

course: LAR 381 R / ARC 380C
unique number: 01644 / 00954
type of course: seminar
credits: 3
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 1pm in the reception area on the second floor of the Center.**

Attendance

With the exception of faculty exemption or an excused absence, class attendance is mandatory. Students with three [3] unexcused absences may be dropped from the course without further notice. The minimum penalty for more than three [3] unexcused absences is a full letter drop in the final grade for the course. Students should contact the instructor prior to class if they expect to be absent or late.

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

Attendance is expected for all lectures, field trips, studio sessions, and discussions. If a class meeting has to be rescheduled, it will be done in a timely manner, with the intention of accommodating the majority of the course participants' schedules.

Grade Percentages

Class Participation	20%
Weekly Case Study Assignments	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.

Each student will be assessed according to the effort expended in the following primary areas [each weighted .33]:

Intent: project has clear conceptual intent [idea] that addresses the assignment's stated objectives;

Development: project rigorously examines, tests, and refines conceptual intent and spatial implications through the effective and appropriate use of representation models and sketches;

Resolution: project is complete conceptually, spatially, and technically, as demonstrated through the verbal and graphic presentation.

Assignments are to be completed in the time allowed. With the exception of a medical or personal emergency, late work will be reduced by one letter grade per each 24 hour period after the stated assignment deadline.

Grade Scale

Final grades will be computed in accordance with School of Architecture and University Academic Policies as follows:

grade	quality	performance level	points
A	excellent	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.	4.0
A-			3.67
B+			3.33
B	good	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.	3.0
B-			2.67
C+			2.33
C	required	Project meets the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class are not pursued with dedication or rigor. Project is incomplete in one or more areas.	2.0
C-			1.67
D	poor	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.	1.0
D-			.67
F	unacceptable	Project is unresolved. Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will be assigned when you have excessive unexcused absences.	0.0
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.	

All grades are subject to deductions for absences, late work, and late arrivals.

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.

Coursework Submission

Course material submitted for evaluation will be retained by the Program for professional accreditation. Material that is not necessary for accreditation will be returned to the student within one academic semester.

At the semester's end, all final work must be submitted as digital files utilizing a UTBOX or another cloud based service. Individual vector based files should be submitted as high quality pdfs; individual raster based images should be submitted as 300 dpi tiffs. Complete boards should be submitted as high quality pdfs. File names should conform to the following nomenclature: 19_LAR_381R_lastname_assignment_title

Examples: 19_LAR_381R_lastname_Light Study_Image 01.tiff

A student's Final Grade will be withheld until documentation has been submitted.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honest, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Plagiarism or violations of academic integrity in any form will be handled according to measures as outlined by the General Information catalog and the University. All course related work submitted for evaluation is to be original and prepared without unauthorized assistance. Work that is supplemented from ideas not originating from the student should clearly cite the parent source.

Students who violate University rules on academic integrity are subject to disciplinary action, including the receipt of a failing grade for the course, and possible dismissal from the University. Since such infractions harm the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced.

Faculty: Phoebe Lickwar

Office Location: XXXX

Office Hours: Thursdays, noon-1 pm

Primary Contact: plickwar@utexas.edu

Office hours will be maintained at scheduled times, as well as by appointment, in order to discuss issues related to the schedule, evaluation, coursework, etc. Please do not hesitate to notify the instructor of impending schedule conflicts with other classes.

E-mail Correspondence

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, students are responsible for reading their email for university and course-related information and announcements. Students must keep the university informed about changes to their e-mail address (see <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php>). Students should check e-mail regularly and frequently to stay current with university-related communications, some of which can be time critical.

When composing email, include "LAR 682T" in the subject line along with the topic of your inquiry. Emails should address the instructor and be professional in tone. The instructor will endeavor to reply in a timely manner or will address your question in class.

Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512.471.6259 or 512.471.4641. See also <http://www.deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/>.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)

Contact the BCAL to discuss your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512.232.5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.