

**Instructor: David Scobey**  
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**Classroom: 2213 Art and Architecture**

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**Hours: Thursdays 4-7**

**ARCHITECTURE 509-016:  
THE MAKING AND MEANING OF MODERN CITYSCAPES**

This course will explore the making, meaning, and design of urban space from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. Mixing scholarly readings, historical documents, and visual and design materials, it will weave together three themes: 1) the key political, economic, technological, and cultural forces that have shaped the city-building process; 2) the characteristic modes of cultural experience and cultural practices that modern cityscapes have foregrounded or staged; and 3) the responses of architects, planners, and reformers to the challenge of designing 'ideal' urban spaces. Our discussion will focus on a variety of cities, including 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris, Vienna, and New York; early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Chicago and Detroit; colonial and post-colonial Asian cities; and contemporary Berlin. It will explore such topics as the social history of street life; the links between urban spatial change and different types of modernism; the role of planning in colonialism; and the urbanistic effects of globalization and the end of the Cold War.

**Requirements:** Students are required to come to class each week prepared to discuss the assigned reading. There is approximately 150 pages each week, often divided among several different texts; readings include documentary, theoretical, critical, and scholarly texts. Each week's class will mix close analysis of the assigned readings, short, contextualizing 'mini-lectures,' and discussion of visual materials. Students will also be expected to do two short interpretive papers of 4-6 pages each and a term project, equivalent to a 12-15 page paper, on a topic of the student's own choosing; you will also be asked to give a presentation on your term project during the final class session. I will grade according to the following general criteria: classroom participation (40%); short papers (10% each); term project (40%).

**WEEKLY SYLLABUS**

**All readings marked (SD) are available for purchase through Shaman Drum Bookstore and on reserve at the Media Union Library.**

**All readings marked (X) will be available in a series of coursepack for personal reproduction.**

**Sept. 9 Introduction**

**I. Forces of City-Building**

**Sept. 16: State Power and the Baroque Avenue (Vienna and Paris):**

Lewis Mumford, "Court, Parade, and Capital," The City In History, 375-409 (X)

Donald J. Olsen, "The New Paris," The City As A Work of Art, 35-53 (X)

Carl Schorske, "The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism," Fin-De-Siecle Vienna, 24-115 (X)

**Sept. 23: Real Estate, Capital, and the Street-Grid (New York):**

- Lewis Mumford, "Commercial Expansion and Urban Dissolution," City In History, 410-39 (X)  
Commissioners' report and map of 1811 Manhattan street plan (X)  
F.L. Olmsted and J.J.R. Croes, "Preliminary Report... Upon the Laying Out of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Wards" (1876), in Albert Fein (ed.), Landscape Into Cityscape, 350-8 (X)  
Rem Koolhaas, Delirious New York, 9-20

**Sept. 30: Civilizing Missions and the Middle Landscape (New York)**

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns (1870)  
F.L. Olmsted and C. Vaux, "Report of the Landscape Architects... of Prospect Park" (1868), in Fein (ed.) Landscape Into Cityscape, 129-64 (X)  
David Scobey, "Anatomy of the Promenade," Social History (1984)

**Oct 7: Modernizing Technologies and the Skyscraper (Chicago and New York)**

- Paul Goldberger, The Skyscraper, 3-75 (SD)  
Terry Smith, "Architecture and Mass Production: The Functionalism Question," Making the Modern: Industry, Art, and Design In America, 57-92 (X)  
Louis Sullivan, "The Tall Office Building Artistically Considered" (1896), republished in Kindergarten Chats (1918), 202-13 (X)

**First short paper due in class**

**II. Utopias of the Modern**

**Oct 14: The Modernism of Empire (City Beautiful)**

- James Gilbert, "First City," Perfect Cities: Chicago's Utopias of 1893, 75-130 (X)  
Peter Hall, "The City of Monuments," Cities of Tomorrow, 174-202 (X)  
Donna Haraway, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy," in Cultures of U.S. Imperialism, 237-91 (X)

**Oct 21: The Modernism of Order (Broadacre, Brasilia)**

- Anthony Alofsin, "Broadacre City: The Reception of a Modernist Vision, 1932-1988," in Modernist Visions and the Contemporary American City, 8-43 (X)  
Peter Hall, "The City of Towers," in Cities of Tomorrow, 203-40 (X)  
James Holston, "The Death of the Street," The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia, 101-44 (X)  
Jane Jacobs, "Introduction," Death and Life of Great American Cities 3-25 (X)

**Oct 28: The Modernism of Energy (Midtown Manhattan)**

- Paul Goldberger, The Skyscraper, 77-113 (SD)  
William Taylor, "A Place That Words Built: Broadway, Damon Runyon, the Slanguage of Lobster Alley," In Pursuit of Gotham, 163-82 (X)  
George Chauncey, Jr., "The Policed: Gay Men's Strategies of Everyday Resistance," in Taylor (ed.), Inventing Times Square: Commerce and Culture At the Crossroads of the World, 315-28 (X)

### **III. Reconstructions: Landscapes of Contemporary Urbanism**

**Nov 4: Constructing Discipline (Los Angeles)**

Mike Davis, City of Quartz, 153-322 (SD)

**Second short paper due in class**

**Nov. 11: Constructing Public Space (Siena, Barcelona, New York)**

Peter G. Rowe, Civic Realism, 3-77, 124-59, 198-227 (SD)

Nancy Fraser, "Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution To the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy," in Calhoun (ed.), Habermas and the Public Sphere, 108-42 (X)

**Nov 18: Constructing National Space (Berlin)**

Michael Wise, Capital Dilemma: Germany's Search For a New Architecture of Democracy (SD)

**Dec 2: Constructing Transnational Space**

Hemalata Dandekar (ed.), City, Space + Globalization: An International Perspective, selections (SD)

**Dec 9: Presentation of Term Projects/Class Party**

No assigned reading

**Term Projects due December 20**