

GENERAL CERTIFICATE IN URBAN STUDIES

SPRING 2017 COURSES

GLS-579-GC1 Creative Placemaking: Principles and Practices

Faculty: S. Meagher

Meeting Information: TBD

ALL COURSES

Required Course:

GLS 588 Sustainable Cities: Urban Studies in the 21st Century

Urban studies draws on the disciplines of the liberal arts and sciences to better understand the complex social, political, economic, and cultural dynamics of urban environments so that we can improve them. The rapid urbanization of the world's land and population creates both challenges and opportunities. How can we create sustainable cities that will improve quality of life, provide adequate infrastructure, increase social and political equity, and secure the environmental health of the people and its planet? Urban sustainability concepts will be tested through a critical analysis of key social scientific case studies of the ecological footprint of cities, urban land use, population density, governance, poverty, and livability. Students will apply ideas and concepts to a real world case of their choosing in a final project. *3 semester hours*

Electives:

GLS 501 Self and Society

An anthropological approach to human society and the position of the individual in society. The changes that have occurred in the basic structures of society are presented within models of evolution commonly used to organize our understanding of these changes. These models draw our attention to the issue of what constitutes "modern" society, the "modern" self, "modern" religion, and so forth. Our predecessors, the so-called primitive or simple societies, provide a basis for comparison and critique. *3 semester hours*

GLS 559 Individuals, Citizens, and Democracy

The focus of this course is on the often tense relationship between the private rights of individuals and the public responsibilities of citizens in a liberal democratic society such as the United States. Through class discussion of classic and contemporary writings in the political theory of liberal democracy, students enter the rich debate over the meaning of citizenship and the rights of individuals. Current policy and constitutional issues are addressed in these discussions. Some examples might be personal autonomy, private property, and environmental regulation; gun control and urban crime; public support for education; toleration and race relations; and taxation. *3 semester hours*

GLS 579 Creative Placemaking: Principles and Practices

In this seminar, we will explore creative place-making in theory and practice. We will use weekly class meetings to discuss readings on creative place-making. How can art and arts methodologies be used to transform communities by strengthening a sense of place? Each student will engage in a practicum on place-making related to one of the current projects in which Widener is involved. *3 semester hours*

GLS 588 European Cities

This course explores the evolution of the European city from the early modern era to the contemporary. Special emphasis will be placed on the historical relationship between the built environment and the human experience in cities of various size and geographic location. Some topics included will be: changing notions of what a city is or should be; urbanization and industrialization; rural to urban migration; public health and hygiene; the emergence of urban planning; wealth, poverty, and social geography; urban space and *modernity*; the impact of twentieth-century warfare and displacement on the urban fabric; memory and the urban landscape; and contemporary greening initiatives. *3 semester hours*

PA 503 Public Policy Analysis

Students will examine the political process within which public policies are made and carried out. Emphasis is placed on the roles of various factors in setting the agenda for public discussion, the process of formulating and implementing policies, the constraining role of government structures, and the need for program evaluation. *3 semester hours*

PA 630 Urban Management and Politics

In this course, students will examine major urban problems and the administrative approach to solving them. *3 semester hours*

PA 640 Planning and the Public

Students will learn the basic concepts, theories, and practices used in contemporary public sector planning. The course offers an overview of the role of planning in municipal and regional organizations and focuses on both the planning process and various implementation devices (i.e., zoning and subdivision ordinances and comprehensive plans). Basic planning models are introduced and the roles of local governmental policy makers, administrators, and citizens are examined. *3 semester hours*

PA 645 Economic Development

This course introduces students to the theoretical and practical aspects of community and economic development. The primary focus will be on economic development efforts at the subnational level. Topics include the tools, institutions, financing instruments, and policy issues relating to economic development. *3 semester hours*