**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** February 25, 2016

**REVIEWER:** Olufemi Sodeinde

**COURSE TITLE & NUMBER:** LIB 2205/ARCH 2205: Learning Places: Understanding the City (ID Special Topics)

**PROPOSED BY:** Profs. Christopher Swift and Ting Chin

**CREDIT HOURS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** ENG 1101 and 1 Flexible Core Course

**COURSE IS: X** Existing New In development

**PROPOSED COURSE DESIGNATION**: X College Option elective Capstone other:

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** Architecture Technology

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE (e.g., co-taught, guest lecture, LC, other):**  Co-taught

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): Shared credits 50/50; 1.5 credits each

**CATALOG 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. Students from multiple departments learn together in a methodology that combines physical examination through the lens of architecture and urban studies with information research and data collection through the lens of information studies.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE HOW COURSE MEETS INTERDISCIPLINARY CRITERIA?**

The central approach of this special topics course is place-based learning. Each semester, students will research two case studies that are inherently rich in cultural information. Students drawn from different departments will visit selected architectural sites or monuments to investigate among others, the social, economic and cultural impacts of such sites on users. Students are expected to infuse the perspectives of their disciplines to the project and the report that will emanate from it.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

This course will be co-taught by faculty from two departments, Humanities and Architectural Technology. As they progress through the course, students are expected to develop careful observation skills of the physical environment through the lens of architectural investigation and research skills, and to conduct analysis using methods from sociology and performance studies. For the scope and structure of the course, co-teaching is the best option.

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?**

Yes; this is an existing interdisciplinary course.

**STRENGTHS:** The course to be co-taught by faculty from Architecture and Humanities, will draw from the experience of the two faculty members. The investigation of case studies of selected architectural sites will involve methodological integration of the humanities and architectural technology. Underpinning this interdisciplinary approach, is the aim of revealing multiple, interconnected layers of meaning and relationships in the built environment. This would provide students good insight into how we interact with our built environment on many fronts.

**WEAKNESSES:** I feel that for prospective students to better understand what the course is about, providing examples of past activities or assignments in the syllabus would help. A template of the report to be produced or a past report can be included for clarity.