NEXT CITY

INVESTIGATE, EXPLORE, IMAGINE, CONSTRUCT

Course Overview:

The city is all around us. Sidewalks, schools, skyscrapers, houses, hospitals, highways, parks, playgrounds, and electric poles are just a few of the building blocks that come together to make cities work. In this course, we will explore how cities work, and imagine a new city based on our investigations. We will wear the hats of architects, urban planners, landscape architects, and construction managers as we think about the city. Students will work individually and in teams to imagine and design a city plan and to construct buildings and parks in our NEXT CITY. Students will take several short adventures into the city to investigate what makes a city. We will celebrate our new city with a presentation and city tour for visitors.

Instructors:

Stephanie Velasco
stephanie.velasco7@gmail.com

Jake Corrington
jakecorrington@gmail.com

Location:

Architecture Hall Room G060, UW Seattle Campus

Architecture Hall is located just across from the Robinson Center at the corner of 15th Ave and Grant Lane. This course will expose students to the studio learning environment and various tools and practices used in the built environment fields.

Week-by-Week Course Breakdown:

JULY 11 - First Day of Class

On the first day we will get to know each other and explore our home in Architecture Hall.

JULY 11 - 15 WEEK 1: *INVESTIGATE/EXPLORE* + Field Trip One (Seattle, Then & Now)*

We will begin by learning about architecture, urban planning, and other urban design fields. We will practice drawing conventions and thoughtful sketchbook drawings to catalogue our experiences. We will discuss major US and world cities, thinking about the parts of a city (industrial, commercial, residential, etc.), and relating the past, present, and future.

*Field Trip One (Wed, July 13) – Downtown Seattle & Pioneer Square, "BOOM! Changing Seattle" exhibit at the Center for Architecture and Design.

JULY 18 - 22 WEEK 2: *IMAGINE* + Field Trip Two (Exploring Transportation, Looking Ahead)**

Following our exploration of the ever-changing city, we will visit the Bullitt Center to learn about the environmentally sustainable systems at work within, as we move toward the concept of creating our own "Next City." In Week Two we will introduce one of the biggest challenges in growing cities: transportation. How do people get around Seattle? Car, bike, walk? How are the primary forms of transportation changing as the city grows? We will discuss these issues and begin diagramming proposed solutions.

**Field Trip Two (Tues, July 19) – Bullitt Center Tour & exploring Capitol Hill

**Field Trip Three (Thurs, July 21) – Light Rail Adventure, SeaTac Airport & Back. We will explore the many forms of light rail along the entire line, between the University of Washington and SeaTac International Airport.

JULY 25 - 29 WEEK 3: *CONSTRUCT* + Field Trip Four + Final presentation ***

In the final week, students take matters into their own hands and begin modelling their ideal city of the future. We will begin with a site, and consider the lessons of the program, as we construct our Next City.

***Field Trip Four (Tues, July 26) – South Lake Union site visit and analysis. As we take field notes to help with our final project, we will spend time visiting privately-owned public spaces (POPs) in the neighborhood.

JULY 29 @ 1:00 – 2:20 pm – NEXT CITY Model Presentation & Boards in Gould Court

Parents, friends, and family are invited to visit our Next City. We will present our designs and share what we have learned over the past three weeks.

In addition to exploring cities we will:
- Spend time in the computer lab exploring Google SketchUp and other digital resources.
- Head out into the campus to sketch from real life.
- Enjoy the outdoors for a few minutes each day. (It is summer!)

Outcomes and Assessment:

There will be many small projects along the way, but the primary physical product will be a large map with 3 –D structures displayed on the floor of Gould Court. In addition to many other skills, students will leave the class with a deeper understanding of the built world, an expanded ability to ask thoughtful questions about their environment, and a broadened worldview through which to imagine creative solutions. Students will understand that the built world is complex, diverse, and linked to the sustainability of our planet and the health and livability of our communities.

Individual student success will be measured primarily on participation/teamwork, intensity of engagement, and final presentation. Each student will produce a sketchbook of drawings, short writing responses, and resources about cities. By the end of the program, we expect we will have a room full of very successful planners and designers.

Other Resources/Materials:

We will use many of the tools used by students studying here in the College of Built Environments. Sketchbooks, pencils, trace paper, markers, model making supplies (wood, cardboard, tape, paint, glue), rulers, and calculators, to name a few. During the first week, we will ask students to look around their house for materials that could be used to build models (straws, newspapers, magazines, etc). We will develop our own warehouse of supplies. Feel free to start collecting these now. Please be sure to only collect non-food containers to help out fellow students with food allergies.