

A4027 APP: Architecture, Planning, and Preservation: New York
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Thursdays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm AVERY 300

Architecture, Planning, and Preservation: New York (APP), the core course for the first session of The Shape of Two Cities program, is designed to introduce students to the professional and theoretical issues in the three disciplines. The lectures and readings focus on history, theory, and politics, and examine the interplay of forces that have shaped New York's built environment in the past and that influence it today. Specialists from the three fields lecture in several classroom sessions, and field trips to professional offices, public hearings, and development projects expose students to the dynamics of design, planning, and policy decisions.

This year's APP will apply its general overview and critical analysis to a special focus on Density and Public Space – especially in New York City, but also beyond – by studying both current examples and historical texts. We will pursue a close reading of classic texts – Jane Jacobs, Kevin Lynch, and William H. Whyte, etc. – which we will study for both their evergreen empirical approaches, as well as in their historical contexts. Our field trips, guest speakers, and class discussions will highlight the contrasts and tensions between planning on a large scale and listening to and learning from community concerns.

Group projects and individual research papers will prepare students for an informed classroom debate near the end of the semester.

Requirements and criteria for grading:

Lively class participation	15%
Reading comments/Short papers	25%
Term project: oral debate	30%
Final paper to be explained in class	30%

The following books have been ordered at Book Culture on Broadway:

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage (1961).
Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, MIT (1960).
William H. Whyte, *City: Rediscovering the Center*, U Penn Press (1988; 2009).

We recommend that you also purchase or read in the Avery Library reserve:
Edward Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*, Penguin (2011).

Vishaan Chakrabarti, *A Country of Cities: A Manifesto for Urban America*, Metropolis Books (2013).

Important Course Policies

Class attendance – **you must attend each and every class meeting**. Please be on time. Three unexcused absences will threaten failure for the semester.

Lectures and reading assignments: See the dates below, but note that speakers on listed dates may change.

Sept. 8 Field trip: Walking tour of Lower Manhattan, including Wall Street, the World Trade Center site, Battery Park City, and The Skyscraper Museum. (If you are late, or otherwise lose the group, you can find us at The Skyscraper Museum, 39 Battery Pl. in Battery Park City after 10:30.)

Meet at 9:30 am on the steps of Federal Hall, corner of Wall and Nassau streets

Directions by subway: 1 to Rector St. or 2, 3 & 4, 5 subway to Wall Street

Readings: (For class September 15 and October 1)

Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Vintage (1961). Discussion will focus on the introduction and chapter 11, “The Need for Concentration”, but the entire book is highly recommended.

Lynch, Kevin. *The Image of the City*, MIT, (1960). (Much of this book can, in fact, be read on line on Google Books (with some missing pages), but that would be far inferior to holding the book in your hand to read it. Likewise for Jane Jacobs.)

Coursebooks are available at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street

Assignment: Following our class tour of **Battery Park City**, describe our walk through WTC and BPC in Lynchian terms. Please illustrate this with photos or sketches. **DUE in class September 22.**

Sept. 15 Introduction to the issues and requirements of the course;
Discussion of Jacobs and Lynch readings

(In class)

Readings: Continue with Jacobs, close reading of Chapter 11 for in-class discussion on September 29.
For Brooklyn Bridge Park Tour
<http://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/pages/history>;
<http://gothamist.com/2015/03/27/brooklyn-bridge-park-before-after.php#photo-1>

Sept. 22 Field trip: Brooklyn Bridge Park, Guest speaker and guide: Regina Meyer, President, Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation
Meet at 10 am at the entrance to Pier 1 (bottom of Old Fulton St.)
Directions: A/C Subway to High Street. Walk north to Old Fulton Street and west to the river and Pier 1.

Readings: (For classes September 29 and October 6)

William H. Whyte, “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces”
<https://vimeo.com/111488563> Please view the full 59-minute video on your own. We will see sections during class.

William H. Whyte, *City: Rediscovering the Center*, U Penn Press (1988; 2009), Chapter 16, “*The Rise and Fall of Incentive Zoning*”. Most of the points of the video are documented in Whyte’s book. We advise you to look at the entire book in order to enhance your understanding of the video.

Sept. 29 Classroom session: Density and Public Space.
Discussion of readings.

Oct. 6 Field trip: Office of architects SHoP and visit South Street Seaport

Oct. 13 South Street Seaport: Guest Speaker: James Sanders, architect and consultant to South Street Seaport Cultural District
(In class)

Readings: Vishaan Chakrabarti, p. 21: defines “city” as “a place that can provide significant ridership for rapid mass transit such as a subway network, which typically requires a density range of 30 housing units per acre.”

In *Triumph of the City*, Edward Glaeser defines cities as places with an “absence of space between people and firms.” What does he mean by this? Comment on the different definitions of Glaeser and Chakrabarti.

Oct. 20 Field trip with Rosalie Geneviro to The Architectural League of New York,

Meet at the League's offices at 594 Broadway (just south of Houston)

Oct. 27 In-class discussion. **Short paper due this week.**

Nov. 1 **TUESDAY Yes, Tuesday!**

Field trip to Landmarks Preservation Commission Hearing attend a public hearing on Designations and "Certificates of Appropriateness"

We will meet in front of the Municipal Building, **One Centre Street** at 9:30 am and go upstairs to the hearing room on the 9th floor together. If you are late or miss the group, make your way through Security to **9th floor, North**. Take the **2/3** subway to **Chambers/City Hall**. Make sure to bring identification. Your bags will be go through metal detectors, so no exacto-blades, etc. *Readings: (For class October 29)*

<http://www.downtownexpress.com/2015/08/13/city-landmarks-rains-on-south-street-seaport-plan/>

Readings: (For Landmarks visit October 20) No written comments due.
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/about/about.shtml>;
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/html/about/history.shtml>

Nov. 3 **Class meeting to be discussed.**

Nov. 10 Topic on large-scale planning Guest speaker:
Juliette Michaelson, EVP, Regional Plan Association
(In Class) *Readings: (For class November 17)*

Nov. 17 **Practice session for debate. Written "testimony" due.**

***Precis of student's paper topic due**

Nov. 24 No Class: Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 1 Discussion before presentations
(In class)

Dec. 8 **Presentations**

Dec. 12 **FINAL PAPERS DUE IN WILLIS/ GENEVRO
MAILBOX, 4TH FLOOR AVERY**