course: LAR 381 R / ARC 380C
unique number: 01644 / 00954
type of course: seminar
credits: 3
prerequisite: none
instructor: Phoebe Lickwar
schedule: Thursdays 1:00 - 4:00pm
location: WMB 5.112
semester: Spring 2019

Catalog Description
Advanced topics in media and interpretation, such as freehand drawing, measured drawings, aspects of computer
graphics, geographic information systems, and photography.

Course Description
Photography and the Urban Landscape introduces students to the use of photography as a method of visual
research and visual thinking, a practice of critical inquiry that is both analytical and generative, and a way to develop
new knowledge about urban landscapes. Readings, discussions, and visits to the Harry Ransom Center are intended
to familiarize students with the work of contemporary photographers who are investigating the urban landscape.
Students will choose a site to investigate over the course of the semester, developing their own visual practice
through short assignments and sustained observation. Students may choose any urban site in the Austin area,
including a studio site or subject of research for another class.

Prior experience in photography is welcome but not required. This course is particularly useful for students in the
School of Architecture interested in incorporating photography as a visual method in their work. Students must have
access to a digital camera (SLR, Mirrorless, iPhone or android equivalent).

Learning Objectives
• To develop a visual practice, using photography as a method of sustained visual inquiry
• To develop skills in visual thinking, including camera use, editing, and sequencing
• To learn about a variety of approaches and methods being employed by contemporary photographers to
develop new knowledge related to urban landscapes

Course Structure
The course is structured around three activities: 1) Weekly Case Studies and Readings, 2) Photographic
Assignments, and 3) Visits to the Ransom Center.

Weekly Case Studies and Readings
Each week students will choose one of the case studies listed in the course schedule and complete a written
response. Students will bring to class a selection of one to five images from the case study on a thumb drive. These
images and ideas recorded in the written responses will form the basis for our class discussions. All case studies are
available on reserve at the Architecture & Planning Library. Many, but not all weeks there are also supplementary
readings intended to guide your photographic work. These readings are either available on Canvas or found in the
required text: Spirn, The Eye is a Door.
Photographic Assignments
We will review progress on photographic assignments through weekly digital pin-ups. It is expected that students will visit their sites regularly and have new images to show each week. Critiques are designed to provide feedback for work in progress as well as review of completed assignments.

Ransom Center Visits
We will have five visits to the Ransom Center over the course of the semester (January 31, February 21, March 28, April 11, May 9). We will be looking at the work of notable photographers and discussions will focus on understanding this work within the context of the weekly course topic. **On days when we are visiting the Ransom Center, we will meet at 1 pm in the reception area on the second floor of the Center.**

Attendance

**Regular Attendance**
Regular Attendance is expected for all exams, lectures, field trips, lab sessions, and discussions unless stated by the instructor. If a class meeting needs to be rescheduled for any reason, it will be done in as timely a manner as possible, with the intention of accommodating the majority of the course participants' schedules. Students will be informed via Canvas.

**Religious and Holy Days**
Absences based on religious observances must be arranged fourteen [14] days in advance. Any assignment submission missed during that time must be turned in within one week [7 days] of the scheduled absence. A student who fails to complete missed work within the time allowed will be subject to the normal academic penalties for late work.

**Military Service**
In accordance with section 51.9111 of the Texas Education Code, a student is excused from attending classes or engaging in other required activities, including exams, if he or she is called to active military service of a reasonably brief duration. The maximum time for which the student may be excused has been defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "no more than 25 percent of the total number of class meetings or the contact hour equivalent (not including the final examination period) for the specific course or courses in which the student is currently enrolled at the beginning of the period of active military service." The student will be allowed a reasonable time after the absence to complete assignments and take exams. Policies affecting students who withdraw from the University for military service are given in the Withdrawal section of Academic Policies and Procedures of the General Information Catalog.

**Illness driven Absence**
An absence due to illness will be labeled as EXCUSED when the Instructor or Teaching assistant receives appropriate documentation from a physician. Any assignment submission missed due to documented illness must be turned in within one week [7 days] of the absence or one week [7 days] from the original submission date.

Missing twenty-five percent [25%] of the class meetings is beyond reasonable under any circumstance. Course participants with three [3] unexcused absences will have their numeric grade reduced by one out of four grade points at the conclusion of the semester. Additional unexcused absences will result in additional point reductions of .33 grade points per absence. It is recommended that students contact the instructor prior to class if they expect to be absent.
Grade Percentages

Class Participation  20%
Weekly Case Studies  30%
Photographic Assignments  50%

Grade Evaluation

Establishing grades for projects of a creative nature is a more complex matter than grading in other academic areas. While each project contains certain quantifiable elements by which it may be evaluated, a significant portion of each grade is derived from a broader, more subjective set of issues. Work will be evaluated on its rigor and evolution over the semester.

grasp  
[.34]: Demonstrate efficacious spatial and formal idea combined with a meticulous process of research and inquiry

process  
[.33]: Demonstration of consistent and rigorous development and testing of ideas (iteration)

resolution  
[.33]: Demonstration of competence, completeness, and finesse through representation

Student work is evaluated according to its rigor and evolution over the semester. Grades are subject to deductions for absences, late work, and late arrivals at the discretion of each instructor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>grade</th>
<th>quality</th>
<th>performance level</th>
<th>points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>excellent</td>
<td>Project surpasses expectations in terms of inventiveness, appropriateness, verbal and visual ability, conceptual rigor, craft, and personal development. Student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is discussed in class. Project is complete on all levels.</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>Project is thorough, well researched, diligently pursued, and successfully completed. Student pursues ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required projects. Project is complete on all levels and demonstrates potential for excellence.</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>required</td>
<td>Project meets the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class are not pursued with dedication or rigor. Project is incomplete in one or more areas.</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>Project is incomplete. Basic skills including graphic skills, model-making skills, verbal clarity or logic of presentation are not level-appropriate. Student does not demonstrate the required design skill and knowledge base.</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>unacceptable</td>
<td>Project is unresolved. Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will not be assigned.</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will not be assigned.
be assigned when you have excessive unexcused absences.

X  excused incomplete

Issued only in the case of compelling, nonacademic circumstances beyond the student’s control. Simply not completing work on time is an inadequate cause for assigning this evaluation. It may only be used after consultation with the Associate Deans’ offices and with an agreement as to a new completion date. According to School of Architecture policy, studio work must be completed before the second week of the next design semester in which the student is enrolling.

Any grade can be re-evaluated based on student concern. Subsequent evaluations can cause the grade to be reduced, remain unchanged, or increased. Grades can only be discussed on an individual basis, not as a comparison with other students’ grades.

Accommodations

• Class meetings, lectures, and discussions will be conducted in the assigned classroom or studio. Any change in location will be announced on Canvas or via email.
• Course Participants with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Recommendation in Case of Emergency Evacuations

• Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
• Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom/studio and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
• Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
• In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
• Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
• Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency
• The Behavior Concerns Advice Line provides a central resource to anyone who is concerned about an individual and may not be sure about how best to help them. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050 or www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal/
• Cases that present an immediate threat to self, others, or property should be considered an emergency and should be directed to The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD) by calling 911.

Academic Integrity

Course participants are expected to have completed the assigned readings and be prepared to engage in a meaningful discussion of the material in class. Assignments, problem statements, research assignments and presentations or other course related work submitted for evaluation is expected to be their own work, prepared
without unauthorized assistance. http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct)

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty
Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Availability of Coursework
Each student is required to submit to the Instructor of Record a jump drive, or link to cloud storage that contains all material produced for evaluation during the semester immediately following their presentation on the day of the Final Project Review. Failure to submit the digital record to the instructor will be reflected by a 25% reduction in the overall grade.

Course Materials


- All other reading materials will be on reserve in the Architecture and Planning Library or distributed digitally through Canvas. If you wish to purchase books instead of reading them in the library, they can be ordered through Amazon. Weekly reading assignments are listed in the course schedule.

Faculty: Phoebe Lickwar
Office Hours: Thursdays, noon-1pm
Primary Contact: plickwar@utexas.edu