

**NOW Urbanism**  
**HUM595B/L ARCH 598H**  
**AUTUMN 2010**

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**INSTRUCTOR:**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm (and by appointment)

**TIME / PLACE:**

Fridays 9:00am – 12:00pm // Communication 202

**GRADUATE SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:**

In conjunction with the year-long University of Washington's John E. Sawyer Seminar, "Now Urbanism," (funded by the Andrew J. Mellon Foundation), this quarterly graduate seminar will investigate multiple approaches—social, environmental, and cultural—to the study of cities in the global context. Examining the historical contexts, existing realities, and future potentials of contemporary urbanism, this graduate seminar aims to connect and critically assess the diverse territories of sustainability theory and practice evidenced in multidisciplinary urban scholarship, activism, and policy.

As the Sawyer Seminar seeks to engage a broad range of scholars, practitioners, and publics in the complex questions and challenges posed by urbanism, graduate students from disciplines across the academic community are encouraged to participate. In addition to the regularly scheduled seminar meetings, students will attend three public panel presentations hosted by the Sawyer Seminar during the quarter (schedule posted at [nowurbanism.org](http://nowurbanism.org)). Seminar readings guided by student direction will establish a critical historical and theoretical framework for analyzing the city, situated in multiple cultural, perceptual, and temporal contexts. Students will present further case-studies to be developed through the quarter as a research paper.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

At the end of this course, students should be able to...

- Describe the assumptions underlying the study of cities in a global context
- Compare and contrast cities across the globe in terms of economics, environmental health, cultural health, and social diversity
- Critically assess the diverse territories of sustainability theory and practice evidenced in multidisciplinary urban scholarship, activism, and policy
- Describe and compare the historical contexts, existing realities, and future potentials of contemporary urbanism
- Identify, describe, and compare the advantages and disadvantages of the basic strategies for assessing the health (environmental, cultural, and economic) of contemporary cities
- Compare and contrast the ideas presented by the participants in the three Sawyer Seminar colloquia occurring during the quarter.

### **GRADUATE SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS:**

- Weekly 300 word (min.) critical reflections to be posted as entries on the Now Urbanism blog by 5pm the day before the seminar (25%)
- One 600-800 word op-ed commentary to be posted to the GoPost board on Catalyst by 11:59pm on Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> (10%)
- 20 page term paper with additional images/figures (40%)
- Class participation/discussion (25%)

### **LINKING THE GRADUATE SEMINAR AND THE SAWYER SEMINAR:**

The NOW Urbanism John E. Sawyer Seminar seeks to connect contemporary and future urbanisms to the diverse territories of sustainability theory and practice by engaging in dynamic dialogue within urban scholarship, activism, and policy. The Sawyer Seminar develops these thematic threads over the course of a yearlong discussion facilitated by a series of public colloquia. This seminar offers a significant opportunity to better define and advance our understanding of “urban sustainability” as a concept that not only encompasses considerations of the natural environment, but actively embraces the dynamism of cities, their cultures of place, economic vitality, and the health and welfare of urban dwellers. (See more detail on the Sawyer Seminar on the following page)

Each of the invited speakers will attend this graduate seminar during the day following the public presentation. In this way, graduate students will be able to more fully and easily participate in the larger seminar topics and themes. The speakers will benefit from the open and fresh ideas of this seminar’s students, who will, in turn, serve as the next generation of thinkers and activists. Students will be invited to reflect on what they heard and to discuss their ideas with the speakers in a comfortable format. We will ask the Sawyer fellows to report back important ideas, inquiries, and reflections so that these discussions contribute to the larger investigation and Sawyer Seminar framework.

### **COURSE MATERIALS INCLUDE SELECTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING:**

Alison, Jane et al. *Future City: Experiment and Utopia in Architecture*. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2007, 2006. BE Library

Ashihara, Yoshinobu. "The Hidden Order: Tokyo through the 20th Century," *Architectural Design* 64, No. 107 (Jan.-Feb 1994), 21-27.

Banham, Reyner. *Megastructure: Urban Futures of the Recent Past*. (New York: Harper & Row, 1976), pp.7-69, 217-218.

Basar, Shumon. “End of a century: Future city: experiment and utopia in architecture [exhibition review]” *Blueprint* (London, England) 2006 Sept., n.246, p.73

Blum, Andrew. “Metaphor Remediation: A New Ecology for the City”:  
<http://places.designobserver.com/entry.html?entry=10637>

Burke Museum, Seattle Waterlines  
[www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/waterlines/](http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/waterlines/)

- Caldeira, T. P. d. R. (2000). *City of walls: Crime, segregation, and citizenship in São Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Certeau, M. d. (1984). *The practice of everyday life*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Chase, John Leighton et al., *Everyday Urbanism*, NY: Monacelli Press, 2008
- Corner, James. "Ecology and Landscape as Agents of Creativity," in *Ecological Design and Planning*, New York: Wiley, 1997, pp. 81-107.
- Crawford, M. (1995). Contesting the public realm: Struggles over public space in Los Angeles. *Journal of Architectural Education*, 49, 4-9.
- Davis, M. (2000). *Magical Urbanism*. Brooklyn, NY: Verso.
- Davis, M. (2007). *Planet of Slums*, Brooklyn, NY: Verso
- Debord, Guy. *The Society of the Spectacle*, Zone Books 1995.
- Deener, A. (2007). Commerce as the structure and symbol of neighborhood life: Reshaping the meaning of community in Venice, California. *City & Community*, 6, 291-314.
- Deutsche, R., & Ryan, C.G. (1984). The fine art of gentrification. *October*, 31, 91-111.
- Findlay, John M. "Fair City: Seattle as Host of the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition," *Pacific Northwest Quarterly*. 100:1 (Winter 2008/2009) BE NW Reference
- Fraser, N. (1993). Rethinking the public sphere: A contribution to the critique of actually existing democracy. In B. Robbins (Ed.), *The phantom public sphere* (Vol. 5, pp. 1-32). Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.
- Gibson, T. A. (2004). *Securing the spectacular city: The politics of revitalization and homelessness in downtown Seattle*. Lanham, Md.: Lexington Books.
- Halnon, K.B., & Cohen, S. (2006). Muscles, motorcycles, and tattoos: Gentrification in a new frontier. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 6, 33-56.
- Holston, J. (1999). Spaces of insurgent citizenship. In J. Holston (Ed.), *Cities and citizenship* (pp. 155-173). Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Holston, J. (2009). *Insurgent citizenship: Disjunctions of democracy and modernity in Brazil*.
- James Corner Field Operations with Diller Scofidio + Renfro: the High Line, New York, 2004-09. *Lotus international* 2009 Sept., n.139, p.8-15
- Klinge, Matthew. *Emerald City: An Environmental History of Seattle*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007. Suzzallo QH541.15.C6 K55 2007
- Kolb, Jaffer. "The High Line parkland project paves the way for a new kind of urbanism in the

- U.S. " *Architectural Review* 2009 Sept., v.226, n.1351, 29-30.
- Koolhaas, Rem. "Life in the Metropolis' or 'The Culture of Congestion,'" *Architectural Design* 47, no. 5 (August 1977) reprinted in Hays K. Michael ed. *Architectural Theory since 1968*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998, pp.320-331.
- Koolhaas, Rem. *S,M,L,XL*. New York: Monacelli Press, 1995.
- Kucharek, Jan-Carlos. "Work in progress: Future City [exhibition review]," *RIBA journal* 2006 July, v.113, n.7, p.22.
- Lang, Fritz. *Metropolis* (1927)
- Le Corbusier, "A Contemporary City," (1929) in *The City Reader*, ed. by Richard Le Gates and Frederic Stout. London: Routledge, 1996, pp. 367-375.
- Low, S.M., & Smith, N. (2006). *The politics of public space*. New York: Routledge.
- Lynch, Kevin. "The City Image and Its Elements, from *The Image of the City* (1960), in *The City Reader*, ed. by Richard Le Gates and Frederic Stout. London: Routledge, 1996, pp. 98-102.
- Maki, Fumihiko. *Nurturing Dreams: Collected Essays on Architecture and the City*, Cambridge: MIT Press, 2009
- Marshall, Richard. *Emerging Urbanity: Global Urban Projects in the Asia Pacific Rim*. London; New York: Spon Press, 2003. Chapter 11, "The Idea of the City – Critical Past and Futures," 191-204.
- McKeough, Tim. "Green Giants: How urban planners are turning industrial eyesores into popular public spaces," *The Walrus*. 10 November 2009.
- Meller, Helen. "Philanthropy and Public Enterprise: International Exhibitions and the Modern Town Planning Movement, 1889-1913," *Planning Perspectives* 10.3 (July 1995), pp. 295-310.
- Modan, G. (2007). *Turf wars: Discourse, diversity, and the politics of place*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Moore, Rowan. "Visionary speculation," *Blueprint* (London, England) 1995 Feb., n.114, p.30-34
- Nesbitt, Kate (Ed.). *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architectural Theory 1965-1995*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996.
- Pearson, Clifford A. "High Line, New York City, James Corner Field Operations and Diller Scofidio + Renfro - Respecting the city's industrial heritage, a team of designers transforms an abandoned elevated railbed into an urban park." *Architectural record*. (October 2009): 86-89.

- Ogata, Amy F. "Viewing Souvenirs: Peepshows and the International Expositions," *Journal of Design History* Vol. 15 No. 2, 69-82.
- Oshima, Ken Tadashi. "Hijiribashi: Spanning Time and Crossing Place," *Review of Japanese Culture and Society* XIII, December 2001, 1-21.
- Rowe, Peter and Kuan, Seng. "Privation to Prominence: Shanghai's Recent Rapid Resurgence," pp.54-67; "Image of the Metropolis: Three Historical Views of Shanghai," pp. 84-103. Shanghai: *Architecture and Urbanism for Modern China*. New York: Presetel, 2004. NA1545.S53 2004.
- Rutheiser, C. (1996). *Imagineering Atlanta: The politics of place in the city of dreams*. New York: Verso.
- Sadler, Simon, "A New Generation: Archigram's Formation and Its Context," *Archigram Architecture Without Architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2005, pp. 10-50.
- Saunders, William S. "Rem Koolhaas's Writing on Cities: Poetic Perception and Gnostic Fantasy," *Journal of Architectural Education (1984-)*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Sep., 1997), pp. 61-71.
- Scott, Felicity D. "Involuntary Prisoners of Architecture : Involuntary Prisoners of Architecture," *October*, Vol. 106, (Autumn, 2003), pp. 75-101. (JSTOR)
- Sitte, Camillo. *The Art of Building Cities*. NY: Reinhold Publishing, 1945.
- Smith II, Henry D. "Tokyo as an Idea: An Exploration of Japanese Urban Thought until 1945," *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 4., No. 1, (Winter 1978), 45-80.
- Staheli, L.A., & Mitchell, D. (2006). USA's destiny? Regulating space and creating community in American shopping malls. *Urban Studies*, 43, 977-992.
- Tati, Jacques. *Playtime* (1967)
- Tett, A., & Wolfe, J.M. (1991). "Discourse analysis and city plans." *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 10, pp. 195-200.
- This Is Not A Gateway, Trenton Oldfield and Deepa Naik. *Critical Cities: Ideas, Knowledge and Agitation from Emerging Urbanists*. London, UK : Myrdle Court Press, 2009.
- Waldheim, Charles, (Ed.). *The Landscape Urbanism Reader*, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.
- Webb, Michael. "London looks toward the millennium," *Metropolis* 1997 Mar., v.16, n.7, p.52-55,87,89,91.

## AUTUMN SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

10/1	<p><b>Seminar Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish common language, ground rules, understandings of one another</li> </ul>
10/8	<p><b>NOW SEATTLE!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend NOW Seattle! lecture on 10/7 at 6:30pm in Kane 210</li> <li>• Discussion with Phil Ethington, Lisa Graumlich, and William Morrish</li> <li>• Complete readings by P. Ethington, T. Gibson, L. Graumlich, M. Klingle, &amp; W. Morrish (Available for download on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
10/15	<p><b>Analyzing the Emerald City</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read pages 1-153 (Prologue, Chapters 1-4) of Matthew Klingle's <i>Emerald city: An environmental history of Seattle</i> (Available for purchase on Amazon for about \$13.00)</li> <li>• Read introduction to Timothy Gibson's <i>Securing the spectacular city: The politics of revitalization and homelessness in downtown Seattle</i> (Available for download on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
10/22	<p><b>Changing States of the Suburbs; The Past, Present, and Future of Urban Industry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mackenzie leads discussion of the changing demographics and form of U.S. suburbs</li> <li>• Mona leads discussion of "City as Site of Production"</li> <li>• Read Everline (2010), Squires &amp; Kubrin (2005), Vaughn et al (2009), Mostafavi (2010), Lister (2010), and Sahlins (1972) (All available for download on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
10/29	<p><b>Contestation and Meaning in Public Space</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jenny and Mike lead discussion</li> <li>• Read works by Macek (2006), Kohn (2004), Crawford (1995), and Davis (2000) (All available for download on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
11/5	<p><b>Psychological Effects of Spiritual Landscapes and Places;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jiawen leads discussion on sacred structures and spirituality in natural and urban environments</li> <li>• Mike leads discussion of public toilets and profane landscapes</li> <li>• Read works by Frederickson and Anderson (1999), Lane (2001), Duneier (1999), Royte (2005), George (2008), and Hester (1993). (All on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
11/12	<p><b>Liquidscape Urbanism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashley leads discussion of "Liquidscape Urbanism" and global climate change</li> <li>• Read works by Chakrabarty (2008), Blum (2009), Matthews (2008), Meadows (1997), Reed (2007), Mazria and Kershner (2007), and Thaitakoo and McGrath (2008). (All on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
11/19	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL URBANISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend Environmental Urbanism lecture on 11/18 at 6:30pm</li> <li>• Discussion with Chris Reed, Randolph Hester, and Howard Frumkin</li> <li>• Complete readings by Reed, Hester, and Frumkin (on Catalyst)</li> <li>• Finish reading Klingle's book (pages 154-280; Chapters 5-8 and Epilogue)</li> </ul>

11/26	(NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)
12/3	<p><b>Analyzing the Challenges of Homelessness and an Aging Population</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erica leads discussion of homelessness; Amy leads discussion of aging seniors and the built environment</li> <li>• Read works by Hodge (2008), Ivery, Akstein, and Kahan (2010), Rossi (2008), and von Mahs (2005) (All on Catalyst)</li> </ul>
12/10	<p><b>NETWORKED URBANISMS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend Networked Urbanisms lecture on 12/9 at 6:30pm in Kane 120</li> <li>• Discussion with Todd Presner, David Stark, and Tad Hirsch</li> <li>• Complete readings by Presner, Stark, and Hirsch</li> <li>• Wrap up course</li> </ul>

## **NOW Urbanism John E. Sawyer Seminar Overview:**

Throughout human history, cities have served as sites and agents of economic expansion, social interaction, political development, and cultural and intellectual incubation. Centuries of intense urbanization and mass migration have fundamentally altered natural landscapes and patterns of capital accumulation. The urban age has been a long one. However, the expansion and spread of urbanization since 1900 is unprecedented. At the start of the twentieth century, only sixteen cities in the world had populations of one million people or more. By the year 2000, this number had swelled to 417. In 1950, only one city in the world had a population of over ten million people; today, there are 19 megacities. Some of the most rapid urbanization is occurring in societies quickly transitioning from small-scale agrarian to large-scale industrial economies, resulting in profound economic polarization, social dislocation, and cultural change.

The twenty-first century promises a magnification of these trends as we become a more highly urbanized planet. Internationally there is increasing awareness among scientists, policy-makers, and academics of the centrality of cities and the interconnectedness of built and natural environments upon urban sustainability, social equity and political empowerment.

As such, political leaders, academic scholars, and professionals are challenged to collectively identify and describe the complex challenges and define possible interventions and responses. To date, these conversations have been more scientific than humanistic, focusing on design and natural ecology of urban settlement rather than the lived and interpretive experience of urbanity. By means of a Sawyer Seminar, we will come together as individuals in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and professions to investigate multiple approaches to the study of cities in the global context and to identify both the historical continuities and epochal singularity of the early twenty-first century's particular urban moment.

Under the title of *Now Urbanism*, we reconstruct contemporary urbanism as a critical and complex practice that is simultaneously local, regional, and global. We envision this exploration in terms of three approaches: Situated, Tactical, and Porous. We propose a Situated Urbanism that advocates place-based, ethical urban practices that recognize historically-conditioned and specific cultural, environmental and political differences. We propose a Tactical Urbanism that rethinks the city as diverse infrastructures and platforms for multiple events and relationships. We propose a Porous Urbanism that highlights the fluidity of boundaries and margins of the public and private; of the city and nature; and of local and national to acknowledge and construct an alternative global community that nurtures both nature and culture.

Through these lenses we argue "Urban is not the form of human settlement that has emerged at a certain point and evolved over time. Urban is not a specific place at a specific time. Instead, it is a present point on a continuum. If we think about being part of that continuum, we can think about being urban as a way of looking at the world."<sup>1</sup> We propose to inquire into such an urban way of looking by means of established and emerging research in gender, class, race, and place. We will address health, poverty, transportation, and communication as critical aspects of urbanism within the proposed creative framework. Using the rubric of *Now Urbanism* as a starting point, we argue that we must move beyond visions of cities that disregard the richness

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<sup>1</sup> Urban Forum Report, Executive Summary, 2005, 17.

and complexity of the present: NOW. Rather than something to be supplanted or erased in hope for a better tomorrow, we believe the key to the holistic sustainability of future cities lies in a better understanding and a more rigorous and historically grounded examination of the social, environmental, and cultural conditions of contemporary cities.

### **Schedule of Topics, NOW Urbanism John E. Sawyer Seminar:**

#### Autumn Quarter:

- October 2010: Now Urbanism, Now Seattle
- November 2010: Environmental Urbanism: Ecologies of Cities
- December 2010: Networked Urbanism: Connections & Communications across Space and Time

#### Winter Quarter

- January 2011: Informal Urbanism: Slum Cities and Global Health
- February 2011: Transcultural Cities: Immigrants in the City
- March 2011: Humanities, Generosity, and the City

#### Spring Quarter

- April 2011: Next Eco-Cities
- May 2011: Toward Just Cities
- May 2011: The University and the City (culminating seminar of Sawyer series and of the University's NEXT CITY initiative)

### **About the John E. Sawyer Seminars**

The Mellon Foundation's Sawyer Seminars program was established in 1994 to provide support for comparative research on the historical and cultural sources of contemporary developments. The seminars, named in honor of the Foundation's long-serving third president, John E. Sawyer, have brought together faculty, foreign visitors, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students from a variety of fields mainly, but not exclusively, in the humanities and social sciences, for intensive study of subjects chosen by the participants. This program aims to engage productive scholars in comparative inquiry that would (in ordinary university circumstances) be difficult to pursue, while at the same time avoiding the institutionalization of such work in new centers, departments, or programs. Sawyer Seminars are, in effect, temporary research centers.

[Text taken from the Mellon Foundation website ([mellon.org](http://mellon.org))]

[For more information, see [http://www.mellon.org/grant\\_programs/programs/higher-education-and-scholarship/john-e-sawyer-seminars-on-the-comparative-study-of-cultures](http://www.mellon.org/grant_programs/programs/higher-education-and-scholarship/john-e-sawyer-seminars-on-the-comparative-study-of-cultures)]