

**LIB 2205/ARCH 2205 LEARNING PLACES: UNDERSTANDING THE CITY**

1 classroom hour, 4 lab/studio hours, 3 credits

**Course Description:** This special topics course offers an interdisciplinary approach to investigating our built environment using a case study focused on a specific place each semester. This course combines physical examination with information research and data collection using methodologies developed in multiple disciplines. Students from a variety of departments engage in on-site exploration and in-depth research of a location in New York City.

Faculty from the Library and Architectural Technology Departments are teaching the course this semester, and will thus focus course material through a lens of architecture, urban studies, and information studies.

**Course context:** This special topics course is an Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts and Sciences Course that applies toward the BTech/BS General Education Common Core College Option requirements.

**Prerequisites:** ENG 1101 and any Flexible Core Course

**Course Materials:**

Unlined notebook for sketching / note taking

All required readings, podcasts, and videos are available through OpenLab.

The following **recommended texts** are available on reserve at the City Tech Library:

Badke, William. *Research Strategies: Finding Your Way Through the Information Fog*. New York: luniverse, 2014. (Reserve Z710 .B23 2014)

Crowe, Norman, and Paul Laseau. *Visual Notes for Architects and Designers*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2012. Print. (Reserve NA2750 .C76 2012)

**Attendance Policy:** No more than 10% absences are permitted during the semester. For the purposes of record, two lateness are considered as one absence. Exceeding this limit will expose the student to failing at the discretion of the instructor.

**Course Structure:** This course combines a series of research seminars with field work, site visits, and on and off campus research. Combinations of individual and team assignments as well as class participation are the basis for the final grade.

**Grading:** Final grade will be determined according to the following:

- 30% Site Reports + Archive / Library Responses
- 15% Class Participation + Discussion Forum Posts
- 15% Mid-Term Exam
- 10% Thematic Outline
- 15% Group Annotated Bibliography
- 15% Final Podcast Project

**Academic Integrity:** Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the college recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City

University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension and expulsion.

### Cellphones & Personal Electronics

While we may need to use cameras or cellphones during site visits, phones and other personal electronic devices are otherwise prohibited in class. Students using phones or electronics will be dismissed and marked absent.

### General Education Learning Outcomes / Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Upon successful completion of this course the student shall be able to:	To evaluate the students' achievement of the learning objectives, the professor will do the following:
1. Develop, purposefully connect and integrate knowledge from a range of architectural, urban studies, information science, and other disciplinary perspectives presented in the course.	1. Review the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
2. Utilize skills in inquiry/analysis to derive meaning from experience as well as gather information from observation.	2. Review the students' site documentation report, research notes, and diagrams.
3. Demonstrate and apply information literacy aptitude by gathering, interpreting, evaluating and applying information discerningly from a variety of sources.	3. Review the students' research methodology proposal, annotated bibliography, and team research assignments to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.

### Interdisciplinary Learning Outcomes / Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Upon successful completion of this course the student shall be able to:	To evaluate the students' achievement of the learning objectives, the professor will do the following:
1. Purposefully connect and integrate across-discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems.	1. Review student reflections and Wikipedia assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
2. Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries.	2. Review student reflections and the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
3. Comprehend factors inherent in complex problems.	3. Review the students' research methodology proposal, and bibliography to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.
4. Think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively.	4. Review the students' class participation and research notes and diagrams; review the final report to evaluate critical thinking, effective communication, and effective collaboration.
5. Become flexible thinkers.	5. Review the students' site documentation report, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the discovery process.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes / Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Upon successful completion of this course the	To evaluate the students' achievement of the

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student shall be able to:	learning objectives, the professor will do the following:
1. Use the city as a laboratory for learning.	1. Review the students' site documentation reports, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered.
2. Develop a methodological approach to research.	2. Review the students' research methodology proposal, annotated bibliography, and team research assignment to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.
3. Understand the cultural, social and economic processes that guide the physical development of the built environment.	3. Review the students' research notes and diagrams; Review the team research assignment and the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
4. Use analytical skills to investigate places.	4. Review the students' site documentation report, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered.
5. Develop, document, catalogue, and organize information to make it accessible to the public.	5. Review the students' site documentation report, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered; review the final report to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
6. Apply observational skills to research and analysis.	6. Review the students' notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered.