

[Oct 30, 2016]

## **Studio in Urban Conservation**

Master of Preservation Studies Tulane  
School of Architecture

PRST 6521 / DSGN 4200-04/7400-04 Prof. John H. Stubbs  
Spring 2017 jstubbs2@tulane.edu

1-5 PM MWF

RMH 401 Studio (lectures as noted) RMH office Rm. 306

Office Hrs: Mon/Wed 10-12

Prof. Beth Jacob

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Office Hours: By appt.

RMH office Rm. 306

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PRST 6521 (cross listed with DSGN 4200-04 and DSGN 7400-04) Urban Conservation is a six-credit hour course that concentrates on documenting, analyzing and planning for the preservation of groups of buildings and their settings as a basis for understanding the technical, theoretical and procedural aspects of urban conservation. The course includes intensive study of representative historic residential and commercial districts including streetscapes in the New Orleans region where students work both as independent researchers and in teams to learn professional preservation planning concepts and methods. This studio examines sites comprising historic buildings representing different styles and periods in various conditions where choices in restoration versus rehabilitation versus new work must be considered. Solutions for such situations will be explored with respect to current architectural preservation planning principles and procedures.

Investigations of city planning, zoning, historic district protection regulations and participation at a relevant public review meeting are parts of this course. Information gathering techniques including surveys of the urban context of study areas and consulting local stakeholders towards re-imagining damaged, blighted and underutilized urban areas are also aspects of the course. The course involves both fieldwork and class seminars, occasionally including other Tulane University faculty and experts in the field.

Project 1 will entail the research, documentation and analysis of representative blocks in the French Quarter including the blocks that comprise Exchange Alley. Students will examine the relationship between the streetscape, block, and neighborhood, and will consider—from a physical, social, cultural and spatial perspective—how the buildings and their surrounding context have changed over time.

Project 2 will involve documentation, analysis and preparation of a proposed preservation plan for an urban commercial Main Street corridor or enclave of commercial buildings as in New Orleans's Central Business and former Warehouse Districts and their neighborhoods. The project will focus on issues of community revitalization, economic development, and historic district protection.

Project 3 will involve preservation planning for one or more Mid-Century Modern buildings along three possible themes: Structural Innovation and Modernism within the Central Business District, Design for Modern Living, and Modest Mid-Century Commercial and/or Institutional Buildings. Specifically, preservation planning will entail: understanding the buildings within their historical, architectural, and physical contexts; assessments of condition, integrity, and significance; development of reuse concepts; and conservation treatment recommendations.

PRST 6521 serves as a sequel to PRST 6510: Building Preservation taught in the Fall semester. Both are required courses for MPS students and may accept a limited number of students in TSA's M.Arch program by agreement with the department heads.

## Learning Goals

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the concept of architectural preservation planning
- Understand preservation planning's place within the broader preservation field
- Be competent in determining issues, scoping, researching, articulating solutions and planning for the preservation of various sized groups of historic buildings
- Be conversant in the language and methods of preservation planning and related agency and public review processes
- Argue different sides of debates concerning preservation of the built environment, planning, its legal underpinnings, interpretation, and advocacy based on theories discussed and coursework

## Course Format

- Seminars and studio on Monday; studio and fieldwork on Wednesday and Friday. (Note that in rare instances the weekly seminars may be shifted from Monday to other class days in order to accommodate guest speaker schedules).
- Scheduled presentations by the instructors and specialist guest speakers
- Occasional scheduled field trips
- Presentations of studio projects to MPS faculty and invited respondents

## Requirements

- Satisfactory completion of three primary studio projects and two response papers
- Topic-related reading and research as listed on Blackboard or on reserve in the TSA library
- Full participation at each seminar, studio, and site meeting
- Completion of each class assignment on time
- Performance of quality research and work presentations
- Compilation and submission for filing of all project assignments

## Class Texts

- Rodwell, Dennis. *Conservation and Sustainability in Historic Cities*. Oxford, Blackwell. 2007.
- Preservation Planning course reader. Available on Blackboard under "Course Documents." Additional texts will be placed on 2-hour reserve at the Architecture Library.

## Grading

Attendance and Participation	(15%)
Response Paper 1	(5%)
Response Paper 2	(10%)
Project 1	(20%)
Project 2	(25%)
Project 3	(25%)

## Class Policies

**Attendance:** The success of this course depends entirely on your attendance and participation. Studio meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1pm to 5pm, and attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all planned lectures, workshops, and field trips. On days dedicated to studio and/or fieldwork, students are expected to work in studio all four hours unless prior arrangements have been made to conduct fieldwork or research off-site. Unexcused absences from regular working days in studio will adversely affect the student's final grade, regardless of other course requirements completed and grades earned. An unexcused absence from a scheduled pin-up or review is especially serious and will have an appropriately adverse

effect on the final grade. Please email Beth Jacob prior to class if you know that you will be late to or absent from class. A meeting with the Associate Dean of Students will be required after TWO unexcused absences.

Excused absences include illness that can be verified by a doctor's note, religious holiday, or a personal/family crisis that is documented by the dean. Please notify Beth Jacob and John Stubbs in advance if you expect to be absent for one of these reasons.

*Participation:* Class will be conducted in a studio and seminar format, including discussion among classmates and instructors. Grades are based on quality of participation in class, not simply quantity. Each student is expected to participate in discussion exercises during class time. Cell phones are disruptive, so be sure to turn them off when entering class. Texting and any similar social media communications during class are *strictly forbidden*, as is web browsing on laptops and smart phones.

*Assignments:* Three (3) studio assignments are due on designated due dates. One or more separate class field trips (each lasting one afternoon) are planned to observe revitalization efforts in various New Orleans neighborhoods. Two (2) response papers consisting of written responses to questions pertaining to the readings and progress of the course to date will be given as a take home assignment.

*Late Work:* All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Late work will be penalized 1/3 a letter grade for each day late (ex. A- to B+)

*Documentation and Submission of Work:* All students are required to submit a digital record of their work according to specifications that will be outlined during the course of the semester. Grades will not be issued until documentation is received. Presenting your work on your desk for the Studio Walkthrough at the end of each semester is considered part of your studio coursework. A uniformly formatted synthesis of one of the three class projects into a self-explanatory project booklet is expected for one of the three class projects.

*Studio Culture:* Please read the "Studio Culture Policy" on the TSA website:  
<http://architecture.tulane.edu/current-students/student-information>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the Tulane Code of Academic Conduct. In all work submitted for academic credit, students are expected to represent themselves honestly. The submission of an academic assignment is considered to be an assurance that the work and ideas are the result of the student's own intellectual effort, stated in his or her own words, and produced independently, unless clear and explicit acknowledgment of the sources for the work and ideas is included. Any suspected violations will be brought before the Newcomb-Tulane College Honor Board. First offences typically fail the assignment in question or fail the course in addition to losing eligibility for study-abroad options and graduation awards. Students are expelled from the university for second offences. Students are strongly urged to refer to and abide by this code. You may obtain a copy at <http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>.

### **Blackboard (or Canvas)**

Much of our course material or further directions on how to find it will be available through our course Blackboard site: <http://tulane.blackboard.com>. From Blackboard, you will be able to download articles, view media material, check for daily class announcements and review the syllabus, assignments and projects.

### **Office of Disability Services**

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services through this link: <https://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/disability/>.

### **Counseling Services**

The Counseling Services at the Center for Educational Resources & Counseling assist students in addressing academic, career, and personal problems. Support services include: school, relationships, anxiety, depression, sexuality, career direction, choosing a major, family issues, traumatic events, crises, or other situations may arise. Call 504.865.5113, #1, any time, or visit: <http://www.tulane.edu/~erc/counseling/index.htm>.

### **Weekly Program**

#### **Week 1**

*January 16 (Monday) – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – no class*

*January 18 (Wednesday) – 1:00 pm, Room 305. Overview of the course, resources and readings. Assignment of studio desks. **Discussion: Defining Urban Conservation and Introduction of Project 1: Preservation Documentation and Analysis of French Quarter Projects.** Students will be divided into groups and assigned to specific blocks. We will then visit the sites.*

*January 20 (Friday) – 1:00 pm, Room 201. TSA All-School Meeting followed by Project 1 site visits.*

#### **Week 2**

*January 23 (Monday) – 1:00 PM Core Lecture, Room 305. **Preservation Planning I: Introduction to Preservation Planning – Background, Tools, Approaches, Objectives** (Stubbs) Response Paper 1 assigned.*

Reading: Siravo, Francesco. "Conservation Planning: The Road Less Traveled." *Getty Conservation Institute Newsletter* 26.2 (Fall 2011). URL: [http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications\\_resources/newsletters/26\\_2/feature.html](http://www.getty.edu/conservation/publications_resources/newsletters/26_2/feature.html)

*January 25 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*January 27 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Presentation by Daniel Hammer and Howard Margot at The Historic New Orleans Collection on the Diboll Survey of the Vieux Carre and visit to THNOC Archives followed by field work.*

#### **Week 3**

*January 30 (Monday) - 1:00 PM, Core Lecture: **Preservation Planning II: Preservation Policy / Landmarks Compliance** (Jacob and Stubbs).*

*February 1 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*February 3 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

#### **Week 4**

*February 6 (Monday) - 1:00 PM, Room 305. **Lecture** (TBA) followed by studio.*

*February 8 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*February 10 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork. Response Paper 1 due.*

## **Week 5**

*February 13 (Monday) 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*February 15 (Wednesday) - 1:00 PM, Location TBD. Final presentation of Project 1 to faculty and invited respondents.*

*February 17 (Friday) – **Project 2: “Main Street’ and Commercial Cluster projects.** Discussion and Assignments– Followed by site visits*

## **Week 6**

*February 20 (Monday) – 1:00 PM, Tulane Small City Center, 1725 Baronne Street. Classroom lectures. Introduction of Project 2. Core Lecture: **Preservation Planning III: Urban Main Streets and Economic Revitalization** (Jacob) Response Paper 2 Assigned.*

*Guest Lecture: The Façade Renew program, a collaboration between Tulane City Center and the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (Beth Jacob and Melissa Lee, Senior Planner with NORA, confirm)*

*Evening All School Lecture: Karen Kingsley, “Future Perfect” (6:00pm, TSA Room 201)*

*February 22 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Meet at Pagoda Café, 1430 North Dorgenois Street. Field trip/tour of the Bayou Road commercial corridor.*

*February 24 (Friday) – Studio or Field Work*

## **Week 7**

*February 27 & 28 (Monday & Tuesday) – Mardi Gras Holidays – no school*

*March 1 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*March 3 – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

## **Week 8**

*March 6 (Monday) – 1:00 and 6 PM, Special Lectures on Conserving Frank Lloyd Wright’s legacy (Class presentation in 305 by Dylan Turk, curator of the Bachman House in Crystal Bridges and All School lecture by Aaron Betsky, Director of Taliesin West School of Architecture in Rm 203)*

*March 8 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*March 10 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

## **Week 9**

*March 13 (Monday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*March 15 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*March 17 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Location TBD. Presentation dress rehearsal.*

## **Week 10**

*March 20 (Monday) – 1:00 PM, Location TBD. Final Presentation of Project 2 (Site A)*

*March 22 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Location TBD. Final Presentation of Project 2 (Site B)*

## **Week 11**

*March 27 to April 2 – Spring Break / Easter Break. NO CLASS.*

**Week 12**

*April 3 (Monday) – Spring Break NO CLASS. Possible optional participation field trip.*

*April 5 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Room 305. Core Lecture: **Preservation Planning IV: Planning and Visioning** (including case studies and examples) (Stubbs/Jacob).*

**Introduction to Project 3 – Conserving Modernism**

*April 7 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

**Week 13**

*April 10 (Monday) – 1:00 PM, Room 305. Possible classroom lecture followed by studio.*

*April 12 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork. Response Paper 2 due.*

*April 14 (Friday) – Easter Break – No Class*

**Week 14**

*April 17 (Monday) –Easter Break – No Class*

*April 19 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*April 21 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

**Week 15**

*April 24 (Monday) – 1:00 PM, Room 305. Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*April 26 (Wednesday) – 1:00 PM, Studio and/or fieldwork.*

*April 28 (Friday) – 1:00 PM, Date, time and location TBD: Final presentation of Project 3.*

**Week 16**

*May 2 (Monday) – 1:00 PM, Last day of class – Class Field Trip*

*May 3 & 4 (Tuesday & Wednesday) Study Period*

*May 5-13 Exam Period for Other Courses*