

THE DESIGN OF CITIES
Geography 483/514
Dr. Brian J. Sommers

Classroom: Diloreto 314
Class Hours: R 2:00-4:50
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THE COURSE

Geography 483/514 Topics in Planning: The Design of Cities is a course that will deal in detail with the physical structure (morphology) and the design of cities. It will look at the city as a physical form and as the result of the direct impact of design approaches, issues, and meanings. The goal will be to provide the students with an understanding of the theories, people, and techniques of these fields of endeavor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through the course students will gain:

- 1) An understanding of concepts in urban design and an appreciation for the 'meaning' of spaces.
- 2) Knowledge of the history of architectural responses to the needs of cities.
- 3) An appreciation for how the construction of a community contributes to its identity.

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no single text that covers, in an appropriate manner, the topics to be dealt with in the course. As such, there will be readings drawn from a number of sources. Some of the sources are texts required for purchase. These are listed below. There will also be assigned readings from texts, specialized guidebooks, journals, public documents, etc. These will be provided on a one-hour reserve basis, in the Geography 483/514 mailbox outside my office. For a complete listing, see the readings assignments for the semester at the end of this syllabus.

Required Textbooks:

- Kostof, S. 1992. The City Assembled. New York: Bulfinch Publishers.
Choay, F. 1969. The Modern City: Planning in the 19th Century. New York: Braziller Press.
CANCEL Attoe & Logan. American Urban Architecture. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Bacon, E.N. 1976. Design of Cities. New York: Penguin Books.
Wood, J. 1997. The New England Village. Baltimore: John's Hopkins University Press.
(For 514 students only)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GEOGRAPHY 483

Participation and Readings-Participation is a composite of a variety of things related to attendance and actual participation in classroom activities. As this class is in seminar format with only one class per week, attendance and participation are of critical importance and will count accordingly. I expect that students will come to class knowing (not just having read) the assigned materials, being ready to discuss them at length, and with questions from the readings. The readings and questions will form the basis of in-class discussions.

Final Exam-There will be a final exam that will test general knowledge and integration of the course content and materials. It will be open note. Students will receive a failing course grade for missing the exam.

Review Essays-Each week one or more students will be assigned as reviewers. These individuals will be responsible for reviewing the readings and the class discussions/lectures for that week and producing a comprehensive summary. The reviews should be well-written, organized, edited, and will be graded based on completeness (3/4) and presentation (1/4). The reviews are due at the beginning of the next class period. Copies of the lecture review assignments should be made for each person in the class.

Research Project-This project requires that the students apply knowledge gained in the classroom in a study related to the course materials. The end product can take one of two forms. First, it may take the form of a community study. The end result of the project will then be a hybrid research paper/guidebook of urban design and morphology issues in a selected community. The second form is of a research paper on some issue/example of urban design. The end result of this second form would be more of a traditional research paper. In either case, guidelines for the project and a timeline for elements of the project are included later in this syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR GEOGRAPHY 514

For the graduate students the requirements of the course are similar to those of the undergraduates with a few important exceptions. Graduate students will be asked to complete extra readings and will be graded to a significantly higher standard than the undergraduates in the course. The requirements for written work and expectations concerning the quality of that work will also be higher. The Geography 514 students will also be reviewing and writing a critique of Joseph Wood's The New England Village. The requirements for this project are detailed in the pages that follow.

GRADING POLICIES

Grades for the course will be based on the following grading scale.

A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	Less than 60%

All items will lose 10% of their value for each calendar day they are late. After 4 days, all late assignments will receive failing grades. Items not turned in will receive a zero (which you should note is different than a failing grade). The Research Project and the Take Home Exam are absolute requirements of the course and students will receive a failing grade for the course if they are not turned in. The distribution of the grades for the course will be determined as indicated below. If you ever have questions concerning your performance, please see me during office hours or make an appointment.

Geography 483 Grading

Assignment	Grade	Value	Score
Research Project (35%)	_____	x .35 =	_____
Review Essays (15% Total)	-First Essay	_____	x .075 =
	-Second Essay	_____	x .075 =
Participation (35%)	_____	x .35 =	_____
Take Home Exam (15%)	_____	x .15 =	_____
TOTAL			_____

Geography 514 Grading

Assignment	Grade	Value	Score
Research Project (30%)	_____	x .30 =	_____
Text Review/Critique (15%)	_____	x .15 =	_____
Review Essays (15% Total)			
-First Essay	_____	x .075 =	_____
-Second Essay	_____	x .075 =	_____
Participation (25%)	_____	x .25 =	_____
Take Home Exam (15%)	_____	x .15 =	_____

TOTAL			_____

REQUIREMENTS-THE RESEARCH PROJECT

As previously indicated, this project is designed to produce one of two types of products. The first is a hybrid research paper/guidebook of urban design and morphology issues in a selected community. For the community, the student will research issues of development and design for the creation of a community guide to its design and morphology. The second is a research paper on some issue or case study in urban design. In both cases, students are expected to consult with the instructor on the choice of approaches and topics. The students may select items from whatever sources are available including books, journals, government documents, newspapers, historic archives, interviews, etc., that are related to the topic. Field research should be an important component of the community study. Materials from the Internet may be used but only with instructor's approval.

Regardless of which option the students select, the documents should have strong content, good organization, and graphics as appropriate. Needless to say, they should also be grammatically correct. Document length should be the equivalent of 12+ pages of double-spaced/word-processed text (17+ for Geography 514 students) with any graphs, maps, drawings, and pictures in ADDITION to that total. The project grade will be a composite of the steps of the paper timeline, the content/quality of the final paper, and the class presentation of the research (10%, 70%, 20% respectively for both graduates and undergraduates). The timeline and related activities are listed in the tentative class schedule and reading list. Note that the timeline dates are **NOT** tentative.

REQUIREMENTS-TEXT REVIEW/CRITIQUE

The Geography 514 students will be required to review and critique Joseph Wood's book The New England Village. Wood's book presents the New England village as a form of urban design, morphology, and as an outgrowth of the geography of early American life. Each student will read the book, review its content, and provide a critique of that content based on what you see of the morphology and design of communities here in Connecticut. The resulting document should be well organized and reflect a real understanding of the text and how it does or does not relate to local patterns of urbanism. This review/critique will be graded based primarily on content as it is assumed that graduate-level papers should not have problems of an editorial nature. The resulting document should be at least 8 pages of double-spaced text. The due date for this assignment is October 3rd. The Geography 514 students will present a discussion of the book that will then form the basis for comparisons made to modern attempts to recreate such villages through urban design (in the Geography 483 reading).

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE and READING LIST

The following schedule is tentative. As always, the day that a subject is covered may vary due to any number of reasons. The dates that major projects are due (including the timetable of research project activities) and the time/date for the exam will not change. If class is cancelled, any materials due will be turned in at the next class session.

The readings for the course are divided into three categories. Those marked with an “**R**” are required readings for all students in the class. Those marked with an “**I**” are readings that will be assigned to individual students. All readings assigned for a given week should be completed **PRIOR** to class. It is expected that students will review and be prepared to discuss all items assigned. I reserve the right to change the reading list based on the number, ability, and interests of the students in the class. Any changes to the reading list will be made well ahead of the week for which they are assigned.

9/5 Course and Material Introduction

9/12 Urban Design and Its Goals

Case Study: Visual impressions of urbanism

Bacon, E.N. 1968. Design of Cities. New York: The Viking Press. **R**-Pages 11-65.

9/19 The Pre-Industrial City-Part 1 The Ancient World

Case Study: The English Town

REVIEWER:

Bacon, E.N. 1968. Design of Cities. New York: The Viking Press.

R-Pages 66-130

Morris, A.E.J. 1974. History of Urban Form. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

R-Pages 19-134

Eisner, S. 1993. The Urban Pattern. New York: John Wiley & Sons

R-Chapter 4-8

Students read Eisner and skim Morris (mostly for the diagrams/maps)

9/26 The Pre-Industrial City-Part 2 The Transition to Industrialism

Case Study: Pre-Columbian urban form.

Case Study: New Towns in a new land.

REVIEWER:

Bacon, E.N. 1968. Design of Cities. New York: The Viking Press.

R-Pages 131-227

Morris, A.E.J. 1974. History of Urban Form. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

R-Pages 135-242

Eisner, S. 1993. The Urban Pattern. New York: John Wiley & Sons

R-Chapter 9-11

Students read Eisner & skim Morris (mostly for the diagrams/maps)

10/3 Industrialism and the Birth of Modernism

Case Study: Saltaire & Rhondda

REVIEWER:

Hall, Peter. 1992. *Cities of Tomorrow*. Cambridge (MA): Blackwell Publishing.

R-Chapter 2-City of the Dreadful Night.

R-Choay, F. 1969. *The Modern City: Planning in the 19th Century*. New York: Braziller Press.

Kostof, S. 1992. *The City Assembled*. New York: Bulfinch Publishers.

R-Pages 231-239.

10/10 The City's Core-Select project topic and identify an initial list of resources.

Case Study: Downtown Hartford-To Be Determined

REVIEWERS:

Ford, L.R. 1994. *Cities and Buildings: Skyscrapers, Skid Rows, and Suburbs*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

R-Chapter 1-Downtown Buildings

R-Chapter 2-The Downtown Frame

Kostof, S. 1992. *The City Assembled*. New York: Bulfinch Publishers.

R-Pages 71-121

Wilson, W. 1989. *The City Beautiful Movement*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

I-Part 1-Origins and Ideology

I-Parts 2 & 3-The Early City Beautiful & The Late City Beautiful (Browse)

I-Part 4, Pages 302-305.

Hall, Peter. 1992. *Cities of Tomorrow*. Cambridge (MA): Blackwell Publishing.

I-Chapter 6-The City of Monuments.

10/17 The City's Edge

REVIEWERS:

Kostof, S. 1992. *The City Assembled*. New York: Bulfinch Publishers.

R-Pages 11-69

Unwin, R. 1996. "Of Cooperation in Site Planning." In Legates, R.T. and Stout, F. (eds) *The City Reader*. New York: Routledge Press.

R-Pages 354-359.

Garvin, A. 1996. *The American City: What Works, What Doesn't*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

R-Chapter 13-Residential Suburbs

10/24 The Village and the New England Village Recreated

Case Study: Town 'X' to be determined

REVIEWERS:

Wood, J. 1997. *The New England Village*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press

(As presented by the Geography 514 students)

Arendt, R. 1999. *Crossroads, Hamlet, Village, Town*. Chicago: American Planning Association

R-Parts 1-2 (pages 1-94)

10/31 TBD

11/7 Markets-Turn in expanded list of resources and an outline of the project.

REVIEWERS:

- Ford, L.R. 1994. Cities and Buildings: Skyscrapers, Skid Rows, and Suburbs. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. **R**-Chapter 3 & 6
- Garvin, A. 1996. The American City: What Works, What Doesn't. New York: McGraw-Hill. **I**-Chapter 5-Shopping Centers.
- Maitland, B. 1985. Shopping Malls. NY: Nichols Publishing. NA 6218 M34
I-The Mall as Form (Chapters 1-5)
- Geist, J.F. 1983. Arcades: History of a Building Type. Cambridge: MIT Press. NA 6218 G4313
I-Pages 1-58-Architectural History of the Arcade.

11/14 Open Spaces and Public Places

REVIEWERS:

- Garvin, A. 1996. The American City: What Works, What Doesn't. New York: McGraw-Hill.
R-Chapter 3-Parks and Playgrounds.
R-Chapter 4 (Up to pg 91)-Palaces for the People
- Olmsted, F.L. 1996. "Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns." In Legates, R.T. and Stout, F. (eds) The City Reader. New York: Routledge Press.
R-Pages 337-344.
- Kostof, S. 1992. The City Assembled. New York: Bulfinch Publishers.
R-Pages 122-187

11/21 The Street- Turn in progress report with resource list, outline, & task update.

REVIEWERS:

- Kostof, S. 1992. The City Assembled. New York: Bulfinch Publishers.
R-Pages 189-230.
- Jacobs, A. 1995. Great Streets. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
R-Pages 269-308.
I-Select chapter (street) to review

11/28 THANKSGIVING

12/5 Garden Cities and 'New' Urbanism

- Katz, P. 1994. New Urbanism: Toward an Architecture of Community. New York: McGraw-Hill.
R-Pages ix to xlii
I-Case Studies
- Kunstler, J.H. 1993. The Geography of Nowhere. New York: Simon and Schuster.
R-Chapter 7-The Evil Empire
- Hall, Peter. 1992. Cities of Tomorrow. Cambridge (MA): Blackwell Publishing.
R-Chapter 4-The City in the Garden.
<http://www.hgs.org.uk/index.html>

12/12 Presentation of Final Projects

12/19 Final Exam