Introduction to Urban Design
P11.1620, Fall Semester 2010

This course will concentrate on design, research, interpretation, and analysis of urban spaces in the New York region, United States, and abroad. As inherent in an “introductory” course we will have limited opportunity to delve deeply into each topic, but will center discussion around a single focus – the forces that shape urban form. In the end, each of you will have developed a new awareness for the built environment and the critical elements in successful place making.

Section 001
Instructor: John Fontillas, AIA
Thursdays, 6:45pm – 8:25pm
194 Mercer, Room 203

Contact Information
Email: john.fontillas@nyu.edu
Work Phone: 212-677-6030
H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture
Office Hours: contact to arrange

Section 002
Instructor: Steven Stainbrook, AICP
Thursdays, 6:45pm – 8:25pm
194 Mercer, Room 202

Contact Information
Email: sstainbrook@h3hc.com
Phone: 917-291-0776 (mobile) 212-677-6030 (work)
H3 Hardy Collaboration Architecture
Office Hours: contact to arrange

Format
The format of the course will be a mix of instructor presentations, discussion sessions, student presentations, field trips, and studio design work. Lectures will not be a recitation of required reading, but a time to connect this important background to current design approaches, professional practice, and the discipline of urban design. Ultimately, one should begin to include spatial analysis as a complementary toolkit for your planning and policy bailiwick.

Urban Design Labs
On alternate Thursday evenings immediately after class, from 8:35pm to 9:35pm, both sections will participate in Urban Planning Lab sessions. These dates are:

- September 16   Drawing Lab (194 Mercer Street, Room 203)
- September 30  Computer Applications (Tisch Hall Room LC19 and 194 Mercer Room 304)
- October 14    Computer Applications (Tisch Hall Room LC19 and 194 Mercer Room 304)
- October 28    Project Review Event
- November 11   Neighborhood Tour

Locations for these lab sessions will vary and will be announced at the prior class meeting and by class email. These sessions will focus on computer applications, drawing skills and site analysis and will assist you in completing your design projects. They are required parts of the course - attendance will contribute to your grade.

Sketchbooks
All students are required to keep field notes in a sketchbook and will be encouraged to develop their own ability to freehand draw. Notes, sketches, paste-on graphics, and photographs may be kept in your notebook. You are encouraged to record ideas for your ongoing course projects and reflect on class discussions as you begin to use New York as your daily lab. Sketchbooks will be collected twice during the semester. There will be NO letter grade attached to this review – it is pass or fail. As long as you make a legitimate attempt to actively use your sketchbook, full credit will be awarded.

Class Participation is expected and will be reflected in your final grade by up to one-half letter grade. A lively exchange will make a more fulfilling experience for all.
Urban Design Projects
Three urban design projects will be assigned during the semester. The projects will be based on realistic professional assignments and will focus on design issues such as scale, program, context, infrastructure, and environmental factors. Students will complete each assignment as teams, with each group presenting their findings to the entire class for critique. Presentations should be graphic in nature and include images, diagrams, illustrative drawings, and models. A Project Brief will be given out containing specific information about each of the projects.

**Project #1 – Urban Space Observation and Site Analysis**
Assigned September 9
Final Review in class - Thursday, September 23, 6:45-8:25pm

**Project #2 – Mixed Use Development**
Assigned September 30
Final Review at Puck Bldg, Rudin Forum - Thursday, October 28, 6:45 - 9:30pm

**Project #3 – Neighborhood Master Plan**
Assigned November 4
Final Review at Puck Bldg, Rudin Forum - Thursday, December 16, 6:00 - 10pm

Required Reading
There is one required textbook, available at the NYU Professional Bookstore (530 La Guardia Place).

Other suggested readings include the following books, which will be on Course Reserve at Bobst:

We will also be handing out additional articles and reading excerpts during the semester.

Art and Drawing Supplies
Students are required to purchase these art materials for their own use during the semester:
- Sketchbook (9”x12” minimum size)
- Sharpie fine point permanent marker – black
- Pentel sign pen – black
- Pilot razor point pen – black
- Roll of white tracing paper – 18” long
- Engineering scale – triangular plastic with 1:10 to 1:60 scales
- Prismacolor pencils – set of 12 colors

The sketchbook, Pilot razor point pen, and engineering scale should be purchased for the second class session. Items may be purchased at:
- Pearl Paint – 308 Canal Street (212-431-7932)
- Utrecht Art – 111 Fourth Avenue @ 11th Street (212-777-5353)
- The Art Store – 1-5 Bond Street between Broadway and Lafayette (212-533-2444)
The three studio projects will require additional material to be purchased by the team:
- Foamcore board (30”x40”) white or black (for mounting graphics / building models)
- Double stick tape and/or white glue
- Laser-jet printing of presentation boards – we will provide you with the name and location of a printing service house where you can get these done.

Grading
Grades are determined per the Wagner School of Public Service guidelines and scale. Please refer to the Academic Policies page on the School’s website for details and the School’s policy on academic honesty.
1. Project #1 (20%) – including reading assignment
2. Project #2 (20%) – including reading assignment
3. Project #3 (50%) – including reading assignment
4. Sketchbooks and Exercises (10%)

Lastly . . .
We have invited several guest lecturers to present to the class. As soon as they are confirmed, we will notify both class sections. (We welcome any student brave enough to attend lectures in both sections.) We also reserve the right to change reading assignments and activities due to inevitable schedule conflicts.
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