

## Moynihan Station Studio Spring 2014

PLAN A6911

Tuesday/Thursday 6:00-8:00PM

Fayerweather 201

Professor: Gary Roth

Office hours: Arranged by email

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### **Urban Planning Studio:**

### **Moynihan Station: Planning for a New Midtown Destination**

**Client: Michael Evans, President, Moynihan Station Development Corp.**

### **Course Description and Objectives**

The future home of Moynihan Station was first built in 1912 and formed a scenic boulevard echoing Pennsylvania Station. This former post office will be transformed into both a train station and a new destination. The building is large and occupies two entire blocks of Midtown Manhattan. The train station portion is expected to occupy 400,000 sq. ft., with about 1 million sq. ft. set aside for other uses. In addition the project holds 2.5 million square feet of development rights.

The client for the studio is Moynihan Station Development Corporation (MSDC), a division of Empire State Development Corporation (ESD).

The studio will have the following overarching goals:

1. Discover methods to better connect Moynihan Station to the surrounding attractions and developments
2. Recommend uses to incorporate into Moynihan Station [Retail, office, exhibit hall...]
3. Suggest receiving area and uses for the available development rights
4. Find ways to make Moynihan Station a destination to rival New York's Grand Central Terminal and Washington D.C.'s Union Station
5. Develop improved design to better integrate the station into the surrounding urban fabric

**Course Objective:**

The purpose of the studio is to work with a client on a specific project. This allows students to apply these principles they have learned and also to gain greater understanding into the planning practice. With the project directives in mind, students will create visions for future change.

The first half of the semester is focused on understanding the issues using all available resources including interviews, field work, historical materials and data. This builds to a draft presentation to the client and faculty. The second half is devoted to expanding the approved concepts to a full-blown proposal that must be presented in such a way to satisfy the client and faculty, while also advocate for benefits for the citizens of New York City.

Throughout the semester, work will be developed for discussion and commentary by the entire class and the client. There will be a large number of guest lecturers who have significant experience with the project, who will provide important input into the plan. Students should be prepared to interview the experts to extract information useful for the project.

**Evaluation**

Class requirements include extensive research, active class participation, and involvement and contribution to the project. Below is the basis of grading:

ACTIVITIES	Weight
Leadership:	10%
Active Participation and Contribution to Class Discussions	20%
Group Project	70%

The initial weeks of the course will be led by the professor, but will then shift to a student-led program.

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There will be an ongoing series of assignments that leads to the development of the final project. The detailed schedule will be worked out in consultation with the students.

During the initial weeks students will gather knowledge leading to the mid-term presentation. At the first class students will be presented with six themes, which must be selected prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> class. Each theme will lead to a presentation to the class. All students are required to select two themes and all students must speak during every presentation they participate in.

1	<b>January 21</b>	First class – Meet and Greet, Schedule, Theme Assignments – History of Penn Station / Post Office
	<b>January 23</b>	Tour of Penn Station & Moynihan Station with Client
2	<b>January 28</b>	Speaker: Juliette Michaelson (RPA) <b>Theme: Grand Central Station / Midtown East Rezoning</b>
	<b>January 30</b>	Speaker: Tim Gilchrist (Retired MSDC) <b>Theme: Neighboring Areas / Midtown West / Population</b>
3	<b>February 4</b>	Speaker: Andy Lynn (Port Authority) / Andy Rosen (Related) <b>Theme: Transportation / Land Use Surrounding Area</b>
	<b>February 6</b>	At MSDC Office (Farley Building-3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl.) - Meeting with Client: Michael Evans
4	<b>February 11</b>	Speaker: Vin Cipolla (MAS) <b>Theme: Preserving Penn Station / Moynihan Station</b>
	<b>February 13</b>	Chris Ward (Former Port Authority) <b>Theme: Stakeholder Analysis</b>
5	<b>February 18</b>	Speaker: Vishaan Chakrabarti (CU) <b>Themes: Other Stations / Success Stories</b>
	<b>February 20</b>	Speaker: Michael Samuelian (Related)
6	<b>February 25</b>	Working to schedule a speaker from Amtrak or CB 4
	<b>February 27</b>	Dry run of Midterm Presentation
7	<b>March 4</b>	Dry run with Guest Critic: Aaron Donovan (Scheduled)
	<b>March 6</b>	Dry run with Guest Critic: May Yu
8	<b>March 11</b>	Midterm Presentation to the Client at MSDC Office (Farley Building-3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl.)
	<b>March 13/14</b>	GSAPP Midterm Presentations
9	<b>March 18/20</b>	Spring Break
	<b>March 25</b>	Work Session – Develop plans for final. Shift to a student lead project.
	<b>March 27</b>	Speaker: David Fields (Nelson/Nygaard)
13	<b>April 15 / 17</b>	No class due to Jewish Holiday
14	<b>April 22</b>	Dry run of final presentation
	<b>April 24</b>	Dry run with Guest Critic: TBA
15	<b>April 29</b>	Dry run with Guest Critic: TBA
	<b>May 1</b>	Final Presentation with Client at MSDC Office (Farley Bldg-3 <sup>rd</sup> Fl.)
	<b>May 5/6</b>	Final Reviews

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	<b>May 9</b>	APA Metro Studio Presentations at CU
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