ENVST-UA 495
Urban Greening Lab: New York
Fall 2016

Thursdays, 2-4:45

Instructor: Anne Rademacher
Office: 285 Mercer Street 906
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This reading and field intensive course explores the theory and practice of urban “greening” as it has been planned, debated, and implemented in New York City. Drawing on analytical tools from the social and biophysical sciences, we will consider how New York's historical and contemporary context shape the meaning, implementation, and social experience of environmental improvement. We will ask, “What does it mean to green New York? What does it mean to green a city?” Rather than accepting the meaning of this term as self-evident, we will give it clear analytical contours and apply our research questions accordingly.

Our analytical approach integrates ecosystem ecology concepts, urban design principles, and social scientific sensibilities.

REQUIREMENTS

This course covers a wide range of topics and case studies, and it draws from multiple disciplinary perspectives. To do well, it is essential that you attend all class sessions, and complete all the required readings before coming to class. In my class lectures, I will assume that you have read the readings thoroughly, and I will often introduce additional material that does not appear in the readings.

Due to the structure and content of the course, attendance for all class sessions is mandatory. Attendance will be taken before every class, and grading penalties will accrue with class absences.

A mid-term exam will be given on October 29; there is a final exam at the end of the semester. In addition, you will prepare two Lab Project Reports that cover selected field trip portions of the course. Expect quizzes and additional small assignments to ensure that you’re staying up to date with readings and other exercises.

Field trips will be timed so that students are able to attend them within the allotted course period; if this is not possible, alternative arrangements may be made with
the professor. Note that the last session of the semester involves a field visit that is likely to require additional time; please plan your schedule accordingly, in advance.

Your final grade will be computed based on the following distribution:

- Attendance (10%) and Participation (15%) in all aspects of the class*
- Mid term exam 25%
- Two Lab Project Reports 25%
- Final exam 25%

*Attendance is mandatory; participation will be assessed based on a students’ active verbal and written engagement in class sessions. We will discuss this at our first class session.

READINGS

Required Books:


Required Articles and Additional Readings: available electronically via the Classes website and/or Bobst Library.

HONOR CODE

All written work in this course must be original and composed exclusively by you, the author. You must acknowledge in writing any assistance you receive from the literature, other students, textbooks, internet, or any other source. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be immediately referred to the Dean’s office. For more information on NYU’s policy on academic integrity, visit: http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity

DISABILITY DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should please register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980.

NYU’s Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities
726 Broadway, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10003-6675
Telephone: 212-998-4980
Voice/TTY Fax: 212-995-4114
Web site: http://www.nyu.edu/csd
LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

September 3: Course Introduction: “Urban Ecologies” and Urban Greening

Sept. 8: Science, Society, and Design: Urban Ecology and the Challenge of Integration


Sept 15: Spatial Heterogeneity and the Concept of Resilience

In: Resilience in Ecology and Urban Design: Linking Theory and Practice for Sustainable Cities:


Sept 22: The Context for Greening in New York

In: Resilience in Ecology and Urban Design: Linking Theory and Practice for Sustainable Cities:

Articles:


Watch:


Review:

OneNYC: The Plan for a Strong and Just City


Sept 29: Coastal Cities and the Problem of Resilience


Adger et al. 2009. Are there social limits to adaptation to climate change? *Climatic Change* 93: 335-354


In *New York City CDBG-DR Action Plan*:
Examine maps on pgs. 20-24
Read sections on funding justification and housing, pgs 31-32
Skim overview of Build It Back, pgs. 60-67
From NYC Recovery:
“NYC Build It Back Information Update”

Build It Back:

Oct 6: Green Transformation / The High Line

October 13: The Urban Forest : what makes an urban forest an ecosystem?

Articles:


Web resources to review:

Million Trees NYC Campaign:

October 20: Ecosystem Services and Land Use / Washington Square Park

Articles:


October 27: Urban Forest Cover Field Visit II

October 29: Midterm Exam
November 3: When/Are Buildings part of the urban ecosystem? I

Field Visit to The New School University Center
Guest: Thomas Whalen, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management Design, Construction, and Facilities Management

Review the current initiatives for Urban Green, the NYC chapter of the US Green Building Council:
http://urbangreencouncil.org/initiatives

Read: Improving Building Envelopes, Making Buildings Resilient, Creating Low-Carbon Cities, Reaching All Industries, and Greening Codes, including the specific projects for each category (30pp)

Review the implementation monitoring strategy (5pp):
http://urbangreencouncil.org/greencodestracker

November 10: When/Are Buildings part of the urban ecosystem? II

Bronx River Greenway House

NYC Cool Roofs:

November 17: When/Are Buildings part of the urban ecosystem? III

Guest lecture with Jean Phifer, Environmental Architect at Thomas Phifer and Partners

Readings TBA

The City of New York Mayor’s Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability. “One City Built to Last.”
Read First Half


The City of New York Mayor’s Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability. “One City Built to Last.”
Read Second Half


Dec 1: New York’s Coastal Ecology: A River and its City

Guest Lecture: Murray Fisher, Executive Director, New York Harbor Foundation
Review: 
https://www.newyorkharborschool.org/about/

Read: 
http://bklynr.com/consider-the-oyster/

Additional readings TBA

Dec 8: Remaking a Resilient City: Rebuild by Design on the East River

*Articles:*


*Web resources to review:*

Rebuild by Design: 
http://www.rebuildbydesign.org

December 8: Final Exam in class