LIB 2205ID LEARNING PLACES: UNDERSTANDING THE CITY

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

D938 Monday/Wednesday 1-3:05 pm, Room A543
Prof. Amira Joelson ajoelson@citytech.cuny.edu office hours by appointment
Prof. Anne Leonard aleonard@citytech.cuny.edu office hours by appointment

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 and soft pencils for sketching and note-taking (Or refer to *Visual Notes* appendix for personal selection of sketchbook and drawings tools)

Recommended Text:
Badke, William. *Research Strategies: Finding your Way through the Information Fog*. Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2014. Print On reserve at the City Tech Library: Z710 .B23 2014

Crowe, Norman, and Paul Laseau. *Visual Notes for Architects and Designers*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2012. Print. On reserve at the City Tech Library: NA 2750 C76 2012

OpenLab Site: https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/lib2205idsp2017mw/

Attendance Policy: No more than 10% absences are permitted during the semester. For the purposes of record, two latenesses 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 fieldwork, site visits and documentation, and on and off campus research. Combinations of individual and team assignments as well as class participation are the basis for the final grade. The culmination of the weekly assignments is the Final Report as well as a Wikipedia Entry or Existing Site Editing. The Final Report will be published on the Open Lab and later accessible to the entire City Tech community.

Grading: Final grade will be determined according to the following grade weighting:
30% Site Documentation Reports
5% Annotated Bibliography
20% Team Research Assignment
10% Wikipedia contributions
25% Final Report Assignment

10% Class Participation

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 citation of 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.

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:
Develop, purposefully connect and integrate knowledge from a range of architectural, urban studies, information science, and other disciplinary perspectives presented in the course.	Review the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
Utilize skills in inquiry/analysis to derive meaning from experience as well as gather information from observation.	Review the students' site documentation report, research notes and diagrams.
Integrate information literacies by gathering, interpreting, evaluating and applying information discerningly from a variety of sources.	Review the students' research methodology proposal annotated bibliography, and team research assignment 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:
Purposefully connect and integrate across discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems	Review student reflections and Wikipedia assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries.	Review student reflections and the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
Comprehend factors inherent in complex problems.	Review the students' research methodology proposal and bibliography to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.
Think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively.	Review the students' class participation and research notes and diagrams; Review the final report to evaluate critical thinking, effective

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

Outline of Class Meetings:

1/30 M Course Introduction
Readings: Wikipedia articles on NYCHA, Public Housing, Urban Renewal, Downtown Brooklyn
2/1 W Introduction to the Site, Review of Visual Notation; Review of Research Methodologies
Readings: *Visual Notes*, Introduction, pp. 1-15; Appendix: tools and techniques, pp.181-187
2/6 M Initial Site Visit and Documentation; meet at 1 pm at Hudson Avenue & Plymouth Street
Readings: *Visual Notes*, Appendix: tools and techniques, pp.188 - 225
2/8 W Discussion of Site Visit and of Urban Renewal Issues
Readings: *Visual Notes*, Ch. 2, pp. 17-29

Homework: Blog Post #1
2/13 M College closed: Lincoln's Birthday; site report #1 due on OpenLab
2/15 W Research Seminar: Site Background, Library and Internet Research
Reading: Architectural Technology Subject Guide; How Search Works; Evaluating Internet Sources
2/22 W Site Visit: Site Observation & Documentation
Detailed Site Visit; Focused Documentation, including problem/issue identification
Reading: *Visual Notes*, Ch. 3, pp. 38-9 + select 2 case studies from pages 40-80; Ch. 4, pp. 101; 104 + Skim through pp. 107-177 (Drawings and note taking examples) to identify approaches and techniques that you might want to learn from.
Homework: Site Report: Observations, Sketches, Photos, and Notes -- utilize note taking techniques learned from reading; OpenLab reflection
2/27 M Site Visit Discussion
Research Seminar: Primary Sources
Readings: Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Sources, What are Primary Sources?
3/01 W Research Seminar: Identify Research Tracks and Teams
Clarify Primary Source Targets for Each Research Track
Site report #2 due
3/06 M Team Research Organization; Research Seminar: Archival Sources
Readings: Introduction to Archives, Digital Archives Materials, What are archives and how do they differ from libraries?
Homework: Team Research Outline & Task List
3/08 W Research Seminar: continued discussion on Archives
Readings: About page and other selections of the website
3/13 M Brooklyn Public Library Visit; Brooklyn Collection
Homework: Reflection and Archive Notes
3/15 W City Tech Library research seminar
Homework: Blog post #2
3/20 M Research Seminar: Digital Maps and Three Dimensional Visualization
Readings: Historic Maps as Historian's Evidence, Making Sense of Maps
Readings: About page and other selections of the website
Brooklyn Collection Report #3 due
3/22 W Research visit to NYPL Map Division
Homework: Site Report: Observations, Sketches, Photos, and Notes
3/27 M NYPL Maps visit discussion; Research Seminar: Maps and Quantitative Data Sources
3/29 W Research Documentation: Annotated Bibliography
Readings: Annotated Bibliography, Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing, Why and How to Avoid Plagiarism, Is it Plagiarism Yet?
Homework: Annotated Bibliography
New York Public Library Report #4 due
4/03 M Team Work Day in class
4/05 W Team Progress Presentations
Draft Development of Annotated Bibliography
4/19 W Team Progress Presentations, Final Deliverable Assignments
Homework: Reflection on Progress, Next Steps
4/20 **Thursday runs on a Monday class schedule** Final Report Mock Up
Reading: Wikipedia TBA
Annotated Bibliography Due
4/24 M Wikipedia Campus Ambassador Workshop
4/26 W Presentation Tools Workshop
5/01 M Report Development
5/03 W Report Development Review

Homework: Draft of Final Report / Wikipedia edits finished
5/08 M Report Development
Homework: Continue working on Final Report and Presentation
5/10 W Report Development Review
Homework: Continue working on Final Report and Presentation
5/15 M Final Editing
Homework: Continue working on Final Report and Presentation
5/17 W Final Editing
Homework: Continue working on Final Report and Presentation
5/22 M Formal Presentation of Reports
5/24 W Reflection

Course Readings
Annotated Bibliography, City Tech Library:
http://libguides.citytech.cuny.edu/AnnotatedBibliography
Architectural Technology Subject Guide, City Tech Library:
http://libguides.citytech.cuny.edu/archtech
Place-Based Research Subject Guide, City Tech Library:
http://libguides.citytech.cuny.edu/places
Wikipedia Reading TBA
Digital Archives Materials, Purdue OWL:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/988/07/
Evaluating Internet Sources, University of Illinois Libraries:
http://www.library.illinois.edu/export/ugl/howdoi/evaluate_internet.pdf
Evaluating Sources, City Tech Library:
http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/uploads/recap.pdf
Historic Maps as Historian's Evidence, Newberry Library:
http://publications.newberry.org/frontiertoheartland/exhibits/show/perspectives/historicmaps/mapsasevidence
How Search Works, Google:
http://static.googleusercontent.com/media/www.google.com/en/us/intl/en/insidesearch/howsearchworks/assets/searchInfographic.pdf
Introduction to Archives, Purdue OWL:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/988/01/
Is It Plagiarism Yet? Purdue OWL:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/
Making Sense of Maps, George Mason University and the American Social History Project,
http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/maps/
Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources, Virginia Tech University Libraries:
http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/research/primary-secondary-tertiary.html
Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing, Purdue OWL:
http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/
Wikipedia Sites:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City_Housing_Authority
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_space
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_housing
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Moses
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_renewal
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown_Brooklyn
What are archives and how do they differ from libraries? Society of American Archivists:
http://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives/whatarearchives

What are primary sources? Yale University Libraries:
http://primarysources.yale.edu/
Why and How to Avoid Plagiarism, City Tech Library:
http://library.citytech.cuny.edu/instruction/plagiarism/index.php