**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** February 25, 2016 (revised March 27, 2016)

**REVIEWER:** Reneta D. Lansiquot

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

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

**CREDIT HOURS:** 1 cl hr, 4 lab hrs. 5 cr

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

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

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

**DEPARTMENT HOUSED IN:** Architectural Technology

**PROPOSED STRUCTURE:** co-taught

**CREDIT DISTRIBUTION** (if co-taught): 50/50

**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?**

This is the first proposal from faculty to bring in a different perspective on an existing interdisciplinary special topics course. The theme of the course focuses on the study of designed spaces and environments in order to learn to see (observation) and reveal (research) new knowledge. Proposers, who will co-teach this course, will use an interdisciplinary place-based learning approach.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

The purpose of the course is to uncover the multiple layers, complexity, and interdependency of the histories, technologies, communal and performative uses, economic impacts, geographies, and social impacts of the selected sites. Each semester, students research two case studies that are inherently rich in cultural information. The final report requires synthesizing the findings across the lines of research and disciplines to communicate a coherent story about the place undertaken for study.

**DOES COURSE MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERAL EDUCATION?** < see links for criteria CityTech: <http://www.300jaystreet.com/college-council/curriculum_proposals/past_proposals> NYS: <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/lrp/liberalarts.htm> > Yes.

**STRENGTHS:** It is commendable that the proposers are also aiming for integrative learning. They have articulated strategies to facilitate students’ ability to make connections between the study of theater and architecture using field research (e.g., observations made on site will involve note taking, sketching, and photography. Students will make nuanced, careful observations of various elements and dynamics within the site: gender, ethnic, and class composition, economic activity; physical structure; social interaction; and performative interaction).

The proposers are currently in the process of submitting a Minor Curriculum Change to also cross-list this interdisciplinary special topics course in the Humanities Department as THE 2205.

**WEAKNESSES:** The syllabus does not describe the two case studies and final report assignments noted.

The proposers addressed the above weakness by providing detailed descriptions of the assignments (and directions/forms for the major assignments: Site Reports 1 and 2, and the Final Report), as well as clarifying the role of the two instructors.