

Description

Dilemmas of Modern City Planning: Focus on Urban Activation (MUD 6050 U02/ARCH 4050 U02)

Spring 2019

Professor Deborah E. Ryan
deryan@uncc.edu Fridays 9:05am – 12:05am
Charlotte Center City Building (CCB)
Three Credit Hour Elective

Cities fail and succeed at the level of human interaction.
Ethan Kent

PREMISE

The success of a public space can be judged by the number of people who use it. Whether in the walls of a museum, historic house, or the expanse of a public square, creative activation is what makes a space a place, gives meaning, and builds personal attachment. This never ending design process, known as *Placemaking* seeks to engage diverse audiences in the life of a city by acknowledging the ever changing social, political and technical landscape. Our hypothesis is that these spaces fail, at least in part, by their inability to accommodate the real-life, quirky, and emotional experiences of everyday life.



<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/292522938272470569>

CONTENT

This research-oriented course will focus on discovering the architectural and urban framework that support experience, with studies beginning in the students' own homes and eventually expanding to urban spaces. Their research will expand the concepts for activation introduced in the [Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums](#) to urban spaces. The students will undertake an analysis and design process that combines rigorous, methodical, and critical thinking with ideas that are speculative, subjective and anecdotal.

METHOD

Students will undertake an analysis of urban spaces and the temporal events that occur within them using Video and Sound Mapping; Habitation, Movement and Distinct Activity Studies; Imagination, Excitement and Energy Graphs; and various tagging techniques. They will become familiar with the *Tactical Urbanism* movement that incorporates low-cost, temporary installations in hopes of creating long-term change. They will then develop plans and implement *Tactical Urbanism* projects to improve urban activation in Charlotte's city center.

See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=TW0yN4BqUlc> for a video of a previous class's installation.

Jeppe Hein's interactive water feature "Appearing Rooms" outside the Royal Festival Hall in London.

EVALUATION & GRADING

Undergrads

Quiz on Readings 10%; Research and Case Studies 40%; Tactical Anarchist Plan/Project 50%

Grads

Quiz on Readings 10%; Research and Social Media 40%; Tactical Anarchist Plan/Project 50%

CLASS TEXT

Lydon, Mike & Anthony Garcia, [Tactical Urbanism: Short Term Action for Long Term Gain](#), Island Press 2015
Ryan, Deborah and Franklin Vagnone, [Anarchist's Guide to Historic House Museums](#). Left Coast Press, 2015