

Course Syllabus

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Seminar syllabus Jan 19

Complete Streets Seminar (Spring 2017)

Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation
Spring 2017

Time: Thursdays 4-6pm

Location: 300 Buell

Instructor: Nick Klein

Email: n.klein@columbia.edu

Office hours: Friday 10am-1pm

Overview

This seminar focuses on contemporary planning for transit, bicycles and pedestrians. Throughout the world, cities are redesigning their streets. Planners are taking back street space from automobiles and reallocating the space for transit vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. We will begin the semester by studying the history of urban streets and transportation in the United States to understand how the current automobile dominated urban landscape developed. We will then transition to studying contemporary planning approaches that planners are using to encourage more sustainable travel. The course will cover topics including Complete Streets, bus rapid transit, bike sharing and bike and pedestrian planning topics. The class will include a combination of lectures and in-class discussions, guest lectures from local planners, field trips and tours to study innovative transit, bicycle and pedestrian planning projects in New York City and a project or paper.

Assignments

You will have a short assignment due on most weeks. The goal of these assignments is to help you develop a critical perspective on the current use of space and begin thinking about how you might change street space. Some of these are listed below, more will follow throughout the semester.

- Observing exercise
 - Street redesign
 - Evaluating a plan
 - Analyzing street space usage
 - Project/paper/proposal (more info below)
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Final project

There are three options for the final assignment.

- **Tactical urbanism:** You may work with a team of up to four people on a tactical urbanism proposal. You must select a location, identify problems that your intervention will address, identify a long-term solution, and propose a temporary solution that will serve as a test bed for or stepping stone towards your long-term solution.
 - **Proposal:** For first year planning students who are considering a related topic for their thesis, you can use this to begin your thesis proposal - assuming it is related to the use of street space. A research proposal should include a review of the literature, a clear research question, a proposed research methods, anticipated results, and a discussion of implications for policy.
 - **Paper:** Working independently or with a partner, students who select this option will submit either a research paper or a research proposal. You should conduct a research paper if you have existing data to analyze. A research paper must include: a review of the literature, a clearly stated research question, a research methodology, a presentation of results, and a discussion of implications for policy
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Grades are based on the following:

1. Assignments (50) - see note below
2. Class participation (20)
3. Final project/paper/proposal (30)

Note: From the varied weekly assignments, I will drop the one with the lowest grade

Schedule

Week 1: January 19

Week 2: January 26

How did we get the streets we have today?: Part 1, history

- Norton, P. D. (2008). Fighting traffic: The dawn of the motor age in the American city. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. - Part 1: Justice
- McShane, Clay. Down the asphalt path: The automobile and the American city. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1994. - Chapter 4: The uses and abuses of streets (P 57-80).

Assignment 1 due online and in class: Read the chapter "Counting, mapping, tracking and other tools" in How to Study Public Life (Gehl and Svarre 2013) on Canvas (CoursWorks). The chapter outlines eight observational methods. For this assignment, you will identify a street, trail, plaza or corridor in New York City (or elsewhere) to apply three of these methods. Go to your site and first observe. Use three of the eight methods described as tools for your observation. Submit on Canvas a 1-2 page single spaced write-up of what you learned and scans or photos of your observation. Bring them to class and be prepared to share your observations and discuss.

Week 3: February 2

Complete Streets

- Zavestoski, S., & Agyeman, J. (2014). Incomplete Streets: Processes, practices, and possibilities. Routledge
- Schlossberg, M., Rowell, J., Amos, D., & Sanford, K. (2015). Rethinking Streets: An Evidence-Based Guide to 25 Complete Street Transformations.

Week 4: February 9

How did we get the streets we have today?: Part 2, present

- **Guest speaker: Matthew Roe (NACTO), 4-6pm**
- Sadik-Khan, Janette, and Seth Solomonow. Streetfight: Handbook for an Urban Revolution, 2016.
- Schwartz, Samuel I. Street Smart: The Rise of Cities and the Fall of Cars, 2015.
- Klein, Gabe. Start-up City: Inspiring Private and Public Entrepreneurship, Getting Projects Done, and Having Fun, 2015.

Week 5: February 16

Engineering streets

- **Guest Lecture - Prof. Mike Smart (Rutgers)**
- Henderson, Jason. 2011. "Level of Service: The Politics of Reconfiguring Urban Streets in San Francisco, CA." *Journal of Transport Geography* 19 (6): 1138–44. doi:10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2011.05.010.
- Millard-Ball, Adam. 2014. "Phantom Trips." *ACCESS Magazine* 1 (45). <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6q0191fk.pdf> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- Smart, Michael J, Henry McCann, and Madeline Brozen. (2014). "What's a Passing Grade? A Synthesis and Review of Multi-modal Street Performance Measures" paper presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, January.
- Brozen, Madline, Tim Black, and Robin Liggett. (2014). "What's a Passing Grade? Comparing Measures and Variables in Multi-Modal Street Performance Calculations" paper presented at the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC, January.

Week 6: February 23

Cycling

- **Sean Quinn guest talk**
- Garrard, Jan, Susan Handy, and Jennifer Dill. 2012. "Women and Cycling." In *City Cycling*, edited by John Pucher and Ralph Buehler, 211–34. Cambridge, Mass: The MIT Press.
- Buehler, Ralph, and John Pucher. 2012. "International Overview: Cycling Trends in Western Europe, North America, and Australia." In *City Cycling*, edited by John Pucher and Ralph Buehler, 211–34. Cambridge, Mass: The MIT Press.

Week 7: March 2

The lived experience of walking

- Cadogan, Garnette. 2016. "Walking While Black." *Literary Hub*. July 8, 2016 [Lit Hub link \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) .
- Solnit, Rebecca. 2001. *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*. Penguin.
 - Chapter 14 "Walking after midnight: Women, sex, and public space"
- de Certeau, Michel. 2011. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Translated by Steven F. Rendall. 3 edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - Chapter VII: Walking in the city

Week 8: March 9

- **No class - Nick in Belfast**

March 16: Spring Break

- **No class**

Week 9: March 23

- **Zabe Bent guest talk**
- Readings TBD

Week 10: March 30

Planning gets political

- Henderson, J. (2013). *Street Fight: The Politics of Mobility in San Francisco*. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press.

Week 11: April 6

- **Michael King guest talk**
- Vanderbilt, Tom. 2008. "The Traffic Guru." *Wilson Quarterly*. /essays/traffic-guru.

Week 12: April 13

- TBD

Week 13: April 20

- TBD

Week 13: April 27

- TBD