New York City College of Technology
Library Department

LIB 2205 - Learning Places: Understanding the City

1 classroom hour, 4 lab/studio hours, 3 credits
Prerequisites: ENG 1101 and any Flexible Core Course

Course Description: This special topics course offers an interdisciplinary approach to investigating our built environment using a case study focused on a specific place each semester. This course combines physical examination with information research and data collection using methodologies developed in multiple disciplines. Students from a variety of departments engage in on-site exploration and in-depth research of a location in New York City.

Course Structure: This course combines a series of research seminars with field work, site visits and documentation, and on and off campus research. Combinations of individual and team assignments as well as class participation are the basis for the final grade. The culmination of the weekly assignments is the Final Report as well as a Wikipedia Entry or Existing Site Editing. The Final Report will be published on the Open Lab and accessible to the entire City Tech community.

Grading: Final grade will be determined according to the following grade weighting:

50% Site Documentation Reports
10% Annotated Bibliography
15% Team Research Assignment
20% Final Report Assignment
5% Class Participation

General Education Learning Outcomes / Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Upon successful completion of this course the student shall be able to:	To evaluate the students' achievement of the learning objectives, the professor will do the following:
1. Develop, purposefully connect and integrate knowledge from a range of disciplinary perspectives presented in the course.	1. Review the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
2. Utilize skills in inquiry/analysis to derive meaning from experience as well as gather information from observation.	2. Review the students' site documentation report, research notes and diagrams.
3. Integrate information literacies by gathering, interpreting, evaluating and applying information discerningly from a variety of sources.	3. Review the students' research methodology proposal annotated bibliography, and team research assignment to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.

Interdisciplinary Learning Outcomes / Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Upon successful completion of this course the student shall be able to:	To evaluate the students' achievement of the learning objectives, the professor will do the following:
1. Purposefully connect and integrate across-discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems.	1. Review student reflections and Wikipedia assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
2. Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries.	2. Review student reflections and the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
3. Comprehend factors inherent in complex problems.	3. Review the students' research methodology proposal and bibliography to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.
4. Think critically, communicate effectively, and work collaboratively.	4. Review the students' class participation and research notes and diagrams; Review the final report to evaluate critical thinking, effective communication, and effective collaboration.
5. Become flexible thinkers.	5. Review the students' site documentation report, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the discovery process.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes / Assessment Methods

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
Upon successful completion of this course the student shall be able to:	To evaluate the students' achievement of the learning objectives, the professor will do the following:
1. Use the city as a laboratory for learning.	1. Review the students' site documentation reports, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered.
2. Develop a methodological approach to research.	2. Review the students' research methodology proposal, annotated bibliography, and team research assignment to evaluate critical thinking and analysis across disciplines.
3. Understand the cultural, social and economic processes that guide the physical development of the built environment.	3. Review the students' research notes and diagrams; Review the team research assignment and the final report assignment to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
4. Use analytical skills to investigate places.	4. Review the students' site documentation report, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered.

5. Develop, document, catalogue, and organize information to make it accessible to the public.	5. Review the students' site documentation report, notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered; Review the final report to evaluate integrative, multidisciplinary thinking.
6. Apply observational skills to research and analysis.	6. Review the students' notes, sketches, and photographs to evaluate the care of observation and the reflection of important issues discovered.

Course Readings and Calendar

Faculty teaching the course will add readings that address the specific location and research methodologies covered in that iteration of the course. Note that the course's design – with one lecture and four lab hours – enables the class to meet off-campus throughout the semester. Faculty should plan on at least 4 visits to the specific location covered in the course, as well as additional trips to libraries, museums, archives, and other institutions as appropriate for research into the location studied via the disciplinary focus of the faculty teaching the course. A sample calendar follows:

WEEK 1:
Week 1 Lecture: **Course Introduction**
Week 1 Lab: **Review of Research Methodologies, Source Evaluation**

WEEK 2:
Week 2 Lecture: **Site Introduction**
Week 2 Lab: **Field Visit: General Review**
Week 2 Homework: Site Reflection

WEEK 3:
Week 3 Lecture: **Research Seminar: Site Background, Library and Internet Research**
Week 3 Lab: **Field Visit: Site Observation & Documentation**
Week 3 Homework: Site Observation Sketches and Notes

WEEK 4:
Week 4 Lecture: **Research Seminar: Information Sources & Primary Sources**
Week 4 Lab: **Field Visit: Site Observation & Documentation**
Week 4 Homework: Site Observation Sketches and Notes

WEEK 5:
Week 5 Lecture: **Research Seminar: Identify Research Tracks and Teams**
Week 5 Lab: **Team Research Organization, Wikipedia Campus Ambassador Presentation**
Week 5 Homework: Team Research Outline & Task List

WEEK 6:
Week 6 Lecture: **Research Seminar: In-depth research methods for the discipline**
Week 6 Lab: **Field Visit: Library/Museum/Archive/etc.**
Week 6 Homework: Research Notes

WEEK 7:
Week 7 Lecture: **Research Seminar: In-depth research methods for the discipline**
Week 7 Lab: **Field Visit: Library/Museum/Archive/etc.**
Week 7 Homework: Research Notes

WEEK 8:
Week 8 Lecture: **Research Seminar: In-depth research methods for the discipline**
Week 8 Lab: **Field Visit: Site Observation & Documentation**
Week 8 Homework: Site Observation Sketches and Notes

WEEK 9:
Week 9 Lecture: **Team Progress Presentations**
Week 9 Lab: **Team Progress Presentations, Final Deliverable Assignments**
Week 9 Homework: Reflection on Progress, Next Steps

WEEK 10:
Week 10 Lecture: **Final Report Mock Up**
Week 10 Lab: **Research Documentation: Annotated Bibliography**
Week 10 Homework: Annotated Bibliography

WEEK 11:
Week 11 Lecture: **Wikipedia Campus Ambassador Presentation**
Week 11 Lab: **Presentation Tools Workshop**

WEEK 12:
Week 12 Lecture: **Report Development**
Week 12 Lab: **Report Development Review**
Week 12 Homework: Draft of Final Report / Wikipedia edits finished

WEEK 13:
Week 13 Lecture: **Report Development**
Week 13 Lab: **Report Development Review**
Week 13 Homework: Continue working on Final Report and Presentation

WEEK 14:
Week 14 Lecture: **Final Editing**
Week 14 Lab: **Final Editing**
Week 14 Homework: Continue working on Final Report and Presentation

WEEK 15:
Week 15 Lecture: **Formal Presentation of Report**
Week 15 Lab: **Reflection**