ARCH 4607 Course Description

Urban Form

Fall 2016
Professor Deborah E. Ryan
deryan@uncc.edu W 9:30am – 12:30pm
at the Charlotte Center City Building / 3 Credit Hour Elective

PREMISE
Economics, social forces, attitudes about density, ideas about sustainability, and incentives to encourage good design are all forces that affect contemporary urban form. A city’s plans illustrate a response to these forces and together, can define a vision for its future. To bracket the study of these ideas, the class primarily focuses on the urban design of Charlotte.

CONTENT and METHOD
This is a class about how cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas change. It is an introductory course for advanced undergraduates and graduates that examines both the evolving structure of the American metropolis and the ways that it can be designed and developed. We will survey the ideas of a wide range of people who have addressed urban problems and acted to alter cities, suburbs, and regions through modern city design and planning. We will analyze the values implicit in each of their proposals, stressing the connections between ideas and design. We will focus on sustainable practices and principles in the design of cities. Attempts to control growth and suburban sprawl will also be covered. Topics will include urban infrastructure especially as it relates to patterns of growth, gentrification, open space, social capital, healthy communities, urban vitality and urban ecology.

Students will become familiar with urban form through films, readings, class discussions, case studies, local field studies and research projects. The ability to ride a bike is a plus as we will use them to get around uptown Charlotte for study trips.

EVALUATION & GRADING
Evaluation will be based on the following:

- Quizzes 25%
- Case Study Research & Distribution 25%
- Case Study Presentation 10%
- Open Space Analysis 20%
- Illustrative Final 20%

CLASS TEXT
There is no textbook for the course. Links to films and readings are all on the Moodle site. They will include:

- Going Green and Going Online, Smart City Radio
- Kelbaugh, Douglas, The History of Cities and the Role of Architects
- Cleveland: Confronting Decline in the American City, Northern Light Productions
- Daniela Fabricius, Resisting Representation: The Informal Geographies of Rio, Harvard Design Magazine
- William McDonough: The wisdom of designing cradle to cradle. www.ted.com
- Edward Burkyns: Share the Story of Earth’s Manufactured Landscapes www.ted.com
- Julie Campoli and Alex MacLean, Growing Closer, Visualizing Density, Lincoln Land Institute
- A Plan for Tomorrow: Rethinking Density to Create Stronger, Healthier Communities, National MF Council
- Brent Toderian, The Case for Density, Urban Land Magazine
- Steve Fader, Density by Design: New Directions in Residential Development, ULI
- Majara Carter: Greening the Ghetto. www.ted.com
- Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder
- Chuck Bohl, Emerging Formats for Town Centers, Main Streets, and Urban Villages, Placemaking.