

Proposal for Sam Fox Commons Course

This course will be offered at the 400/500 level

Situated Spatial Practices: Public Life . Space . Architecture . Art . Landscape

Professors John Hoal -Urban Design and Ron Fondaw- Sculpture

Spring 2012

Course Description:

Since the 1980's public space and public art have been a subject of intense theoretical debates and the key to urban revitalization strategies in cities such as Barcelona, Amsterdam, Berlin, London, Jerusalem, Curitiba, Toronto, New York, etc. This seminar and lab will investigate the theoretical framework and practice of various contemporary discourses on public space and art in order to reveal the implicit intellectual frameworks and practices. Evident from the investigation is the notion that the design of public space according to the typology of either the 19-century or modern city does not suffice and that the domain of contemporary public space demands a new discourse and set of spatial practices. Integral to this new discourse is the notion of the "expanded field" with the integration of art, urban design and architecture as well collaborative design practices in which the artist, architect and urbanist work to give rise to new and emergent aesthetics, opportunities and spatial practices. Historically it has been the job of the artist is to make tangible the myths under which the culture lives and in this sense, the public sphere is that collective consciousness that describes how we live – city life -and what we create - public space.

Note:

In this course we will identify a specific neighborhood/ area of St. Louis to act as a test site for students to apply the theories of contemporary art and urban design against the broader realities of social and philosophical ideologies in our own community.

Goals and Objectives:

To develop and test a conceptual framework for explaining the dynamics of the public realm. To test the aesthetic and spatial implications thereof in order to define a foundation for action in architecture and public art within urban design.

Typical Class Schedule

The following readings must be done in preparation for the lectures/discussions in class on the dates listed below. Participation in the class is part of the final evaluation for the course.

Jan. -- Introduction

Feb. -- The dialectic of the public space

Mitchell, Don

[The Right to the City](#)

The Guilford Press, New York, 2003

Chapter One: To Go Again to Hyde Park

Chapter Two: Making Dissent Safe for Democracy

Chapter Three: From Free Speech to People's Park

Chapter Four: The End of Public Space?

Loukaitou-Sideris, A, etc.

[Sidewalks: Conflict and Negotiation over Public Space](#)

MIT Press, Cambridge, 2009

I History and Evolution

II Display, Opportunity and Celebration

Assignment One: Team Site visit (weather dependent)

Feb. -- **The occupation of public space**

Mitchell, Don [The Right to the City](#)
The Guilford Press, New York, 2003
Chapter Five: The Annihilation of Space by Law
Chapter Six: No Right to the City
Conclusion: The Illusion and Necessity of Order

Loukaitou-Sideris, A, etc. [Sidewalks: Conflict and Negotiation over Public Space](#)
MIT Press, Cambridge, 2009
III Disruption and Confrontation
IV Competing Uses and Meanings
V Regulation and Control

Assignment One: Presentation of Site Analysis

Feb. -- **The social concept of the public realm**

Lofland, Lyn [The Public Realm: Exploring the City's Quintessential Social Territory](#). Aldine De Gruyter, New York, 1998
Part 1: Characteristics of the Public Realm: Aspects of a Social Territory. Chpt. 2, 3 & 4

Young, Iris [Justice and the Politics of Difference](#)
Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1990
Chpt. 8: City Life and Difference

Walzer, Michael, etc. "Public Space: A Discussion on the Shape of Our Cities"
[Dissent](#) no. 8, 1986

Black Public Sphere Collective [The Black Public Sphere: A Public Culture Book](#)
University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1995

Barton, Craig E [Site of Memory, Perspectives on Race and Architecture](#)
Princeton Architectural Press, 2001

Feb. -- **The architectural assault on public space**

Lofland, Lyn [The Public Realm: Exploring the City's Quintessential Social Territory](#). Aldine De Gruyter, New York, 1998
Part II: Opponents of The Public Realm: Assaults on a Social Territory. Chpt's 5, 6, 7 & 8

Carr, S; Francis, M; Rivlin; & Stone, A [Public Space](#)
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1992

Assignment One: Presentation of Design Concepts

March -- **The end of public space and the evolution of Third/Fourth Places**

Oldenburg, Ray The Great Good Place
Marlow & Company, New York, 1999
Part I and III

Lefebvre, Henri Everyday Life in the Modern World
The Penguin Press, London, 1971
Chpt. 1: An Inquiry, and Some Discoveries

Articles: "The Everyday and Everydayness"
"Space: Social Product and Use Value"

Chase, J; Crawford, M & Kaliskei, J Everyday Urbanism
The Monacelli Press Inc., New York, 1999

SPRING BREAK MARCH -----

March -- **Place, Space and Site**

Rendell, Jane Art and Architecture: A Place Between
St. Martin's Press, 2006
Section I and 11
Conclusion

Assignment One: Presentation of design to public and stakeholders

March -- **Social Sculpture**

Raven, Arlene Art in the Public Interest
UMI Research Press 1989

Rendell, Jane Art and Architecture: A Place Between
St. Martin's Press, 2006
Section III

March -- *Assignment One: Present plans for Faculty Review*

April ---

Rethinking the Practice of Public Art

Senie, Harriet F & Sally Webster, Sally

Critical Issues in Public Art
Harper Collins, 1993

Lippard, Lucy The Lure of the Local
New Press, 1998

April 14

City Life and Experience

Gehl, Jan

Cities for People
Island Press, 2010
Chpt. 1: The Human Dimension
Chpt. 2: Senses and Scale
Chpt. 3: The Lively, Sustainable and Healthy City
Chpt. 4: The City at Eye Level
Chpt. 5: Life, Space, Buildings – in that order

Whyte, W

The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
The Conservation Foundation, Washington DC, 1980

April --

Assignment One: Formal Review: Outside Evaluators and faculty

April ---

Assignment Two: Formal Review

Required Texts:

- Barton, Craig E Site of Memory, Perspectives on Race and Architecture
Princeton Architectural Press, 2001
- Gehl, Jan Cities for People
Island Press, 2010
- Lippard, Lucy The Lure of the Local
New Press, 1998
- Loukaitou-Sideris, A & Ehrenfeucht, R Sidewalks: Conflict and Negotiation over Public Space
MIT Press, Cambridge, 2009
- Lofland, Lyn The Public Realm: Exploring the City's Quintessential Social Territory
Aldine Gruyter, New York, 1998 ISBN 978-0202306087
- Mitchell, Don Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space
The Guilford Press, New York, 2003
- Raven, Arlene Art in the Public Interest
UMI Research Press 1989
- Rendell, Jane Art and Architecture: A Place Between
St. Martin's Press, 2006
- Senie, Harriet F & Sally Webster, Sally Critical Issues in Public Art
Harper Collins, 1993