

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**NOHAD A. TOULAN SCHOOL OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING**  
USP 525, Spring 2012 **DESIGN ANALYSIS IN PLANNING** (2 credits)

**COURSE INFORMATION**

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Meeting Time	Tuesday 08:00 – 09:50 AM
Location	URBN 270
Instructor	Richard A. Potestio AIA 503.381.9719 <a href="mailto:rick@potestiostudio.com">rick@potestiostudio.com</a>
Office Hrs.	Urban Center, Adjunct Professor's Office 10:00 – 11:30 AM Tuesdays, or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

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DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to urban design concepts, theories, and precedents drawn mostly from European and American urban examples.

The course subject material will be presented in lectures, readings and field trips. Assignments and class discussion will serve as the primary tools to examine the materials presented.

PREMISE FOR THE COURSE

Today the responsibility for the design of the urban environment is shared between many professions, including planners, urban designers, transportation and utility engineers, architects, and landscape architects. Governmental agencies also play a significant role in how the urban environment is configured.

To achieve sustainable and culturally enriching urban environments the design professions will need to coordinate their work to a degree greater than is current practice. Hence all professionals will need to share a common language, and understand the parameters from which each profession's work progresses.

OBJECTIVE OF THE COURSE

- To understand urban design theories and concepts within a historic framework
- To understand how cultural and social conditions influence urban design
- To become familiar with the physical characteristics of urban elements
- To learn to observe, critique and envision the built environment

## **COURSE READINGS**

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The required course text is selected to introduce a classic means of describing the urban environment.

The suggested texts are intended to broaden your scope of understanding with regard to urban design theory. These will be on reserve in the PSU Library. It is highly recommended that you acquire these texts for your library.

### **Required Text:**

Lynch, Kevin, *The Image of the City*. MIT Press, 1960 (ISBN 0-262-62001-4)

### **Suggested Texts:**

Cullen, Gordon, *The Concise Townscape*. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. 1961

Jacobs, Jane, *The Death and Live of Great American Cities*. Random House 1961/Vintage Books 1992

Bacon, Edmund, *Design of Cities*. Thames and Hudson Ltd. 1967

Krier, Rob, *Urban Space*. Rizzoli, 1979

Whyte, William, *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. Project for Public Spaces, 1980

Hegemann and Peets, *The American Vitruvius*, Princeton Architectural Press, 1988

Jacobs, Allan, *Great Streets*. MIT Press, 1995

Duany and Plater-Zyberk. *Towns and Town-making Principles*. Rizzoli, 1991

Kunstler, James Howard, *The Geography of Nowhere*, Touchstone, 1994

Arendt, Randall, *Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town*. American Planning Assoc. 1999

Gehl, Jan, *Life Between Buildings*. Danish Architectural Press, 2001

Childs, Mark, *Squares*. Univ. of Mexico Press, 2004

Gatje, Robert, *Great Public Squares*. W.W. Norton & Co. 2010

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION AND DISCUSSION**

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This course will rely on class participation in the form of open discussions on the material presented in lectures, readings and field trips. Your questions and comments are critical to build upon the subject material. Each of you brings valuable experience, knowledge and perspectives that will enrich the learning experience. Sharing your views will be essential to the success of the course.

- Attendance:* Mandatory and on time. If you are not able to attend or must arrive late or leave early, please notify professor in advance.
- Participation:* Attention to the speaker and interaction with regard to the question/answer and discussion aspects of the course.
- Preparation:* Read assigned reading and suggested reading. Have the field-work done. Complete assignments on time.
- Respect:* Respect the viewpoints of the speakers and fellow students.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

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Class Participation and Discussion	25 points
Assignment #1: Urban Form Comparison (Individual) 2-4 pages	20 points
Assignment #2: Public Space Analysis (Group) 4-6 pages	20 points
Assignment #3: Neighborhood Center Proposal (Group) 6-8 pages	35 points
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100 points</b>

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GRADE POINT VALUE: A: over 90pts; A-: 85-90pts; B+: 80-85pts; B: 75-80pts

## **COURSE PROJECT ASSIGNMENTS**

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Three projects will be assigned over the term. One will be individually prepared work, and two will be team projects. Students may collaborate on all projects.

Projects One and Two are to be presented in hard copy form on 8.5x11 inch paper AND digital PDF format emailed to the professor.

Project Three will be presented in hard copy form(size appropriate) and in Power Point (or similar) to the class.

Projects are to be a combination of written and graphic content. Written content must be original. Graphic content should include original drawings, sketches, and diagrams and digitally generated images, and may include materials sourced from books and the internet. Cite the sources utilized. Data bases, including Google Maps and Google Earth may be used.

Drawing quality will NOT be a consideration for grading, however clarity in meaning and information will be.

### **PROJECT ONE: Urban Form Comparison**

#### **Individual Activity**

OBJECTIVE: To observe, evaluate and compare/contrast two unique cities in terms of their urban form.

The primary city will be your home city or one with which you are intimately familiar (having lived there or visited enough to understand and describe easily).

The comparison city will be Portland.

Use the lexicon and analysis framework from Kevin Lynch's book, *The Image of the City*, as the basis for your dissertation.

Elaborate on Lynch's methodology with your own methodology for evaluation.

Illustrate your written work with diagrams, plans, maps, and photos. Images may be source from the internet, books and of your own recording (photos and drawings). Cite sources for information.

## **PROJECT TWO: Public Space Analysis**

### **Group Activity**

**OBJECTIVE:** To analyze an urban space with regard to its functional and experiential qualities. To assess the success of the space with regard to its identity, purpose and use.

Select an urban space/street in Portland, and a similar one in another city with which you are intimately familiar. (Example: Pioneer Square in Portland vs Union Square in San Francisco; Burnside Street in Portland, vs Massachusetts Ave. in Boston-Cambridge)

Describe the fundamental organization and design elements of the spaces. Analyze the spaces, and compare/contrast them. Evaluate the success of each.

Illustrate your written work with diagrams, plans and maps, and photos. Images may be source from the internet, books and of your own recording ( photos and drawings ) Cite sources for information.

## **PROJECT THREE: Urban Infill Proposal**

### **Group Activity**

**OBJECTIVE:** To apply urban design concepts to a proposed or existing urban neighborhood.

Select a brownfield or underdeveloped site within the UGB or an existing neighborhood center. (Example: Brownfield: The Zidel Property; Underutilized: The Conway Property; Neighborhood: St. John's)

Describe the existing condition. Create a development plan that locates new uses: A school, a farmer's market/food cart pod, housing and retail, and public square and a park. Provide for transportation with streets and infrastructure.

Present your proposal with maps, diagrams, plans and cross sections. Use photos and images to illustrate your proposal. Describe the rationale of your proposal; relate it to urban theories as studied, and describe its desired experiential qualities.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** subject to change

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**CLASS 1) APRIL 3: INTRODUCTIONS**

Student and Professor introductions. Student Survey, Team Formation, Course and Assignment description

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“Great Cities: what makes them so?” Visual Preference Mock Survey.

**PROJECT ONE:** Urban Form/City Comparison, Individual Project

**CLASS 2) APRIL 10: TRADITIONAL URBAN FORM PRECEDENTS**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“Traditional Cities and Urban Form: Examples from History”

READINGS:

Lynch, *The Image of the City*: Pages 1-13; 46-117

SUGGESTED READING:

Bacon, *The Design of Cities*

Hegemann & Peets, *The American Vitruvius*

**CLASS 3) APRIL 17: COMPONENTS OF THE TRADITIONAL CITY**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“Components of the Traditional City: Fabric and Monumental buildings, Boulevards, Streets and Squares”.

SUGGESTED READING:

Jacobs, *Great Streets*

Gatje, *Great Public Squares*

**CLASS 4) APRIL 24: FIELD TRIP: THE PUBLIC REALM AND URBAN PLACES**

Meet at Skidmore Fountain, SW First Avenue and SW Pine.

SUGGESTED READING:

Krier, *Urban Space*

Gehl, *Life Between Buildings*

Childs, *Squares*

**PROJECT ONE DUE**

**PROJECT ASSIGNMENT TWO:** Public Space Analysis

**CLASS 5) MAY 1: MODERN URBAN FORM PRECEDENTS**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“Modern Cities and Urban Form: The impact of motorized transportation”

SUGGESTED READING:

Kunstler, *The Geography of Nowhere*, pages 17-37; 59-84

Arendt, *Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town*

Duany & Plater-Zyberk, *Towns and Town-making Principles*

**CLASS 6) MAY 8: URBAN COMPONENTS OF THE MODERN CITY**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“Mundane to Monumental: building blocks of the modern urban fabric”

**PROJECT TWO DUE**

**CLASS 7) MAY 15: FIELD TRIP: URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS BEFORE ZONING**

Meet in front of the Garden Club, 1132 SW Vista Ave.

**PROJECT ASSIGNMENT THREE: Urban Infill Proposal**

**CLASS 8) MAY 22: DESIGN DETAILS AND REGULATIONS**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“The human scale in urban design”

**CLASS 9) MAY 29: URBAN FORM: THE CONTEMPORARY CITY**

PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION:

“Transformative strategies for contemporary cities”

**CLASS 10) JUNE 5**

**PROJECT THREE DUE: GROUP POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS**

**USP 525 SPRING 2012**

**STUDENT SURVEY**

NAME

AGE

EMAIL

PHONE

HOME TOWN

COUNTRIES VISITED

PROFESSION, (CURRENT OR ANTICIPATED)

RELATED COURSES TAKEN

FAVORITE RECREATION ACTIVITY

SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS: 200 WORDS +/- EACH QUESTION

- 1) WHAT DOES URBAN DESIGN MEAN TO YOU?
- 2) WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CITY, AND WHY?
- 3) WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO LEARN FROM THIS COURSE?