

New York Institute of Technology
Interdisciplinary Studies, Manhattan

Instructor's Information

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Course information

Term: Spring 2009 Date of syllabus: January 2009
Course number and section: IDSP 410 Credits: 3
Course title: Interdisciplinary Studies 410: Foundations of Interdisciplinary Research
Meeting times: Wednesday, 5:30-8:10
Building and room number: Main Building, Room 1118
Prerequisites and co-requisites: None

Course description from catalog: This seminar involves reading, writing and research activities requiring demonstration of mastery in analytic and communication skills in addressing a problem related to students' individualized programs of study.

Course goals and objectives

This seminar in Spring 2009 will use the field of urban studies as a template for interdisciplinary research. Students will read cutting-edge scholarship on urban studies from a variety of disciplines; develop research project; and prepare professional materials that reflect areas of study.

By the end of the class students will have achieved the following learning outcomes:

1. The student will be able to discuss the nature of interdisciplinary research and the development of academic disciplines.
2. Students will be able to write clearly about subjects from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.
3. Students will understand the value and practices of interdisciplinary research.
4. Students will have greater knowledge of urban affairs.
5. Student will understand how to design, research, and format a research paper.

Grading Formula

Reading Notes: 10%
In-Class Writing Assignments: 30%
Film Response papers: 20%
Final Project: 20%
Participation: 20%

Attendance Policy

All students must arrive within 5 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the class in order to be counted as present. This class meets only once a week so it is imperative that students attend all classes. Early departure from class (without permission) will also be counted as an unexcused absence. *Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of five points from the final grade.* All excused absences must conform to NYIT guidelines. Only documented illness is an acceptable reason for missing class (and all notes will be verified).

No cell phone use or laptop use during class. Please turn them off when you arrive. This prohibition includes incoming and outgoing calls or text messages. Use of a cell phone during class will reduce your grade.

Withdrawal Policy: This course adheres to all NYIT policies on withdrawals; see the current course catalog for details.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism policies

Each student enrolled in a course at NYIT agrees that, by taking such course, he or she consents to the submission of all required papers for textual similarity review to any commercial service engaged by NYIT to detect plagiarism. Each student also agrees that all papers submitted to any such service may be included as source documents in the service's database, solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of all or part of someone else's works (such as but not limited to writing, coding, programs, images, etc.) and offering it as one's own. Cheating is using false pretenses, tricks, devices, artifices or deception to obtain credit on an examination or in a college course. If a faculty member determines that a student has committed academic dishonesty by plagiarism, cheating or in any other manner, the faculty has the academic right to 1) fail the student for the paper, assignment, project and/or exam, and/or 2) fail the student for the course and/or 3) bring the student up on disciplinary charges, pursuant to Article VI, Academic Conduct Proceedings, of the Student Code of Conduct.

The complete Academic Integrity Policy may be found on various NYIT Webpages.

Participation

Participation is required in every class. Participation counts for **20% of the final grade** and *does not include attendance*. You must contribute at least once every class in order to receive any participation credit for that day. Effort counts in participation! *Bring your books to every class as we will be referring to them during class.*

Writing Assignments

All students will keep a journal. This journal should be a binder with removable pages that can be submitted for evaluation. In this journal, over the course of semester, students will collect the following documents:

1. Reading notes. Students will be expected to take full notes on weekly reading assignments. Notes will be graded by the professor and are worth **10% of the final grade**.
2. In-class writing assignments. Students will write the answers to a short series of questions at the beginning of each class. These assignments are worth **30% of the final grade**.
3. Students will write response papers to each film. These are worth **20% of the final grade**.
4. Final Self-Assessment describing what student has learned from course.
5. Final research paper worth **20% of the final grade**.

Students will submit their binders with all completed materials at the end of the semester. Failure to keep all previous notes and work will result in failure.

All students will prepare a final research project. The project will be described in more detail at the first meeting.

Required Textbooks (available at the NYIT Bookstore)

The City Reader, Fourth Edition only

Nicholas Dagen Bloom, *Public Housing That Worked: New York in the Twentieth Century* (available in paperback beginning March 1)

Course Schedule

January

- 21 Introduction
- 28 *Social Life of Small Urban Spaces* (Sociology) Reading: 90-102, 448-455

February

- 4 *7th Street* (Art) Reading: 129-144, 150-157
- 11 *New York* (History) Reading: 17-40
- 18 *Roger and Me* (Politics) Reading: 50-58, 110-119, 178-183
- 25 *Manda Bala* (Politics 2) Reading: 120-128, 274-300

March

- 4 *The End of Suburbia* (Environment) Reading: 59-78, 307-313
- 11 *I.M. Pei* (Architecture) Reading: 322-336, 427-437
- 18 *New Urbanism* (Planning) Reading: 192-196, 314-321, 342-348, 438-447
- 25 *Curitiba* (Planning 2) Reading: 411-422,

April

- 1 *Avalon/The Corner* (Literature) No Reading
- 8 *Battle of Algiers* (War) Reading: 158-177, 256-265
- 15 *San Miguel de Allende* (Tourism) Reading: On Reserve
- 22 *Historical Films* (Housing) Reading: *Public Housing That Worked*
- 29 *Manufactured Landscapes* (Photography) Reading: 197-206, 489-509

Final Exam: Final Project Presentations