THE UNRULY CITY

LAND/MUD 529G
Graduate School of Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape Architecture
Washington University in St. Louis

6214 Forsyth Avenue, Room 203, Friday 8:30 – 11:30 AM
Fall 2018

Instructor: Michael Allen, Senior Lecturer in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
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Phone: 314-920-5680
Office: 6214 Forsyth Avenue, Room 301
Hours: Meetings by appointment.
Course Description

The history of the modern city is the history of conquering the "unruly": real estate parcels, neighborhoods, buildings, and even people that threaten the rule of law, economic growth and cultural norms. But “unruly” is in the eye of the beholder as much as the power to rule is in the hand of the holder. Today cities are contested spaces across the globe, with uprisings, protest and political negation as long-term consequences of modernization. Designers denigrated unruliness in the pursuit of modernization in the 20th century, but today seem more conflicted on the constitution and remedies for disorder. Is disorder in the eye of the beholder? What disrupts urban life more, the broken windows of vacant houses or the arrival of Whole Foods in a poor neighborhood? The closure of a street by protestors against police violence, or the actions of police officers themselves? Upzoning or historic preservation? Every act of urban design -- from participating in the architectural planning of a new building to the development of new forms of sustainable urban open space – creates, forecloses or alters the democratic use of the city.

This semester, we will build upon study of conflicts over law and order, scale and the will of the people by a close examination of a specific political tactic: street closures. Streets are closed by unsanctioned political protestors, by bike and pedestrian advocates with the aid of city governments, by neighbors who want to restrict access to their residential streets, by universities trying to create campuses, by the police or military and sometimes by a combination of all of these forces. The barricade, the cul-de-sac and the car-restricted street are trans-ideological tactics with real bearing on daily life – positive, negative and undecidable.

Aims

This seminar aims to cover an overview of urban spatial conflicts that invoke political conflicts that occur between the actor, the state, an ideology, capital and other social components. Through attention to the recent history of global spatial conflicts with cities, the seminar unpacks underlying causes and identifies emergent and subversive strategies of resolution. By the end of the semester, we will be able to see the architecture behind architecture – the social forces that are shaping how the city looks, who has access to space and who governs competing claims to the city.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. Articulate the factors and competing parties in significant urban spatial conflicts (gentrification, policing, housing, urban renewal);
2. Explain and name the tenets of different political ideologies and legal and extralegal government systems that manifest in urban politics;
3. Relate the spatial conditions of cities to underlying laws and policies, social practices, ideological formations and capitalist structures;
4. Identify contemporary practices of urban inhabitation that seek to resolve or transcend conflicts;
5. Articulate the impact that the practices or urban design, landscape architecture and architecture have on and within urban political systems.

Course Materials

These books are required:

All other required readings are accessible on Blackboard (http://bb.wustl.edu; denoted by asterisk on the syllabus).
Course Schedule

Friday, August 31: Introduction

Raymond Williams, “Democracy,” Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1976)*

Film in class:
Do The Right Thing (1989; Spike Lee, director)

Friday, September 7: Agency, Authority, Power

http://nexcity.org/features/view/urban-planning-sexism-problem

Paper #1 by 5:00 PM.

Friday, September 14: Perceptions of Order and Disorder

Richard Sennett, The Uses of Disorder.

Films in class:
More Than One Thing (1969; Steve Carver, director) and TBD

Friday, September 21: Whose Law, Whose Order

Slavoj Zizek, “Divine Violence,” Refugees, Terror and Other Troubles with the Neighbors (New York: Melville House, 2016).*
James C. Scott, “The Infrapolitics of Subordinate Groups” from Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*

Film in class:
Ferguson: Report from Occupied Territory (2015; Orlando de Guzman, director)

Paper #2 Due by 5:00PM.
Friday, September 28: Territorial Boundaries: Spatial and Social

**FIELD VISIT:**
*The Ville, Fairground Park*

[https://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/](https://www.epi.org/publication/making-ferguson/)


Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations,” *The Atlantic* (June 2014)

Friday, October 5: NO CLASS, Instructor Away

Friday, October 12: Hegemony Versus Pluralism


Film in class:
*Citizen Jane* (2016; Matt Tyrnauer, director)

*Paper #3 Due by 5:00 PM.*

Friday, October 19: Points of View: From Below

**FIELD VISIT:**
*Lafayette Square, Clinton-Peabody, Thurman Underpass*

Readings:


Friday, October 26: Points of View: From Above

**FIELD VISIT:**
*Pruitt-Igoe, NGA, Old North*

Eric Avila, “The Master’s Plan,” Folklore of the Freeway (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014)
City Plan Commission, A Major Streets Plan for St. Louis (1917)*

Paper #4 Due by 5:00PM

Friday, November 2: Street Closures

FIELD VISIT:
Parkview, Central West End, Skinker-DeBaliviere

Oscar Newman, Creating Defensible Space (Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1996), p. 9-29*
Albert Pope, “Cul-de-Sac,” The Arsenal of Exclusion and Inclusion (Actar)*

Friday, November 9: Political Uses of the Street

Gregory Smithsimon, “A Stiff Clarifying Test Is in Order: Occupy and Negotiating Rights in Public Space,”  
Beyond Zuccotti Park: Freedom of Assembly and the Occupation of Public Space (Oakland, Calif.: New Village Press, 2012)*
Paul Lewis and Jon Swaine, “Ferguson Ablaze After Michael Brown Verdict: This Is A War Zone Now,” The Guardian (November 25, 2014)  

Friday, November 16: Experiential Uses of the Street

FIELD VISIT:
Gateway Arch

“Turn Kitai Gorod into a Pedestrian Zone,” Slavic Travels (April 11, 2018)  
http://www.slavictravels.com/kitai-gorod-should-be-turned-into-a-pedestrian-only-area/.
Jon Banister. “What’s a Woonerf? The Streetscape Design That’s Sweeping DC,” Bisnow (July 18, 2016)  
Tamsin Rutter, “Car-free Belgium: why can’t Brussels match Ghent’s pedestrianised vision?” The Guardian  
(November 28, 2016)  
Project for Public Spaces, Actions for Streets as Places: How Government Makes it Happen (January 11, 2016)
Paper #5 Due by 5:00PM

Friday, November 23: NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Weekend

Friday, November 30: Enduring Occupation: Below Meets Above

Bridges of Budapest. "Liberty Bridge." [https://www.bridgesofbudapest.com/bridge/liberty_bridge](https://www.bridgesofbudapest.com/bridge/liberty_bridge)


Workshop for Final Projects

Friday, December 7: Conclusion

Student Presentations/Installations

Monday, December 17

Final papers due to instructor by 11:59 PM.
Assignments

1. Response Papers

Papers will allow students space to explore topics within the course readings and experiences. Writing should endeavor to be bravely exploratory instead of authoritative. New concepts, histories and readings ought to inspire questions instead of confirming answers. There will be five short papers that will frame responses to the readings and site visits. These papers shall be 3-4 pages long, and will allow students to work out intellectual responses to the readings and events of the seminar. The prompts for the papers will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard. All papers should use either Modern Language Association of Chicago Style citations, 11-point typefaces, standard margins and double spacing. Papers shall have titles and page numbers. Papers shall be submitted via email in PDF format. Comments and grades will be emailed out.

2. Key Passages Assignment

Starting in week two, each student will take on the task of presenting a key passage from the readings. Students will sign up for the assignment on the first day. Students should select one or more paragraphs, and then analyze them in relation to the larger text and the overall themes of the course. The student should conclude with at least one question to the full seminar to spark discussion. Students should turn in via email one page that states the passage (page and paragraph numbers are fine), a summary of their analysis and their question(s).

3. Final Project

In the final project, students will form pairs (with one group of three if an odd number) and select a site from our field visits, or otherwise within St. Louis. Students should select opposing points of view on whether to close the street, bridge or alley – not necessarily a binary opposition, but two fundamentally incompatible programs of management of the public space. The programs are hypothetical for the purpose of dialectic imagination for the sites, and do not have to be a representation of the student’s own actual convictions or ideas for the site. The pairs will present their programs as a debate on the last day of the seminar. Presentations could also encompass a spatial enactment of a program within the classroom or a space around the school.

Each student will then write a paper presenting their program, supported by relevant readings from the seminar and other sources. The paper should be at least 7 pages long, with at least three pages of supporting photographs, drawings or other visuals depicting current condition and proposed implementation of the program. The paper should make clear at the outset an assessment of the impact of the program on free public use of the space, and at the conclusion, whether the student actually would advocate for implementing the program. The final project grade will encompass the individual contribution to the paired work and the final paper.

Evaluation and Grading

The required work in the seminar will include four papers, a final research and design project, field trip notes, participation in the course glossary, participation in discussion and attendance. The final grade will be based on this formula:

<table>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assigned Papers</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Glossary Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Attendance and Participation in Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Papers and work will be graded numerically out of 100 points. Final grades will be letter grades based on the following grading scale:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Conceptual Considerations</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>Craftsmanship</th>
<th>Integrative skills</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Analysis demonstrates rigor and highly developed understanding of scope. Sophisticated and attentive design decision-making apparent throughout process. Logical, confident and iterative procedure generates design outputs that can be described and evaluated in terms of the process. Clear connection between ideas and their investigation through careful manipulation of design representation and materials. Excellent craftsmanship displays thought and care. Clear demonstration of the importance of the artifact in design production. Attentiveness to the aesthetic of making.</td>
<td>New and complex issues are successfully integrated.</td>
<td>New and complex issues are successfully integrated.</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>Process demonstrates adequate grasp of problems and issues. Clear use of iterative method. Source data employed throughout. Project process remains within the confines of the known. Good quality work, with moderate appeal. Engagement with materiality of representation needs further work. Outputs would improve with greater attentiveness to quality of craft.</td>
<td>Design production shows real understanding of issues, problems, resources and process, but does not quite bring them all together in a unified articulation of design intent.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Project exhibits an inherent lack of conceptual engagement. The necessary components are gathered but are related and explored only superficially. Clear and effective process never fully developed. Tentative and ill-defined methodology. Tendency to change from approach to approach without fully investigating any one method, suggesting uncertainty with respect to iterative procedures. Crafted dimension of production distracts from design intent. Sloppy, ill-managed articulation of the artifact as an object. Ideas remain untransformed by the act of making.</td>
<td>Project remains on the level of a collection of disparate ideas and forms, weakly integrated or developed, and only marginally related to the singularity of the site, situation or program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Project is inadequately developed in all areas. Heavy reliance on found materials. Project shows little or no regulation by means of conceptual thinking. Inadequate development of project. Muddled thinking about process. Little or no clear methodological procedure utilized. No connection between design output and design process. Poor quality or negligible craftsmanship. No sense of the development of an aesthetic. Outputs are uninspiring, timid and uncared for.</td>
<td>Little or no sense of the project as an interactive condition. Outcome does not relate to program, site or contexts. Failure of understanding with respect to the nature of design.</td>
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**Course Communication**

In addition to class time, course communication will occur through email. The instructor will send notifications of amendments to the syllabus and confirm field trip driving plans through email, so please check email before each class period to stay apprised of any changes. Blackboard will only be used for a repository of readings and assignments.

**Course Policies and Information for Students**

The best learning environment—whether in the classroom, studio, laboratory, or fieldwork site—is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. At Washington University in St. Louis, we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive atmosphere, in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others. Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a climate of intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal backgrounds, abilities, and experiences, although instructors bear primary responsibility for its maintenance.

A range of resources is available to those who perceive a learning environment as lacking inclusivity, as defined in the preceding paragraph. If possible, we encourage students to speak directly with their instructor about any suggestions or concerns they have regarding a particular instructional space or situation.
Alternatively, students may bring concerns to another trusted advisor or administrator (such as an academic advisor, mentor, department chair, or dean). All classroom participants—including faculty, staff, and students—who observe a bias incident affecting a student may also file a report (whether personally or anonymously) utilizing the online Bias Report and Support System.

This seminar operates on a pedagogical model of participatory inquiry, where all participants shape the research questions and experiential priorities of the course. The seminar requires a high degree of participation through verbal discussion while also demanding a robust schedule of readings to support exploration of themes. While the instructor will lecture and guide, the seminar is a venue for each student to present questions, findings and connections located in readings and field trips. For readings, students should make every attempt to complete readings before meeting, but if not possible, at least discern authors’ key points and themes. The seminar encourages research as practice; that is, research not for memorization but for critical understanding of subjects to advance students’ own educational goals. Design students should have no fear.

**Policies:**

1. **ATTENDANCE POLICY:** All students should attend each class session, take notes and participate in discussions. *Only one unexcused absence is allowed. A second unexcused absence will result in automatic drop of one letter grade for the final course grade.* If a student cannot attend a session due to a conflicting academic requirement, that student should notify the instructor in writing one week prior to the session that will be missed. If a student has a medical or personal reason for absence, likewise the instructor shall be notified in writing at least prior to the start of class. When in doubt, please contact the instructor. Your grade will thank you. All field trips will occur during class time and are mandatory.

2. **PENALTIES FOR LATE WORK and REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS:** Late work will lose three points for each day that it is late. Requests for extensions must be made before the start of the class session before the assignment is due. No explanations submitted along with late work will suspend these policies. Always consult the instructor if in doubt.

3. **REGRADING POLICY:** There is no regrading in this seminar.

4. **REQUESTS FOR INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK ON DRAFTS AND REQUESTS TO REVISE:** Please consult the instructor if you want to receive feedback on writing before it is due.

5. **TECHNOLOGY POLICIES:** Computers and smart phones may aid course sessions by allowing students to pull up readings, websites, images or other materials to share. These devices should not be used for other purposes during class time. Absolutely no use of these devices for personal communications, web browsing or games is allowed.

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**Academic Integrity**

Effective learning, teaching and research all depend upon the ability of members of the academic community to trust one another and to trust the integrity of work that is submitted for academic credit or conducted in the wider arena of scholarly research. Such an atmosphere of mutual trust fosters the free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential.

In all academic work, the ideas, drawings, photographs, written texts and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged through citation, with the name of the author and full reference of the source. See http://artsci.wustl.edu/~writing/plagiarism.htm for more information on properly documenting any work or ideas that are not your own. Work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Faculty, students, and administrative staff all share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at Washington University. Students must be the sole authors of their work from concept through production.
Graduate School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design students are currently governed by the Academic Integrity policy of the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts: http://www.samfoxschool.wustl.edu/files/Final_12-6_Architecture%20Graduate%20Al%20Policy-1_final2.pdf. Students should become familiar with the guidelines and policies of the university and school regarding academic integrity and misconduct. Any questions or concerns should be immediately addressed. Your instructors, advisors and department faculty are available to help students understand the Academic Integrity Policy, how to avoid plagiarism and its serious consequences by learning to cite sources correctly and leaving plenty of time to complete assignments. Do not hesitate to ask for assistance with any concerns in these regards.

Intentional plagiarism may result in a failing grade for this class. If you are not certain what constitutes plagiarism, please ask your instructor.

**Resources for Students**

1. **DISABILITY RESOURCES:** If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please speak with instructor and consult the **Disability Resource Center** at Cornerstone (cornerstone.wustl.edu). Cornerstone staff will determine appropriate accommodations and will work with your instructor to make sure these are available to you.

2. **WRITING ASSISTANCE:** For additional help on your writing, consult the expert staff of The Writing Center (writingcenter.wustl.edu) in Olin Library (first floor). It can be enormously helpful to ask someone outside a course to read your essays and to provide feedback on strength of argument, clarity, organization, etc.

3. **THE UNIVERSITY’S PREFERRED NAME POLICY FOR STUDENTS,** with additional resources and information, may be found here: registrar.wustl.edu/student-records/ssn-name-changes/preferred-name-policy/preferred-name-policy-student/.

4. **ACCOMMODATIONS BASED UPON SEXUAL ASSAULT:** The University is committed to offering reasonable academic accommodations to students who are victims of sexual assault. Students are eligible for accommodation regardless of whether they seek criminal or disciplinary action. Depending on the specific nature of the allegation, such measures may include but are not limited to: implementation of a no-contact order, course/classroom assignment changes, and other academic support services and accommodations. If you need to request such accommodations, please direct your request to Kim Webb (kim_webb@wustl.edu), Director of the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center. Ms. Webb is a confidential resource; however, requests for accommodations will be shared with the appropriate University administration and faculty. The University will maintain as confidential any accommodations or protective measures provided to an individual student so long as it does not impair the ability to provide such measures.

If a student comes to me to discuss or disclose an instance of sexual assault, sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, or if I otherwise observe or become aware of such an allegation, I will keep the information as private as I can, but as a faculty member of Washington University, I am required to immediately report it to my Department Chair or Dean or directly to Ms. Jessica Kennedy, the University’s Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with the Title IX Coordinator directly, Ms. Kennedy can be reached at (314) 935-3118, jwkennedy@wustl.edu, or by visiting her office in the Women’s Building. Additionally, you can report incidents or complaints to Tamara King, Associate Dean for Students and Director of Student Conduct, or by contacting WUPD at (314) 935-5555 or your local law enforcement agency.

You can also speak confidentially and learn more about available resources at the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center by calling (314) 935-8761 or visiting the 4th floor of Seigle Hall.
5. **BIAS REPORTING:** The University has a process through which students, faculty, staff and community members who have experienced or witnessed incidents of bias, prejudice or discrimination against a student can report their experiences to the University’s Bias Report and Support System (BRSS) team. See: brss.wustl.edu

6. **MENTAL HEALTH:** Mental Health Services’ professional staff members work with students to resolve personal and interpersonal difficulties, many of which can affect the academic experience. These include conflicts with or worry about friends or family, concerns about eating or drinking patterns, and feelings of anxiety and depression. See: shs.wustl.edu/MentalHealth

*Disclaimer*

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to this information throughout the semester.