00 am)

Films on Design of Cities by Edmund Bacon: Rome, Paris, London and the American Urban experience. Discussion.

Lunch Break

Presentation of the William Whyte film "Social Life of Small Urban Spaces" upon which the waterfront development paper assignment is based. Discussion.

Week Two -March 29 (Meet at 9:00 am)

Lecture on Introduction to Urban Design. Discussion of assignments.

Lunch Break.

Discussion of waterfront developments in general: public uses, economic aspects, environmental concerns. Slide presentation of American and Canadian waterfront developments.

Lecture on the New Urbanism. Slide presentation.

Week Three - April 5 - (Meet at 9: 00 am)

A slide presentation and description of the development of Cleveland's two waterfronts (Flats and lakefront).

Take-home Midterm Exam will be provided at this time. Please hand it in at the beginning of the next class. Guest speaker (tba) on North Coast Harbor. Discuss Urban Design Plans and development, relationship to downtown

Lunch Break.

Field trip I to North Coast Harbor on Cleveland lakefront. Assess the NCH using the criteria for public spaces.

Week Four - April 12 (meet at **9:00 am**)

Hand in take-home midterm exams. Take-home midterm essays will be returned for review and revision at next class.

Lunch Break.

Field trip II to the Flats examining the waterfront using the criteria for public spaces. Possible Wayne Bratten boat trip up the Cuyahoga with lecture by Charlie Bredt sponsored by Flats Oxbow Assn.

Week Five - April 19 (meet at **9:00 am**)

Lecture. Return take-home midterm essays for revision.

Lunch Break.

Afternoon -Guest presentation on urban design plans for University Circle by Debbie Berry.

Week Six - April 26 (meet at 9:00 am)

Lecture. Review presentations and final term paper assignments.

Lunch Break.

Afternoon - Guest presentation on urban design plans for Cleveland State University by Architect Ed Schmittgen.

Week Seven - May 3 (Meet at 9:00 am)

A.M. Presentations of waterfront studies (with slides or Power Point) to class.

Lunch.

P.M. Presentations of waterfront studies.

Final typewritten papers must be handed in at this time.

All guest presentations and field trips are subject to change depending on weather and guest availability.

READINGS

For those who wish to pursue the study of urban design and to enhance material offered in class sessions, the following books are also recommended:

Bacon, Edmund. The Design of Cities (New York: Viking Press, 1967). This book covers the material found in the film series if students wish to review it.

Barnett, Jonathan. Urban Design As Public Policy (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974). This is Barnett's initial study that introduces urban design. Both this book and the following are out of print but available in local libraries.

_____. Introduction to Urban Design (New York: Harper and Row, 1982). Focus is on three design trends: citizen participation, historic preservation and environmental issues.

_____. The Elusive City: Five Centuries of Design, Ambition and Miscalculation. (New York: Harper & Row, 1986.) Barnett provides an overview of urban design history and its failure to meet expectations of designers.

Boyer, Christine. Dreaming The Rational City (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1986). A thorough and sensitive review of the history of city planning and design.

Carmona, Matthew, Tim Heath, Taner Oc and Steve Tiesdell. Public Places, Urban Spaces: The Dimensions of Urban Design. Oxford: Architectural Press, 2003.

Cutler and Cutler. Recycling Cities for People: The Urban Design Process (Boston, Mass.: CBI Publishing Co., Inc., 1982) Contains material on a variety of scholars of urban design and includes methods of integrating design with the real estate development process.

Downs, Roger and David Stea. Image and Environment (Chicago: Aldine Pub. Co., 1970) Though now somewhat dated, this book was an excellent introduction to the field of environmental perception.

Garreau, Joel. Edge City: Life on the New Frontier. (New York: Doubleday, Inc., 1991) A suburban perspective that focuses on the growth of highway-spawned centers which the author predicts will supplant classical central-place city structures. An excellent admonition about the unexpected consequences of public policy decisions in the design of cities.

Gosling, David and Barry Maitland. Concepts of Urban Design (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1984).

Howard, Ebenezer. Garden Cities of Tomorrow (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1965) A nineteenth-century classic that, though a very small book, has had a tremendous impact on physical planning and urban design in the utopian genre.

Jacobs, Jane. The Death and Life of Great American Cities (New York, 1961) An excellent re-visit to basic attractions of cities that have survived in spite of the urban crisis.

Kunstler, James. Geography of Nowhere: The Rise and Decline of America's Manmade Landscape. New York: Touchstone, 1993.

Lynch, Kevin. Image of the City (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1960) Another very small but powerful treatise on "reading" the city. Lynchian "language" of urban design is so unquestioned and pervasive that one must be literate in his terminology to understand the field at all.

Mitchell, William J. City of Bits: Space, Place and the Infobahn, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1995.

Mumford, Lewis. From the Ground Up (New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1956) A third very small paperback, focusing mainly on New York City, from an author who is prolific in the history and critique of urban design.

Squires, Gregory D. (ed) Urban Sprawl: Causes, Consequences and Policy Responses, Washington, DC: The Urban Institute Press, 2002.

Watson, Donald, Alan Plattus and Robert Shibley (Eds) Time Saver Standards for Urban Design. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2003.

Whyte, William H. Social Life of Small Urban Spaces (Washington, D.C.: The Conservation Foundation, 1980) This book elaborates on the film of the same name and serves as a good resource for the "evaluation of waterfront design" paper. Whyte assesses the bonus provision of plaza spaces in New York City and sets up criteria for evaluating their success as public spaces.

_____, William H. City: Rediscovering the Center (New York: Doubleday, 1988) An extensive elaboration on the topic of social life of small urban spaces. Whyte also looks at recent trends in suburbanization of corporations, the rise of "semi-cities" and the case for gentrification of the central city