**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

**Course Review Form**

**DATE:** March 31, 2016

**REVIEWER:** Reneta D. Lansiquot

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

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Montgomery and Susan Phillip (and Nora Almeida)

**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): Prof. Montgomery, 2 credits; Prof. Phillip 2 credits; Prof. Almeida, 1 credit

**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 course addresses the following central question: how can places teach us to observe the world around us and help us broaden our knowledge and understanding of things in general, helping foster the desire and skills for lifelong learning? It does so by using places to learn to see (observation) and reveal new knowledge (research). In addition, this course uncovers stories associated with places that are important to understanding it in not only in regard to urban development and its architectural significance, but also culturally in regard to the history and meaning of the place. These stories will be central to the marketing of a place as part of an urban tour project.

**DESCRIBE & EVALUATE THE INTERDISCIPLINARY STRUCTURE?**

Urban tourism and architecture are already linked topics, but each offers a different perspective as an entrée into primary source research. Here the questions of cultural significance will be solved by applying both perspectives in an integrated manner. The final report will require students to synthesize findings across the lines of research and disciplines to communicate a coherent story about the place.

**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:** The proposed instantiation of this special topics courses, which will be offered for this first time this summer, seamlessly integrates three disciplines. Onsite activities will include didactic discussion between Prof. Phillip and Prof. Montgomery. Assignments will require examining urban and architectural for ties to cultural contexts and historical significance as part of the marketing for an urban tour.

**WEAKNESSES:** None.