

Course Description

This course is about place-based communities: neighborhoods, towns, cities and regions. It examines the relationships between urban form and social patterns; and efforts to influence community life by shaping the built environment. We will explore basic theoretical concepts about good urban form—and how to achieve it—and survey a range of proposed and implemented projects, as well as assess their relevance for contemporary urban planning and design practices. There will be a focus on initiatives in the Portland region to enhance community livability. Students will link theory with research to examine opportunities to foster places that promote community well-being within the vision and policy context set by the PSU Campus Framework Plan, the SoMa EcoDistrict Roadmap and Portland’s Central City Plan.



Before and After: Springfield Tire Market → Springfield Farmers Market
(from The Simpsons: “The Day the Earth Stood Cool”)

Course Format and Requirements

This class emphasizes lectures and discussions focused on the assigned readings, but there will also be classroom exercises, videos, and in-class work on the term-long project. In order to earn the four credit hours for this course you are required to attend class regularly, prepared to participate in the discussions, presentations and exercises, and earn a passing grade on the assignments and the mid-term exam.

Readings

Required Texts:

Hester, Randolph. *Design for Ecological Democracy*. MIT Press, Cambridge 2010. [Available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve at the library]

Recommended resources:

Articles, maps, photographs and charts that add another dimension to the text are available via D2L.

Assignments and Grading

There will be a mid-term exam based on the required text. In addition there is a term long project. The purpose of this project is to link theory—based on the principles in *Design for Ecological Democracy*—with research to examine opportunities to enrich the built environment of the PSU campus community. Students will work individually and in teams in developing proposals for low-cost, high-impact incremental frameworks for intervention. Specific instructions and grading criteria for each phase of the assignment will be handed out in class and posted on D2L; grading will also take into account the depth, clarity, and quality of submissions, including text, graphics and visual illustrations.

Class attendance and participation are **REQUIRED**. Typically one day a week will be devoted to the assigned readings and a one day will relate the concepts raised in the readings to the on-going term long project in various ways, such as guest speakers, films and/or in-class work sessions. An important measure of participation, therefore, will be engagement in all class activities.

Assignment	Date Assigned	Date Due	% of Grade
1. Field Observation: Physical Traces	10/1	10/15	20 %
2. User Behavior and Interview Video	10/8	11/5	20 %
3. Place-Making Plan	10/29	12/5	25 %
<i>Individual Project Proposal</i>			<i>(10 %)</i>
<i>Team Intervention Framework</i>	(presentations	12/3 & 12/5)	<i>(15 %)</i>
Mid-Term Exam	11/12	11/17	25 %
Participation—including <i>all</i> class activities			10 %

100 Point System (used to calculate FINAL grade):

Points	0	48	52	58	63	68	73	78	83	88	93	100
Grade	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

**No incomplete grades will be given without a substantial cause.
Students experiencing difficulty should seek help from the professor as soon as possible.**

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week One		
Monday 9/29	OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE In Class Reflection: Think of a place that you love. What gives it that quality?	<i>Overview of Term-long Assignment</i> <i>Pick first and second choice area to study</i>
Wednesday 10/1	INTRODUCTION: Place Based Community in a Global Age <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Introduction, pp. 1–13 • <i>PSU Framework Plan</i> Executive Summary, pp. 5-11 • <i>Central City 2035: West Quadrant Plan</i> Executive Summary, pp. v-viii 	Asst. 1: Physical Traces assigned and discussed in class TEAMS FORMED
Week Two		
Monday 10/6	ENABLING FORM <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Enabling Form Introduction, pp. 15–19 Centeredness, pp. 21–40 Connectedness, pp. 50–65 	<u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u> VISIT: Street Seats <i>Center for Architecture</i> 403 NW 11 th Ave. Portland
Wednesday 10/8	GUEST SPEAKER: Jason Franklin, Director, PSU Office of Campus Planning	Asst. 2: User Behavior Video assigned and discussed in class
Week Three		
Monday 10/13	ENABLING FORM continued <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Fairness, pp. 77–85 Sensible Status Seeking, pp. 97–111 Sacredness, pp. 117–35 [SKIM] 	<u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u> See especially: <i>PDX Plan</i> , “A Framework for Equity,” pp. 17–25, 30, 70–71
Wednesday 10/15	GUEST SPEAKER: Karl Lisle, Senior Planner, Central City Team, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability	Asst. 1 DUE: be prepared to discuss in class after speaker’s presentation
Week Four		
Monday 10/20	RESILIENT FORM <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Resilient Form Introduction, pp. 137–43 Particular-ness, pp. 145–51, 160–9 Selective Diversity, pp. 171–99 	<u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u>
Wednesday 10/22	FILM: Social Life of Small Urban Spaces	Asst. 2: WORK SESSION (after film).

Week Five	
Monday 10/27	RESILIENT FORM continued <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Density and Smallness, pp. 201–25 Limited Extent, pp. 227–43, 251–3 Adaptability, pp. 255–65 <u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u>
Wednesday 10/29	Asst. 2: WORK SESSION Asst. 3: Place-Making Proposal assigned and discussed in class
Week Six	
Monday 11/3	IMPELLING FORM <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Impelling Form Introduction, pp. 277–79 Everyday Future, pp. 281–99 Naturalness, pp. 301–23 <u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u>
Wednesday 11/5	Asst. 2 DUE: Present videos in class (as time permits)
Week Seven	
Monday 11/10	IMPELLING FORM continued <u>Required Reading:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Design for Ecological Democracy</i> Inhabiting Science, pp. 325–61 Reciprocal Stewardship, pp. 363–85 Pacing, pp. 387–417 <u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u>
Wednesday 11/12	Continued presentations of Asst. 2 videos Mid-Term on D2L starts 3:00 pm
Week Eight	
Monday 11/17	GUEST SPEAKER: Jeff Schnabel, Associate Professor of Architecture PSU, and Member of the Board, Halprin Landscape Conservancy Mid-Term on D2L ends 9:00 am
Wednesday 11/19	Asst. 3: WORK SESSION — Bring ideas/work in progress to discuss Brainstorm with Art as Social Practice students!
Week Nine	
Monday 11/24	Schools as Centers of Community <u>Recommended Readings on D2L</u>
Wednesday 11/26	NO CLASS: Happy Early Thanksgiving!
Week Ten	
Monday 12/3	Asst 3: DUE—TEAM PRESENTATIONS
Wednesday 12/5	Asst 3: DUE—TEAM PRESENTATIONS NOTE PRESENTATIONS WILL CONTINUE ON EXAM DAY