

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

INSTRUCTOR:

Michael Powe, MURP, Ph.D.
John E. Sawyer Postdoctoral Fellow
Email: mpowe@uw.edu
Office: 218A Communication
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3pm (and by appointment)

TIME / PLACE:

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

GRADUATE SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

In conjunction with the University of Washington's John E. Sawyer Seminar, "Now Urbanism," this quarterly graduate seminar will investigate multiple approaches to the study of cities, both locally and globally. The course seeks to critically assess existing scholarship and theory and re-imagine concepts of sustainability, justice, poverty, social exclusion / inclusion, and vitality and their relations to cities. Just as the Sawyer Seminar seeks to engage a broad range of scholars, practitioners, and publics in the complex questions and challenges posed by urbanism, the graduate seminar is interdisciplinary and diverse in its composite theories and concepts, its analytical approaches, and its graduate student representation.

The graduate seminar, which will be offered each quarter of the 2010-2011 academic year, is designed to be dynamically constructed around the professional backgrounds, intellectual interests, and moral compulsions of its participants. The winter quarter iteration will include focus on issues related to public health, slum housing, immigration, and the role of the arts in cultivating social, aesthetic, and economic vitality in the city. Beyond these issues, however, the course is broadly inclusive of the students' ideas. Participants will be encouraged to consider the role of their own scholarship and practice in relation to the current challenges facing real cities.

In addition to the regularly scheduled seminar meetings, students will attend three public panel presentations hosted by the Sawyer Seminar during the quarter. The three public events in winter quarter will take place on January 13th, February 11th, and March 10th, at 6:30pm in Room 120 of Kane Hall.

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 vitality, 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. [The Now Urbanism blog can be viewed at <http://sawyerseminaratuw.wordpress.com>] (30%)
- 20 page term paper with additional images/figures **OR** three 6-8 page idea papers (30%)
 - NOTE: Students must declare their selected option during class on January 28th. For those choosing to write three shorter papers, the first must be turned in by January 28th at 5pm; the second by February 25th at 5pm; and the last by March 15th at 5pm. For those choosing to write one long paper, it is due by March 15th at 5pm.
- Lead one seminar discussion, including a brief presentation of current or prospective future research, design, or practice (10%)
 - NOTE: Students must work in interdisciplinary teams to lead one week's discussion. The interdisciplinary team is responsible for selecting readings, facilitating discussion, and sharing ways in which each student's own ideas and practices relate to the week's broader themes. Teams, themes, and the course schedule will be determined during the first seminar meeting on January 7th. Students are encouraged to work with the instructor to identify readings, and readings must be emailed to the instructor by 5pm the Friday prior to each team's session to give ample time for other students to read the materials and think over them.
- Class participation, discussion, and attendance (30%)

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. (See more detail on the Sawyer Seminar on pages 8-9.)

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 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. Important ideas, inquiries, and reflections will feed back into the larger "Now Urbanism" Sawyer Seminar.

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>
- 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.
- Franzen, J. (2010). *Freedom*. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux.
- 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.
- George, R. (2008). *The big necessity: The unmentionable world of human waste and why it matters*. New York: Holt Paperbacks.

- 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.
- 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 Pasts 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
- 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.
- 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.
- Scott, Felicity D. "Involuntary Prisoners of Architecture : Involuntary Prisoners of Architecture," *October*, Vol. 106, (Autumn, 2003), pp. 75-101.
- 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.
- Staeheli, 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.

WINTER SEMINAR SCHEDULE:

1/7	<p>Seminar Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish common language, ground rules, understandings of one another • Fill out syllabus with student-determined topics and readings • Complete readings by M. Davis, J. Franzen, and R. George
1/14	<p>INFORMAL URBANISM: SLUM CITIES AND GLOBAL HEALTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Informal Urbanism lecture on 1/13 at 6:30pm in Kane 120 • Discussion with Celine D’Cruz, Reinhard Goethert, and Melanie Walker • Complete readings by C. D’Cruz, R. Goethert, and M. Walker
1/21	<p>[Student-Determined Topic]</p>
1/28	<p>[Student-Determined Topic]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must declare choice of single, long term paper or three shorter idea papers. For three paper option, first paper must be turned in by 5pm on 1/28.
2/4	<p>[Student-Determined Topic]</p>
2/11	<p>TRANSCULTURAL URBANISM: IMMIGRANTS IN THE CITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Transcultural Urbanism lecture on 2/11 at 6:30pm in Kane 120 • Discussion with Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris, Michael Rios, and Arijit Sen • Complete readings by Loukaitou-Sideris, Rios, and Sen

2/18	[Student-Determined Topic]
2/25	<p>[Student-Determined Topic]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students writing three ideas papers, second paper must be turned in by 5pm on 2/25.
3/4	[Student Determined Topic]
3/11	<p>GENEROSITY OF CITIES: ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND THE CITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Generosity of Cities lecture on 3/10 at 6:30pm in Kane 120 • Discussion with Rick Lowe and Glen Weiss • Complete readings by R. Lowe and G. Weiss • Final papers (either option) due by 5pm on Tuesday, 3/15

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."¹ 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

¹ 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 7, 2010: Now Urbanism, Now Seattle
- November 18, 2010: Environmental Urbanism: Ecologies of Cities
- December 8, 2010: Networked Urbanism: Connections & Communications across Space and Time

Winter Quarter

- January 13, 2011: Informal Urbanism: Slum Cities and Global Health
- February 11, 2011: Transcultural Urbanism: Immigrants in the City
- March 10, 2011: Generosity of Cities: Arts, Humanities, and the City

Spring Quarter

- April 7, 2011: Next Eco-Cities: Imaginations and Futures
- May 5, 2011: Toward Just Cities: Justice, Equity, and Real Cities
- May 26, 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)]

[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]