Introduction to Urban Design
URPL-GP.1620, Fall 2013

This course will concentrate on design, research, interpretation and analysis of urban spaces in New York City the region, the country and abroad. The introductory nature of the course necessitates overview of a broad range of topics rather than in depth exploration of each topic. However, all course materials and work will relate to the forces that shape urban form. By the end of the course, each student will develop an awareness of the built environment and the critical elements required for successful place making.

Section 001
Instructor: Eric Galipo, AICP LEED AP BD+C
Mondays, 6:45-8:25pm
SILVER, Room 621

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Work Phone: 212.777.7800 x278
Office Hours: Contact to arrange

Section 002
Instructor: Steven Stainbrook, AICP
Mondays, 6:45-8:25pm
WAVERLY, Room 369

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Work Phone: 646.484.4005
Mobile: 917.291.0776
Office Hours: Contact to Arrange

Format:

The format of this course will be a mix of instructor presentations, discussions based on assigned readings, student presentations, field trips, and studio design work. Lecture will not be a recitation of required reading, but a time to connect this background information to current design approaches, professional practice, and the discipline of urban design. The goal is that each student should begin including spatial analysis as an integral part of the overall planning and policy process.

Urban Design Lab:

Immediately after class, both sections will participate in Urban Design Lab (Section 003). Sessions will be held in TISCH LC19 from 8:35 to 9:35PM or as advised. Attendance at and participation in lab sections are required and will be factored into your final grade for the course.

The Urban Design Labs will focus on skills that will aid you in completing the projects and assignments that are required for the course. The purpose of the Urban Design Labs is not to produce experts in any specific software package, but to acquaint you with their basic use and functions and explain how certain computer programs may be of use in completing the assignments. Ultimately, the responsibility for learning the skills introduced in the labs rests on the student.
Sketchbooks:

All students are required to keep field notes in a sketchbook and will be encouraged to develop their own ability to sketch freehand. Notes, sketches, paste-on graphics, and photographs may be kept in the sketchbook. You are encouraged to record ideas for your ongoing course projects and reflect on class discussions as you begin to use New York City as your daily laboratory. Sketchbooks will be collected and reviewed by your professor. Full credit will be given for this review provided you make a legitimate attempt to actively use your sketchbook.

Class Participation:

Every student is expected to materially participate in advancing class discussions. Participation may affect your final grade by up to one-half a letter (in either direction!). A lively exchange will make a more fulfilling experience for all.

Attendance:

Attendance at all classes is mandatory and every student should make every effort to arrive to class on time. Frequent absence and/or lateness to class or lab sessions will be reflected in your final grade. In the case of emergencies, please speak with your professor to make appropriate arrangements.

Urban Design Projects and Assignments:

Three Urban Design Projects must be completed by each student over the course of 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. For certain projects, students will be required to work in teams, with each group presenting their work for the entire class or a panel of guest critics selected by your professors. Presentations should be graphic in nature and include images, diagrams, illustrative drawings, and/or models. A project brief will be distributed before each assignment that will contain specific information and instructions about each project.

Project 1: Urban Public Space Redesign (Final presentation 30 September – in class)

Project 2: Infill Development and Redesign (Final presentation 1 November, Rudin Forum 6-9:30PM)

Project 3: Large Scale Mixed-use Development (Final 17/18 December, Rudin Forum 6-10:00PM)

In some cases you will be required to submit electronic copies of your assignments through Blackboard, which will be programmed to stop accepting assignments at a specified time. Under no circumstances will assignments or projects be accepted late for full credit unless prior arrangements have been made with your professor. Assignments that are not turned in on time are subject to a half-letter grade penalty for every day they are past due. Leave enough time before a deadline to upload your work through Blackboard, as computer issues and lack of internet access are not acceptable excuses for failing to turn an assignment in on time.

Required Books and Materials

Books:


Art Supplies
● Sketchbook (9"x12" min.)
● Sharpie Fine Point Marker - black
● Pilot Razor Point Pen - black, red, blue
● White tracing paper - roll
● Engineering Scale **not** an architectural scale)
● Prismacolor pencils (set of 12 colors)

Art supplies may be purchased at any location, but Pearl Paint, Utrecht Art, A.I. Friedman, or The Art Store will carry all of the required items.

**Recommended Software**

Over the course of the semester you will be asked to produce maps, diagrams and drawing of your design proposals. The following software packages will assist you in accomplishing those tasks. There are versions of these programs available in NYU computer labs, but they may not be the most current version and you will have to plan accordingly to accomplish the tasks on time. Lack of access to a computer lab and/or software conflicts is each student’s (or group’s) responsibility and are **not** acceptable excuses for late projects.

● SketchUp 8.0 Pro (Trimble)
  ○ An educational license of SketchUp is available for purchase (50$). The license is good for one year, and can be applied towards the purchase of a fully licensed version. Go to: http://www.sketchup.com/industries/edu/students.html for details
● Adobe Creative Suite 6 Design Standard
  ○ Educational pricing is available through the NYU Bookstore and is a significant discount from a regular commercial license

The three projects will also require the following additional material to be purchased:

● Foamcore board (30"x40") white or black
● Laserjet printing services for 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 according the Wagner guidelines and scale. Please refer to the Academic Policies page on the school's website for details and the School's policy on academic integrity.

- Project 1 - 15% of Final Grade
- Project 2 - 25% of Final Grade
- Project 3 - 45% of Final Grade
- Sketchbook and Participation - 15% of Final Grade

Academic Honor Code

As with all courses at NYU, this course is subject to all the requirements, responsibilities and protections of the Academic Honor Code. By being enrolled in this course you imply your consent and agreement to these policies. For any questions related to the standards of academic honesty refer to the the NYU - Wagner Honor Code (http://wagner.nyu.edu/students/academicOath)

Although not explicitly stated in the honor code, drawing and graphic production must be original works completed by the student. Both manually and computer drawn maps, graphics, diagrams or renderings may not enlist the assistance of another person who is not also enrolled in this class.

Guest Lectures

We have invited several guest lecturers to present to the class. As soon as they are confirmed, we will notify both class sections.

Note: All assignments, schedules and lecture topics are subject to change at the instructors discretion.
- **Class 1 (09.09.13)**
  - **Lecture:**
    - Introductions
    - Syllabus Review
    - Starting a Design Study: Existing Conditions, Site Visits and Observations
    - Analysis Diagrams
    - Introduce Project 1
  - **Lab:**
    - The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces, W.H. Whyte (video)
  - **Assignments:**
    - Read:
      - Lynch, Kevin - *Image of the City* - Chapter III
      - Harvard Design School - *Urban Design Now, A Discussion*
      - Available on Classes
    - Project 1: Assignment 1: Observation and Analysis Diagrams (Due: Week 2)

- **Week 2 (09.16.2013)**
  - **Due:**
    - Project 1, Assignment 1
    - Observations and Analysis
  - **Lecture Topics(s):**
    - Turning Observations Into Ideas: Vision and Concept
  - **Assignments:**
    - Project 1: Assignment 2: Vision Statement and Concept Diagram(s) (Due: Week 3)
    - Read:
      - Lynch, Kevin - *Image of the City* - Chapter IV
      - Do & Gross - *Thinking With Diagrams in Architectural Design*

- **Week 3 (09.23.2013)**
  - **Due:**
    - Project 1: Assignment 2: Vision Statement and Concept Diagram(s)
  - **Lecture Topics(s):**
    - Making a Proposal: Implementing a Concept
  - **Assignments:**
    - Project 1: Assignment 3: Design Proposal (Due: 9.30.2013)
    - Read: At Your Pleasure

- **Week 4 (09.30.2013)**
  - **Due:**
    - Project 1 Final Design Proposal with in-class presentations

- **Week 5 (10.07.2013)**
  - **Lecture Topics(s):**
    - Zoning and Land Use
Assignments:
- Project 2 Assigned - Infill Development and Redesign (La Marquetta)

- **Week 6 (10.21.2013)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - City Form 1 - Site Planning and Building Massing

- **Week 7 (10.28.2013)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - City Form 2 - Typologies and Streetscape

- **Week 8 (11.4.2013)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - Landscape Urbanism and Professional Practice

- **Week 9 (11.18.2013)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - Urban Re/Development and Transportation (Infrastructure)

- **Week 10 (11.25.2013)**
  - Due:
    - Project 2 Final Presentations

- **THANKSGIVING (11.28.2013)**

- **Week 11 (12.2.2012)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - Density - Suburbs to Traditional Urban Centers
    - Vibrant Centers Make Strong Regions

- **Week 12 (12.09.2013)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - Sustainability

- **Week 12 (12.16.2013)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - Public-Private Development

- **Week 13 (12.13.2012)**
  - Lecture Topics(s):
    - New Town Planning

- **Week 14 (12.17/18.2012)**
  - Due: