Course Description

This seminar course will attempt to explore the following question: What are the implications on physical space planning in an increasingly diverse society? In recent years, urban public spaces have become sites of conflict and controversy among city planners, policymakers and citizens. Students will develop an understanding of the various factors influencing public space planning such as privatization, corporate interests and urban design standards, while tackling difficult but topical issues of discrimination, the homeless, and urban social movements. As such, the course will focus predominantly on solving problems associated with the provision, design and management of public spaces. Site visits planned. 3.0 credits, No prerequisites required.

Course Materials

BOOKS: (can be borrowed from library or purchased “used” online - abe.com, amazon.com, half.com)

ARTICLES: (all provided by instructor)


Pain, R. 2001. “Gender, Race, Age and Fear in the City,” *Urban Studies*, No. 5-6, pp. 899-913.


With rebuttal by the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU), “Reason Mag’s Bad Crime Tip”.

WEBSITES / VISUAL MEDIA:
Archi-treasures Website, [http://www.architreasures.org].
Defensible Space Website, [http://www.defensiblespace.com].
Metropolitan Design Center Website, [http://www.designcenter.umn.edu].
NYCLU Surveillance Camera Project, [http://www.nyclu.org/surveillance.html] and
[http://www.mediaeater.com/cameras].
Place Matters Website, [http://www.placematters.net].
Planners Network Listservs, follow links at: [http://plannersnetwork.org].
Project for Public Spaces Website, [http://www.dds.org].
Project for Public Spaces “Making Places Newsletter”, subscribe at:
[http://www.dds.org/info/getinvolved/making_places/newsletter]; several other great listservs
at: [http://www.dds.org/info/getinvolved/listserves].
Research on Space and Place Website, [http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~janzb/place/home.html].
Urbanology Website, [http://urbanology.org].
Urban Space Public Art Website, [http://www.geog.gla.ac.uk:443/uspa/]
[videorecording].

Student Requirements
- Participate in class discussions.
- Prepare for each class by completing all reading assignments before class.
- Lead class discussion of readings once during semester.
- Complete two response papers to reading during semester (2-3 pages each).

Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Attendance</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lead Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers (2 papers)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Description of Assignments

Class Participation
Attendance and active participation is very important, as I will not be “lecturing” very often. Part of this
grade is your great/poor public space presentation.

Lead Discussion
Guide discussion of readings once during semester.

Response Papers
Each student will turn in two response papers (2-3 pages) to the readings assigned for that day. The
papers will briefly summarize the readings, then will include an analysis of the readings. Some
questions to consider (but please explore others!):
- What are the authors trying to say? Do you agree or disagree with these authors’ arguments?
- Why are these articles important? How does the point of view of this author similar/different
  from what other authors say?
The papers will be due on the day that the readings are discussed. Bring two copies of your paper to class – turn in one and keep one for your reference during class. The third paper is due by Tuesday, August 16th.

**Group Project**

The class will split into two groups, and will map out the public and semi-public spaces in an area of New Brunswick or another city of your choice (must be agreed upon with instructor). Groups will present results with photos, maps, and 5- to 7-page written analysis of the public and semi-public spaces in their chosen area. Groups should give as much information possible about each space, including the year built, the approximate size, the owner, the rules governing the use of each space, etc. Besides a description of each space and each network of spaces, the paper should provide a short section on recommendations for future development in the area. We will discuss this project in greater detail as the course goes on.

**Final Paper**

This will be an individual project involving an ethnographic study of one particular public space in Manhattan (although one could choose a particular “stretch” of blocks). One student should choose Washington Square Park and the current controversy surrounding the “redesign” of the park. The final paper should be at least 12 to 15 pages (including photos, diagrams, etc.) and should include substantial discussion of the way people use each space. Papers should discuss: circulation, “what works/what doesn’t”, publicness/privateness, who uses the space, how design structures interaction, rules governing each space, etc. Students should spend time in their space, interview users, and visually (or otherwise) document each space by using photos, sound recordings, videos, or other media. Once again, recommendations for alterations related to design or management should be a major part of this exercise. Additionally, the papers should refer to the readings completed during the semester. Results will be presented on August 16.

**Final Paper Presentation**

Present your paper (around 20 minutes) using Powerpoint, overheads, or other visual aids. Your presentation should be lively and interesting, and should hold our attention throughout. Be creative!

**Writing Guidelines**

- Use a style manual. Whichever manual you use, be consistent throughout the paper. Some typical choices might be Chicago Manual of Style, APA Guidelines, etc.
- Follow format conventions: 11/12 point font, one inch margins, page numbers, and double-spacing of lines.
- Avoid run-on sentences and sweeping generalizations; always run spell check.
- Always include an alphabetized bibliography.
- Use an appropriate citation system. For the social sciences, the most commonly used is the author-date format: (Author Year, Page Number) or (Author Year) – if no page number is appropriate. For example: “All students must use citations carefully” (Smith 2000, 56). Note that the period follows the parentheses. The details of citation are important, but most important is that you **behave honorably and credit work that is not your own.**
- If a quotation is more than 3 lines, use a block quotation format.
- Avoid contractions and informal language; use action verbs rather than passive verbs.

**Assignments and Schedule**

All readings on the following page come from the required texts or will be handed out to you. VERY IMPORTANT: The readings should be completed BEFORE the class under which it is listed.
| WEEKLY SCHEDULE |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| **DATE**         | **TOPICS**       | **READINGS**    | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| **Week 1: General Introduction** |
| Tuesday, July 12 | - Course overview  
- Themes  
- Readings  
- Does public space matter?  
- Urban planning | None | None |
| Thursday, July 14 | - Great public spaces  
- What works, what doesn’t, and why?  
- Provision, design, management | - Garvin, Ch. 3  
- Mumford  
- Olmsted  
- Lofland | Nominate several great/poor public spaces. Present to class. |

**Week 2: Public Space Management**

| Tuesday, July 19 | - Public space problems  
- The “unhoused”  
- Disorder and nuisance | - Mitchell 1995  
- Mitchell 2001  
- Ellickson  
- Loukaitou-Sideris 2005 | |
| Thursday, July 21 | - Public-private partnerships  
- Management types  
- Legal statutes | - Duneier book  
- Katz  

Friday, July 22 SITE VISIT TO BRYANT PARK w/ DAN BIEDERMAN IN NYC @ 12:00pm.

**Week 3: Public Space Provision**

| Tuesday, July 26 | - Formal vs. informal spaces  
- Zoning  
- Public vs. private space | - Garvin Ch. 16  
- Kohn book  
- Kayden 2005 | Final paper proposals |
| Thursday, July 28 | - Privatization and consumption  
- Security and control  
- Surveillance  
- Policing | - Fyfe and Bannister  
- Banerjee  
- Loukaitou-Sideris and Banerjee, Ch. 4 | |

**Week 4: Public Space Design/Policing**

| Tuesday, August 2 | - Various meta-theories  
- History  
- Location  
VIDEO: “Social Life of Small Urban Spaces” | - Jacobs, Ch. 2-5  
- Whyte  
- Newman  
- Loukaitou-Sideris and Banerjee, Ch. 10 | Group project presentations |
| Thursday, August 4 | - ‘Broken windows’  
- Policing | - Smithsimon  
- Wilson & Kelling  
- Morin  
- Town and O’Toole | |

**Week 5: Theory: “Big Picture”**

| Tuesday, August 9 | - Social justice  
- Conflicts  
- Inclusion and exclusion  
VIDEO: “LOVE Story” | - Pain  
- Németh  
- Sorkin book, choose any five (5) chapters | |
| Thursday, August 11 | | | NO CLASS |

**Week 6: Final Presentations**

| Tuesday, August 16 | Presentations on NYC Space Project | - Mitchell 2003  
- Zukin | Papers / Presentations; Final response paper |