

ARTSSCI 4MN1 / Local Explorations: Urban Placemaking Course Outline Fall 2019

- Instructors: Jackie Brown and Rosalind Pfaff
- Faculty Contact: Dr. Jean Wilson
- Maximum Enrollment: 14
- Dates: Saturday, October 5 from 10:00-5:00 and Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 10:00-3:30 (Presentations evening of Thursday, October 17 from 6:30-8:30 in LRW-3038)

Course Overview

This one-unit module will explore the concept of urban placemaking, a collaborative process of animating public and private spaces to strengthen the social and cultural fabric of cities. We will look at community-driven placemaking aimed at solving local issues such as food insecurity, economic instability, and social isolation, as well as developer-led placemaking initiatives with (often controversial) goals of revitalizing entire neighbourhoods.

This is an experiential, place-based course. We will discuss urban placemaking initiatives around the world, including the Rebuild Foundation in Chicago, Project Row Houses in Houston, and Prinzessinnengarten in Berlin. We will conduct site visits of several Toronto-based projects, including Daniels Spectrum, a community cultural hub that was built as part of the Regent Park Revitalization Plan. Using these spaces as case studies, students will participate in facilitated discussions about the challenges associated with ensuring that they are vibrant, community-driven, and financially sustainable.

Attendance is required for every session of the module on both Saturday, October 5 and Sunday, October 6 as well as the evening of presentations on Thursday, October 17.

Objectives

1. Expose students to community-based perspectives on city-building that promote civic engagement, foster social cohesion, and animate the urban environment.
2. Encourage critical thinking about contemporary urban issues and the role of placemaking in developing more livable cities.

Components

This class will have 2 components both graded on a pass/fail basis. Students must pass all components to pass the course.

1. Research assignment and presentation:

Working in pairs, students will create a proposal for an urban placemaking initiative or tactical urbanism intervention of their own design that addresses an urban issue selected from the list provided. Each pair will then give a 15-minute presentation about their idea to the class (presentations will take place on Thursday, October 17 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.).

2. One-page reflection on the concept of urban placemaking

Students are also expected to actively participate in all sessions by engaging in the facilitated group discussions throughout the module.

ARTSSCI 4MN1 / Local Explorations: Urban Placemaking Course Schedule Fall 2019

Saturday, October 5

Time	Session/Activity	Location
10:00 - 10:45 a.m.	Session 1: Introduction to Urban Placemaking	401 Richmond (401 Richmond Street West, Toronto)
10:45 - 11:30 a.m.	Session 2: Making Space for Culture	401 Richmond (401 Richmond Street West)
11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Walking Tour of 401 Richmond	401 Richmond (401 Richmond Street West)
12:00 - 12:45 p.m.	<p><i>Lunch Break</i></p> <p><i>Students have free time to eat lunch in the Spadina and Richmond area.</i></p>	
12:45 - 1:00 p.m.	<p><i>We will be taking taxis or Ubers from 401 Richmond to Daniels Spectrum (585 Dundas Street East).</i></p> <p><i>Upon arrival at Daniels Spectrum, we will be meeting just inside the front door in front of the Show Love Cafe.</i></p>	
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Session 3: The Politics of Neighbourhood Revitalization	Daniels Spectrum (585 Dundas Street East)
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Walking Tour of Daniels Spectrum and Regent Park	Daniels Spectrum and the Regent Park neighbourhood
3:00 - 3:15 p.m.	<p><i>We will be taking taxis or Ubers from Daniels Spectrum to Evergreen Brick Works (550 Bayview Avenue).</i></p> <p><i>Upon arrival at Evergreen Brick Works, we will be meeting outside Sweet Pete's Bike Shop Brick Works, located adjacent to the Central Parking Lot.</i></p>	
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.	Walking Tour of Evergreen Brick Works	Evergreen Brick Works (550 Bayview Avenue)
3:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Session 4: Reclaiming the Commons	Evergreen Brick Works (550 Bayview Avenue)

Sunday, October 6

Time	Session/Activity	Location
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Reflections on previous day	Room 112 at the downtown McMaster campus (One James North, Hamilton)
10:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Session 5: Designing a Neighbourhood for the Future?	Room 112 at the downtown McMaster campus (One James North, Hamilton)
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch Break</i> <i>Students have free time to eat lunch in the James Street North area.</i>	
1:00 - 1:45 p.m.	Session 6: Tactical Urbanism	Room 112 at the downtown McMaster campus (One James North, Hamilton)
1:45 - 2:45 p.m.	Session 7: Group Discussions	Room 112 at the downtown McMaster campus (One James North, Hamilton)
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	<i>Break</i>	
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Conclusion and Course Evaluations	Room 112 at the downtown McMaster campus (One James North, Hamilton)

Thursday, October 17

Time	Session/Activity	Location
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Students conduct presentations in pairs (15 minutes per group)	LRW-3038