

URBDP 507 C

General Urban Planning Lab | "15-Minute Neighborhood" Project

Spring 2023

Instructor: E. David Blum, AICP email: blumedw@uw.edu

Teaching Assistant: Callie McGrew: email: calliemcgrew10@gmail.com

Monday and Wednesday 10:00 AM to 1:50 PM

Gould 236

Credits: 5; **Format:** Studio

Course Website: CANVAS (Submittal of your analysis, drawings, reflection paper as well as final presentation and report will be done on the Canvas website.)

Course Description

This studio brings together multiple planning elements within the context of creating the "15-Minute Neighborhood". The focus of this work is on understanding the current status of and potential improvements to be made with the built environment and regulatory framework in three neighborhoods: South Park, Roosevelt and West Seattle.

This studio will provide students with learning opportunities across a variety of planning issues. The principal focus of the studio is the following:

- Understanding how the built environment of these three neighborhoods can be improved to achieve a "15-Minute Neighborhood" for local residents.
- Recommending strategies and specific interventions to help solve current problems in these three neighborhoods.

Learning Objectives

To experience working in a collaborative environment on a real project for an actual client.

- To experience self-directed work individually and within a group framework.
- To better understand planning principles and theories.
- To gain increased knowledge of planning principles in an applied project environment.
- To produce work products of high quality on a fixed schedule.

Evaluation and Grading

Your performance in this class includes:

Scope of Work and Project Timeline [Group assignment]: 15%

- Thoughtful strategy and structure for representing the scope of work for this project.
- Thoughtful exploration of topics that integrate ideas from site visits, research and collaboration with the client.

Class Participation and Attendance [Individual assignment]: 25%

- Extensive, active and continual involvement and contribution to the project.
- Participate collaboratively, flexibly, consistently and productively as a member of their assigned project group.
- Complete all assignments on time and comply with assignment instructions.
- Demonstrated and measured responsiveness to review feedback. Identifiable incorporation of that feedback evidenced by changes and improvements in the products and deliverables.
- Promptly ask the instructor for clarification of all assignments, as necessary.

Please Note: Students should expect to devote 1 to 2 hours of work time outside of class hours for every hour of scheduled studio time.

Book Discussion: "The Geography of Nowhere" [Individual] 5%

- Each student will serve as a discussion leader for a class book discussion, identifying the main themes of their chapter and developing discussion questions.

Final Essay: "The Geography of Nowhere" [Individual] 15%

(A paperback copy of the book will be provided at no cost.)

After you have an opportunity to read this book please upload an essay to Canvas of not less than 500 words describing what you have learned regarding the future of the University District as well as greater Seattle. I am looking for a well-developed and cohesive essay that clearly derives from the topics discussed in the book with succinct and engaging content to include:

- A well-developed and cohesive essay that clearly derives from the topics discussed in class as well as project analysis and the planning process.
- Demonstration of the application of important ideas covered in course reviews and site analysis.
- Succinct and engaging content.

Mid-quarter Presentation and Project Report [Group assignment]: 15%

All students will contribute to the draft mid-quarter presentation and report including:

- An online presentation to invited stakeholders and faculty which summarizes and explains the project work.

- A draft report including all relevant information in digital format.

Final Presentation and Project Report [Group assignment]: 25%

All students will contribute to the completion of the project by the end of the quarter including:

- An online presentation to invited stakeholders and faculty which summarizes and explains the project work.
- A final report including all relevant information in digital format.

Studio Culture

The bulk of the “in class work” time will be spent working at your table on class assignments and projects. Studio includes individual in-class work time during which the instructor is expected to review your work and answer questions as needed. In addition, some of the studio time will be spent on desk “crits” (short for critiques) and group crits. A desk crit is a one-on-one dialogue between a student and an instructor about the student’s project and process. A group crit is a discussion between the instructor and any number of students on issues pertaining to the group’s project. There will also be some opportunities for pin-up review and discussion in which student projects will be critiqued by other faculty, professionals and/or student peers. For those of you who are new to the studio environment, please note that it can be a relatively unstructured work period. Studio time should be used only for these work tasks and for exchanging work-related ideas among students and instructor.

Responsibility and Procedures for Dealing with Costs Associated with Studio

If the instructor assigns students to purchase specific materials to be used in the studio please keep copies of all receipts for these items. The instructor will arrange for you to be reimbursed for these purchases by the end of the quarter.

Collaboration

Given the nature of the field of urban planning, much of the work in this class is collaborative. Each member of a group is expected to contribute equitably through the studio process and the generation of a final product. Students at the graduate level are expected to be capable of negotiating these issues independently, although the instructor is available if questions arise.

CANVAS Site

The course syllabus, schedule, assignments, and readings will be made available on the CANVAS site and updated regularly. It is the responsibility of each student in the studio course to review the CANVAS site consistently during the quarter to insure their understanding and compliance with all requirements of the course. For some students this means a daily review of the CANVAS site.

Other Policies

This class is of course governed by all of the University of Washington student policies, including those regarding plagiarism and multiple submissions. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and adhere to these policies.

A Note on Absences

Students at the graduate level are expected to be capable of managing their own schedules. Please note that unavoidable absences should be pre-arranged and the instructor reserves the right to lower a student's final grade if there are more than two absences during the quarter.

Access and Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so that we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to: mental health, attention related learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Safe Space

According to the "Safe Space Network", safe space is: a place where anyone can relax and be able to fully express, without fear of being made to feel uncomfortable, unwelcome, or unsafe on account of biological sex, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, cultural background, religious affiliation, age, or physical or mental ability. [It is] a place where the rules guard each person's self-respect and dignity and strongly encourage everyone to respect others. Our classroom will be a Safe Space this quarter.

Deadlines

All deadlines for submission of required work deliverables and presentations are clearly noted on the course calendar. We will discuss each deadline well in advance of that specific date and make sure that all students understand when and how to make the required submissions.

Academic Honesty

This class is of course governed by all of the University of Washington student policies, including those on plagiarism and multiple submissions. It is your responsibility to be familiar with these policies. More information is available on this website:

<https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

Electronic Etiquette Policy

Avoid phone conversations or texting during studio and please be courteous.

Sensitive Topics (If studio engaged sensitive topics on race, gender, class and sexuality)

It is an expectation that we will all approach these topics with sensitivity, thoughtfulness, and openness and recognize that different people will have their own relationships to this material. Be respectful of diverse opinions and allow everyone to contribute in discussions.

Suggested Readings List/ Resources

“Makeshift Metropolis” Witold Rybczynski: Scribner, 2010.

“Introduction to Cities” Xiangmin Chen, Anthony Orum, Krista Paulen: Wiley Blackwell, 2012.

“The Triumph of the City” Edward Glaeser: Penguin Press, 2010.

“The Death and Life of Great American Cities” Jane Jacobs: Vintage Books, 1992.

“Suburban Nation” Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyber, Jeff Speck: North Point Press, 2000.

“The Image of the City” Kevin Lynch: The MIT Press, 1960.

“The City in History” Lewis Mumford: Hardcourt, Inc. 1961

Class Schedule (Draft)

Monday, March 27: Course Introduction; Review of Syllabus; Discussion: drafting a Scope of Work, and related timeline for the quarter; Organizing work groups; Discussion: Studio format.

Wednesday, March 29: Work groups; Review of draft Scope of Work and related timeline.

Monday, April 3: In Class Work.

Wednesday, April 5: In Class Work.

Monday, April 10: In Class Work.

Wednesday, April 12: In Class Work.

Monday, April 17: In Class Work.

Wednesday, April 19: Mid-Quarter Presentation Review.

Monday, April 24: Mid-Quarter Presentation.

Wednesday, April 26: In Class Work.

Monday, May 1: In Class Work.

Wednesday, May 3: In Class Work.

Monday, May 8: In Class Work.

Wednesday, May 10: In Class Work.

Monday, May 15: In Class Work.

Wednesday, May 17: In Class Work.

Monday, May 22: In Class Work.

Wednesday, May 24: Final Presentation Review.

Monday, May 29: Final Presentation Review & In Class Work.

Wednesday, May 31: Final Presentation.