

Central Connecticut State University
Department of Geography

Design of Cities
Geography 483 & 514

Course Overview and Requirements

Instructor:

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Design of Cities – Geography 483-01 (CRN 10793)
Course Details and Contact Information

- Lecturer: Donald J. Poland, MS, AICP
- Classroom: FD 315
- Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday from 10:50am – 12:05pm
- E-mail: polandd@ccsu.edu or don@donaldpoland.com
- Phone: 860-655-6897
- Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:45 - 3:15pm
Thursday: 5:15 – 5:45pm
Wednesday: 12:30 - 1:30pm
- Graduate Students: Geography 514-03 (CRN 10799)
- Lecture Notes: Black and White copies (four slides per page) of all PowerPoint presentations (in PDF file format) used in my lectures are available for download at my website (Teaching Geography):

www.donaldpoland.com

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Design of Cities

Course Intent, Content, and Outcomes

- This course will introduce students to the design of cities, from a spatial, architectural, and planning perspective.
- The course will explore the design of cities, in the context of how they historically formed, their architecture, their form, the utopian ideals of cities and how to plan these ideals, and how cities are organized.
- The outcomes of this course are to provide students with an understanding of the design of cities. To make sense of cities from the perspective of form (in the context of function), to understand what we see and experience in cities, and gain an appreciation for cities and their design.

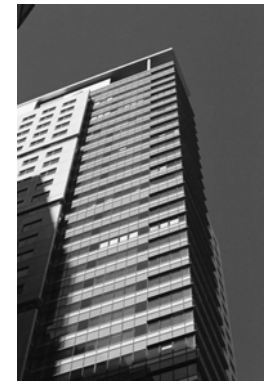


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General Class Format

- Materials in this course will be presented in twice weekly lectures and class discussions supplemented by the assigned text and other readings.
- Students shall complete assigned reading prior to each lecture period. This will best facilitate class discussion and provide for better note taking.
- While some of the class time will be lectures that introduce and teach concepts related to the design of cities, the class is designed to engage students in intellectual discussions about how we understand and interpret the design of cities.

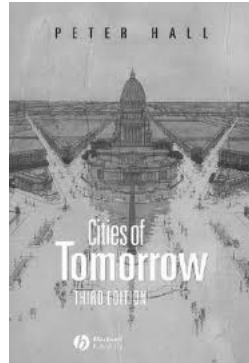


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Introduction to Planning

Required Textbook

- The required textbook for the course is Cities of Tomorrow by Sir. Peter Hall (3rd edition).
 - This text will provide a theoretical context to the course and our discussions on the design of cities.
- Additional readings will be required.



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Course Requirements

- The items below are what your course grade will be based on.
 - **Midterm Exam:** The exam will consist of two essay questions and five short answers. A grade of zero will be given for missing an exam without notification from the Office of Student Affairs. The exam will cover all lecture and reading materials.
 - **Book Report:** You are required to read one of the books listed below and write a 5 to 8 page report on the book.
 - **Exploring the Design of Cities Project:** This project is discussed in detail below. .
 - **Final (Exam) Presentation:** Is part of the design of cities project and discussed in detail below.
 - **Class Participation:** Your presence and participation in class are important and are key elements of the learning process. They show that: a) you are involved in the class, b) whether or not you understand the material, and c) that you know enough to ask good questions or to contribute to the discussion.

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Evaluation - Grading

GRADING SCALE & DISTRIBUTION

Grading this course will be based on the following 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%

Graded materials will be weighted according to the following system.

- Mid Term Exam: 20% = _____ Final Presentation: 20% = _____
- Design of Cities Project: 30% = _____ Participation: 10% = _____
- Book Report: 20% = _____
- TOTAL: 100%= _____

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Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Obviously, students are expected to attend all lectures. Any absence/late arrival beyond two will result in 10% loss in your participation grade for each occurrence. Also, missing class is not an excuse for not handing in an assignment. Tardiness can affect your grade also. Coming to class late will be marked down as an absence, so please don't be late! Notify me by e-mail or phone when you expect to be absent or late. Attending class is the most painless way to insure you are exposed to all the necessary information in this course. You can't participate if you do not attend the class. Keep your cell phones off during class.
- **Assignments:** Assignments are due during class on the due date for full credit. Assignments will be accepted within a week of the due date, but will lose 15% from the final grade regardless of the reason.
- **Disability Statement:** Please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs if you believe you need course accommodations based on the impact of a disability, medical condition, or if you have emergency medical information to share. I will need a copy of the accommodation letter from Student Disability Services in order to arrange your class accommodations. Contact Student Disability Services, room 241, Copernicus Hall if you are not already registered with them.
- **Academic Misconduct:** Any acts of academic misconduct (including cheating on exams, copying someone else's assignment, plagiarism or providing inaccurate information about absences in class) will be handled according to CCSU official policy. You may receive an "F" on an assignment or for a class grade if engaged in cheating or plagiarizing.
- **Withdrawal Policy:** A student may withdraw from this course in accordance with CCSU policies (September 19, 2011).

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Course Schedule – Subject to change

- Week 1 (8/31): Introduction and Overview.
 - Reading – Chapter 1: Cities of Imagination
- Week 2 (9/05-07): History and Architecture
 - Reading – Chapter 2: The City of Dreadful Night (London & New York)
- Week 3 (9/12-14): Utopian Planning – Garden City
 - Reading – Chapter 4: The City in the Garden (London & New York)
- Week 4 (9/19-21): Utopian Planning – City Beautiful
 - Reading – Chapter 6: The City of Monuments (Chicago & Berlin)
- Week 5 (9/26-28): The Modernists – Bauhaus & International Style
 - Reading – Chapter 7: The City of Towers (Paris, London, & St. Louis)
- Week 6 (10/03-05): The Modernists – Radiant City & Broadacre City
 - Reading – Chapter 7: The City of Towers (Paris, London, & St. Louis)
- Week 7 (10/09-11): Exploring Urban Forms
 - Reading – Amin, Ash, and Graham, Stephen, (1997): 'The ordinary city.' *Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)*, 411-429.
- Week 8 (10/17-19): Exploring Suburban and Post-Suburban Forms
 - Reading – Chapter 10: The City on the Highway (Long Island & Los Angeles)

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Course Schedule – Subject to change

- **Week 9 (10/24-26):** Exploring Suburban and Post-Suburban Forms
 - Reading – Chapter 10: The City on the Highway (Long Island & Los Angeles)
- **Week 10 (10/31-02):** Exploring Suburban Forms
 - Harris, 1943 Suburbs – Clark, 1976 Domestic Architecture – Wood, 1991 New England Village
- **Week 11 (11/07-09):** Hartford: The Creation of the American Suburban Vision
 - Reading – TBD
- **Week 12 (11/14-16):** Pulling it all Together – The Evolution of City Design
 - Reading – TBD
- **Week 13 (11/21 – No Class 11/23):** Emergence, Complexity, and Self Organizing Cities
 - Reading – TBD
- **Week 14 (11/28-11/30):** The City of Today and Tomorrow
 - Reading – TBD
- **Week 15 (12/05 – 12/07):** Topic TBA – Exam presentations begin 12/07
- **Week 16 (Exam Period)**

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Book Report – Due October 26, 2011

- Pick one of the following book to read and write a 5 to 8 page book report.
 - Zukin, Sharon, (2010): *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*. Oxford University Press, Inc. New York, NY..
 - Zukin, Sharon, (1991): *Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World*. University of California Press. Berkeley, CA
 - Wood, Joseph S., (1997): *The New England Village*. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Baltimore, Maryland.
 - Duany, Andres, Plater-Zyberk, Elizabeth, and Speck, Jeff. (2000): *Suburban Nation*, North Point Press, New York.
 - Jacobs, Jane, *The Death and Life of the Great American City*, 1961. Random House, Inc., New York.
 - Amin, Ash. and Thrift, Nigel, (2002): *Cities: Reimagining the Urban*. Polity Press. Malden, MA.
- This report is intended to be casual—by that I mean there is no prescribed format for the report and I want your thoughts, reactions, and ideas related to the book. Don't write me a summary of the book, I have read it.

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Exploring the Design of Cities Project – Report (**Due 11/30/11**)

- This project is designed to explore the urban landscape and apply what have learned in class. To complete this project, you will be required to find, photograph, describe, and explain examples of the following designs, forms, and styles:
 - The City Beautiful Movement
 - Urban Park or Rural Cemetery Movement
 - A Street Car Suburb
 - A New England Town Green
 - The International Style (The Bauhaus)
 - Picturesque Suburban or Post-suburban
 - New Urbanism
 - Suburban Office Park
- To accomplish this, you will find and visit real world examples of each of these forms/styles and photograph them. You must visit and photograph them yourself (no internet downloads allowed). You will then write a 7 to 10 report documenting each of the forms/styles that you found and photographed. The report will explain the location, form/style, and how the form/style relates to the time/period/movement.
- Your photo examples of each form/style must be approved by me by **November 11, 2011**.

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Exploring the Design of Cities Project – Final (Exam) Presentation
(Ready for 12/07/11)

- For your final exam, you will present your Exploring the Design of Cities Project) cities project to the class. Therefore, you will need to create a visual presentation (PowerPoint or Other) to show the class the examples that you have found and to explain them to the class. You will be given 15 minutes for your presentation.

Grading: This project will be graded based on the following:

- Photo Approvals by 11/11/11 (10%)
- The Project Report (50%)
- Final (Exam) Presentation (40%)