



COURSE OUTLINE ACTIVISM & COMMUNITY BASED PLANNING

Thurs 2:30 p.m. - 5:20 p.m.

MAC D281

ANOTHER CITY IS POSSIBLE! DESIGNING EMANCIPATION THROUGH PLANNING FROM BELOW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on activism and community based planning from a radical perspective. It investigates how the planning of urban space has been critiqued in the literature and the everyday approaches to planning that have been employed by individuals and communities. In challenging rigid and modernist approaches to planning theory we will examine key themes, concepts, and theories which define the study of planning theory from what can be considered an anarchistic, or anti-authoritarian perspective. You can expect to gain a critical understanding of and appreciation for emancipatory approaches to planning theory, which will allow students to consider alternative configurations of space and power in keeping with the course's radical approach.

As a fourth-year course, our approach within the classroom will be largely theoretical, where you are required to think critically about the concepts we explore through your engagement with the readings and during our meetings. At the same time, the course involves a hands-on component that requires you to directly engage with the community on a topic or issue of your choosing. This two-sided approach is considered an important pedagogical exercise in that it breaks down the proverbial "Ivory Tower" in bringing theory outside of the academy and into our shared streets and neighborhoods. The course itself is run as a seminar, which means that it requires your active participation.

PREREQUISITE: One of GEOG 340, 343, or 355.

OFFICE HOURS

ASSESSMENT & ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

- (15%)

11. Victoria Pride Society
12. World Naked Bike Ride
13. Allies of Drug War Survivors
14. Freecycling & Free Store
15. Transition Victoria
16. Taking Back the Space Festival
17. Bike-sharing Program
18. Recyclistas Used Bike Collective

29. Passed Up (UVSS)
30. Safer for All – Stop the Policing of Poverty
31. Society of Living Intravenous Drug Users
32. Flash Mobs & Street Theatre
33. Freeganism & Dumpster Diving Meetups
34. Victoria Anarchist Bookfair
35. Pedal to Petal
36. Really Really Free Market

- Throughout the duration of the course you and your group members will be required to actively engage with your project through volunteer work or by designing and implementing your project. This will necessarily involve a great deal of organization, planning, and dedication on your part in realizing the full potential of your project's goals. During our weekly meetings we will set aside time for groups to meet, share ideas, and reflect upon the process of volunteering and organizing for direct action.
- Your assignment itself will be to keep a field journal of your experience. I would encourage you to think of this as an 'ideas book', rather than a traditional journal or diary. It provides you with an opportunity to engage in critical and reflexive thinking about your project, and more broadly, the design and planning of cities. There is no set structure for the Field Journal and I simply encourage you to write up your experiences, reflecting in any way you want on what you have participated in, your reactions to it, and how it has affected you. You might consider including some of the following: self-learning objectives; lecture/discussion notes that you have kept; commentary on brainstorming and designing the project; general reflections on urban planning and design that you have observed in Victoria, in your own home city, or on your travels; self-expression of ideas stemming from reading articles and books; copies of official urban plans and maps and/or sketches of those that you have made yourself; and photographs linked to urban planning and design issues.
- Ultimately, I view this as an opportunity for you to get creative and have fun! Accordingly, in addition to your written reflections and the ideas I have already suggested, I encourage you to also include, poems, songs, anecdotes, drawings, paintings, links to videos you have made, crafts, sculptures, newspaper clippings, cartoons, sketches, collages, or any other creative outlet you can imagine that will help you represent your experience. You have complete freedom here to express yourself and demonstrate your own creativity so long as it relates in some way to interpreting the 'urban scene' ... so just run with it!

Maybe you want to create a website to share your experiences, or perhaps you have done some paintings or sketches that you want us to consider. If you opt for the conventional approach, and simply want to give us a Power Point presentation, that's fine too. Your options are limited only by your own imagination, and I encourage as much creativity as possible! Wherever your interest and talent lies, I'm all for it! The only fixed criterion is that you have approximately 20 to 25 minutes to share your creativity, reflections, and ideas about your experiences with us.

Assignment: For all assignments use 12 pt. Font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, number pages, and a list of references. DO NOT include a title page (save paper!), but DO include your title, your name, my name, the course number, and the date at the top of the first page. Staple your paper in the top left corner (NO FANCY BINDERS!!!). Please follow the word length requirement.

Referencing: Students are required to follow a standard referencing style, using in text citations and bibliography (usually AUTHOR-DATE in human geography). Exact formatting can be of your own choice, but please examine and follow a geography journal such as Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers, or Progress in Human Geography for examples of proper citation styles.

REQUIRED WEEKLY READINGS
(Subject to revision as the course proceeds)

- JANUARY 8 Approaches to Urban Planning & Design
- Allmendinger, P. 2002. Towards a post-positivist typology of planning theory. *Planning Theory*, 1: 77-99.
- Ward, C. 2011. "The future of the design professions", in *Autonomy, Solidarity, Possibility: The Colin Ward Reader*, Wilbert C. and White D. F. (eds). Oakland: AK Press, pp. 129-132.
- JANUARY 15 Radical Planning
- Friedmann, J. 1987. "The mediations of radical planning", in *Planning in the Public Domain: From Knowledge to Action*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 389-412.
- Grabow, S. and Heskin, A. 1973. Foundations for a radical concept of planning. *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 39: 106-114.
- JANUARY 22 Anarchism and Geography
- Springer, S. 2012. Anarchism! What geography still ought to be. *Antipode*.
- Springer, S. 2013. Anarchism and geography: a brief genealogy of anarchist geographies. *Geography Compass*.
- JANUARY 29 Anarchist Perspectives on Urban Planning
- Hall, P. 2002. "The Anarchist Roots of the Planning Movement", In *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century*, 3rd Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 3.
- Ward, C. 2001. "Who is to plan?", in *Anarchy in Action*. London: Freedom Press, pp. 59-66.
- Ward, C. 2011. "An anarchist approach to urban planning", in *Autonomy, Solidarity, Possibility: The Colin Ward Reader*, Wilbert C. and White D. F. (eds). Oakland: AK Press, pp. 303-310.
- FEBRUARY 5 Direct Action & Civil Disobedience
- Brannigan, J. 2005. "Direct action gets the goods." *Working Class Resistance*, 10. <http://libcom.org/library/direct-action-gets-goods>
- Graeber, D. 2009. "Direct action, anarchism, direct democracy", in *Direct Action: An Ethnography*. Oakland: AK Press, pp. 201-237
- Sans-Titres Bulletin 1. 1999. "What is direct action?" *A-Infos News*. <http://www.ainfos.ca/99/nov/ainfos00282.html>
- FEBRUARY 12 READING BREAK NO CLASSES

FEBRUARY 26	<p>Reclaiming the Commons</p> <p>Harvey, D. "The creation of the urban commons", in <i>Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution</i>. New York: Verso, pp. 67-88.</p> <p>McKay, I. 2012. "What about the "Tragedy of the Commons"?", in <i>An Anarchist FAQ, Volume 2</i>. Oakland: AK Press. http://anarchism.pageabode.com/afaq/secl6.html</p> <p>Ward, C. 2011. "The land is whose?" in <i>Autonomy, Solidarity, Possibility: The Colin Ward Reader</i>, Wilbert C. and White D. F. (eds). Oakland: AK Press, pp. 175-183.</p>
MARCH 5	<p>Autonomous Zones</p> <p>Newman, S. 2011. Postanarchism and space: revolutionary fantasies and autonomous zones. <i>Planning Theory</i>, 10, 344-365.</p> <p>Pickerill, J. and Chatterton, P. 2006. Notes towards autonomous geographies: creation, resistance and self-management as survival tactics. <i>Progress in Human Geography</i>, 30:730-746</p>
MARCH 12	<p>Housing & Squatting</p> <p>Chatterton P (2002) "Squatting is still legal, necessary and free". A brief intervention in the corporate city. <i>Antipode</i> 34(1):1-7.</p> <p>Ward, C. 2001. "We house, you are housed, they are homeless?", in <i>Anarchy in Action</i>. London: Freedom Press, pp. 67-73.</p> <p>Ward, C. 2011. "The People Act: The Postwar Squatters' Movement", "The Do-It-Yourself New Town", and "The Anarchist House", in <i>Autonomy, Solidarity, Possibility: The Colin Ward Reader</i>, Wilbert C. and White D. F. (eds). Oakland: AK Press, pp. 63-70, 71-84, 175-184.</p>
MARCH 19	<p>Homelessness & Hunger</p> <p>Amster, R. "Facing the 'homelessness problem': subsistence, survival, and Skid Row", in <i>Lost in Space: The Criminalization, Globalization, and Urban Ecology of Homelessness</i>. El Paso, TX: LFB Scholarly Publishing, pp. 1-42.</p> <p>Heynen, N. 2010. Cooking up non-violent civil-disobedient direct action for the hungry: 'Food Not Bombs' and the resurgence of radical democracy in the US. <i>Urban Studies</i>, 47: 1225-1240.</p>
MARCH 26	<p>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</p>
APRIL 2	<p>CLASS PRESENTATIONS</p>
