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<http://online.caup.washington.edu/courses/larch361/>

Class time: T/Th 10:30 - 11:50
Office Hours: M/F 10:00-12:00
meetings also by appointment

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Introduction:

Although we do not always recognize it, we are deeply affected by the physical world around us. To understand our daily experiences of place, and what makes successful places work, we must consider our relationship to our surroundings carefully. In this course, we will explore the reciprocal nature of our relationships with place. We will consider both how our environment affects our daily lives, and how we, in turn, shape our environments.

This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to exploring people in a physical context, bringing together resources in the social sciences (psychology, geography, anthropology, sociology) and the design disciplines (landscape architecture, architecture and urban planning) to provide a richer understanding of the complex dynamic between people and their physical surroundings.

Course Description:

This course will explore the human experience of place by examining an array of critical issues. In this class, the environment is broadly conceived to include not only our physical surroundings (both natural and built) but also the larger, socio-cultural and political milieu in which we live. Starting with foundational theories on place attachment and place identity, the course will cover central issues that inform urban ecological design, including our relationships to nature, landscape preferences, territoriality, urban growth and sprawl, and the appearance, meanings and uses of urban public space. We will conclude with a closer look at design processes and the ways in which they can be enriched through an interdisciplinary perspective. In addressing these issues, the course will provide a critical framework for understanding the role of the environment in our everyday lives.

Objectives:

Through reading, discussion, in-class activities and assignments, this course will help you to think more critically about the world around you. More specifically, this course will help you to:

- Explore and understand various perspectives on human-environment interrelationships
 - Gain insight into the ways in which the environment influences our experiences
 - Understand the ways that we exert influence on the environment
 - Gain first-hand knowledge about people-place dynamics through hands-on activities
 - Gain insights for creating more effective and appropriate designs that address human needs
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Required Text:

Course Reader: A collection of essays, book chapters and articles have been selected and compiled into a course reader. This is available at Professional Copiers on “the Ave” (4200 University Way). No formal textbook is required for this class.

Grading and Course Work:

Course grades will be based on the following activities during the term:

In-Class Exercises	10%
Mini-project Assignments	30%
Mid-quarter Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
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Total	100%

1. In-Class Exercises: The richness of this course greatly depends on your active engagement with the issues raised in class. Be sure to review readings carefully and come to class prepared to discuss them. We will also have a number of in-class exercises that are an essential part of this class and your learning. You are expected to come to class and participate in these. Periodically, materials developed from these activities will be collected.

2. Mini-projects: Two “mini-projects” will be assigned during the quarter. These short assignments (about 5 pps. each) will give you an opportunity to put concepts raised in class to the test in fieldwork, providing you with critical, hands-on experience. Guidelines for each mini-project will be handed out in class.

1: Environmental Autobiographies

2: Cognitive Mapping

3. Take Home Essay Exams: There will be two take-home exams for this course; one is due mid-quarter and the other is due at the end of the quarter. Both of these papers will be made up of short essay questions based on questions from the readings and lectures. The purpose of these papers is to further engage you in the course topics and to help you to articulate your own views on the issues.

Course Outline:

Tues. Jan 8 / Th. Jan 10

The Nature of Our Relationships to Place

Gifford, R. (2002). “Making a difference: Some ways that environmental psychology has changed the world.” In R. Bechtel and A. Churchman (Eds). Handbook of Environmental Psychology. NY: Wiley, pp.323-332.

Proshansky, H. (1971). Excerpt from “The role of environmental psychology for the design professions.” Paper presented as symposium: Architecture of Human Behavior. Philadelphia, PA.

check it out! short films from major figures on the environment:

www.ted.com/themes/view/id/15

Film: “The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces” by William H. Whyte

Tues. Jan 15 / Th. Jan 17

Place Attachment, Identity & Place Meaning

Cooper Marcus, C. (1992). “Environmental Memories.” In I. Altman and S. Low (Eds). Place Attachment. New York: Plenum Press.

Hooker, W. (n.d.) "The first step in garden design: Exploring memories of favorite places for inspiration." In The Best of Fine Gardening.

Hester, R. (1993). "Sacred spaces and everyday life: A return to Manteo, North Carolina." In D. Seamon (Ed.). Dwelling, Seeing and Designing: Toward a Phenomenological Ecology. NY: State University of New York Press.

Williams, D. and Stewart, S. (1998). "Sense of place: An elusive concept that is finding home in ecosystem management." Journal of Forestry, 95(5), 18-23.

check it out!: www.flight93memorialproject.org

Tues. Jan 22 / Th. Jan 24

Relationships to Nature

Kaplan, R., Kaplan, S. and Ryan, R. (1998). Excerpts from With People in Mind: Design and Management of Everyday Nature. Washington D.C.: Island Press.

Spirn, A. W. (1984). Ch 1: "City and Nature." In The Granite Garden: Urban Nature and Human Design. NY: Basic Books.

Nassauer, J. I. (1997). "Culture and landscape ecology: Insights for action." In Nassauer, J. (Ed.). Placing Nature: Culture and Landscape Ecology. pp. 3-11.

check it out!: www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp (take the Ecological Footprint Quiz!)
www.ci.seattle.wa.us/environment/ (Seattle's Office of Sustainability & Environment)
www.ted.com/themes/view/id/15 (Short Film: Majora Carter: Greening the Ghetto)

**** Mini-Project #1: Environmental Autobiographies Due - Tuesday, Jan 22 ****

Tues. Jan 29 / Th. Jan 31

Environmental Perception and Cognition

Gifford, R. (2002). Excerpts from Ch.2: "Environmental Cognition" In Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice (3rd ed.) Optimal Books.

Taylor, R. (1998). Excerpt from "Aesthetics and Cognition: The Embodied Mind in the Ecological Landscape." UW: MLA Thesis.

Carpman, J. and Grant, M. (2002). "Wayfinding: A broad view." In R. Bechtel and A. Churchman (Eds.). Handbook of Environmental Psychology. NY: John Wiley and Sons.

check it out!: Seattle's Wayfinding Project
www.ci.seattle.wa.us/dclu/CityDesign/DesignLeadership/Conn_n_places/CityCenterWayfinding.htm

Tues. Feb 5 / Th. Feb 7

Community Design and Defensible Space

Cisneros, H. (1995). Defensible Space: Deterring Crime and Building Community. Washington D.C.: U.S. Dept of Housing and Urban Development.

Taylor, R. (2002). "Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED): Yes, no, maybe, unknowable and all of the above." In Handbook of Environmental Psychology. NY: Wiley.

Hayden, D. (19). "Urban landscape history: The sense of place and the politics of space." In P. Groth and T. Bressi (Eds.). Understanding Ordinary Landscapes. New Haven, CN: Yale University Press.

check it out! www.defensiblespace.com
www.spacesyntax.com/housing/BillCrimePaper/BillCrimePaper.html

**** Mini-project: Cognitive Mapping Due - Thursday, Feb 7 ****

Tues. Feb 12 / Th. Feb 14

Growth, Sprawl and New Urbanism

Duany, Plater-Zyberk and Speck. (2000). Excerpts from Suburban Nation: The rise of sprawl and the decline of the American Dream. NY: North Point Press.

Dietrich, W. (2002). "The Big Squeeze: Shaping the Region's Density in the Face of Increasing Density." In Pacific Northwest, The Seattle Times Magazine. p. 16.

check it out! www.epa.gov/livability
www.smartgrowth.org

Tues. Feb 19 / Th. Feb 21

**Downtown Revitalization
and Community Development**

Gratz, R. and Mintz, N. (1998). Excerpts from Cities Back From The Edge: New Life for Downtown. NY: John Wiley and Sons.

Diers, J. (2004). "Cultivating Community: The P-Patch Program." In Neighbor Power: Building Community the Seattle Way. WA: University of Washington Press.

check it out! www.cityrepair - creative grassroots projects in Portland
www.ci.eugene.or.us/pdd/development/downtown/space.htm administration of Eugene, Oregon; public space goes private

***** Mid-Term Essay Exam Due - Thursday, Feb 21 *****

Tues. Feb 26 / Th. Feb 28

Urban Public Space

Carr, Francis, Rivlin and Stone (1992). "The value of public space." In Public Spaces: Human Qualities of the Public Environment. NY: Cambridge University Press, pp 3-21.

Project for Public Spaces, Inc. (2000). Excerpts from How to Turn a Place Around: A Handbook for Creating Successful Public Spaces. New York: Project for Public Spaces, Inc.

Tues. March 4 / Th. March 6

Contested Meanings and Multiple Publics

Hines, S. (May 2005). "Contested Terrain." Landscape Architecture Magazine, pp 120-125, 146-147.

Abramson, D. Manzo, L. and Hou, J. (forthcoming). "From Ethnic Enclave to Multi-ethnic Trans-local Community: Contested Identities and Community Planning in Seattle's Chinatown-International District." Journal of Architectural and Planning Research.

check it out!:

www.pps.org//gps Project for Public Spaces - see their "Hall of Shame!"

www.vanalen.org/exhibits/PublicSpace/PubSpaceMain.htm - internat'l examples of public space designs

www.tpl.org - Trust for Public Land - see what's happening in WA state

www.designtrust.org - design trust for public space - but focus is on NYC

www.itsyourspace.org.uk - innovative ideas from the UK

Tues. Mar 11

Privacy in Public Space

Privacy International (1999). Privacy and Human Rights 1999: An International Survey of Privacy Laws and Developments. London.

^Newspaper Articles:

Boal, M. (1998). "Spycam City: The surveillance society." In The Village Voice.

Le, P. (Tues, Oct 5, 1999). "Computers to monitor the homeless." Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Th. Mar 13.

A New Look at Design: Toward Better Practice

Sommer, R. (1983). "Design of a Tomato" and "Social Design" In Social Design: Creating Buildings with People in Mind. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall. pps. 175-182, 6-7, 42-45.

Gifford, R. (2002). "Designing More Habitable Environments" pps. 467-497, and Epilogue: "Utopia versus entopia" pp. 502-504. In Environmental Psychology: Principles and Practice. Optimal Books.

***** Tuesday, March 18 Final Exam Due by Noon *****

WK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1	1/08 Intro: Our Relationships to Place	1/10 Our Relationships to Place
2	1/15 Place Attachment + Place Meaning	1/17 Place Attachment + Place Meaning
3	1/22 Relationships to Nature Mini-Project #1 Due: Environmental Autobiographies	1/24 Relationships to Nature
4	1/29 Environmental Perception + Cognition	1/31 Environmental Perception + Cognition
5	2/5 Community Design + Defensible Space	2/7 Community Design + Defensible Space Mini-project #2 Due: Cognitive Mapping
6	2/12 Growth, Sprawl + New Urbanism	2/14 Growth, Sprawl + New Urbanism
7	2/19 Downtown Revitalization + Community Development	2/21 Urban Public Space MIDTERM ESSAY EXAM DUE
8	2/26 Urban Public Space	2/28 Contested Meanings + Multiple Publics
9	3/4 Privacy in Public Space	3/6 A New Look at Design
10	3/11 A New Look at Design	3/13 Toward Better Practice

***** Tuesday, March 18 Final Exam Due by Noon *****