A Sense of Place

Semester and Year
SP 2016

Course Number
IDSEM-UG1781

Section
1

Instructor
Steve Hutkins

Days
Fridays

Time
12:30 – 3:15

Units
2

Level
U

Foundation Requirement
HUM

NOTES & RESTRICTIONS
Course meets during the first seven weeks only, Jan. 29 – March 11

Course Description
This course examines the places in which we work and play, travel and
dwell—the office tower and the suburban house, the city street and the
superhighway, the small town and the megalopolis, the shopping mall
and the theme park, the American road and foreign places.
Synthesizing insights from literary works and fields like cultural
geography, landscape studies, and architectural history, we explore
such questions as: What gives a place its particular feel or character?
How do our values and worldview affect the way we experience places,
and what constitutes that experience? How do places—and the way they
are represented in literature and other media—shape our attitudes and
behavior? What gives a place “quality,” and how can we design and
build better places? Readings may include J. B. Jackson’s Landscape in
Sight, Yi-Fu Tuan’s Space and Place, James Kunstler’s The Geography
of Nowhere, and D. J. Waldie’s Holy Land.
Readings
The assigned readings are available online.

Requirements
1. Twelve blog posts (about 500-600 words each) (70%)
2. Twelve comments on other posts (100 words) (10%)
3. In class: participation, attendance, etc. (20% of final grade)
(No Incomplete grades.)

Assignments
(for details, see the Assignments page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>READINGS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1:</strong> The Experience of Place, The Spirit of Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays by Hiss, Tuan, etc.</td>
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<td>Essays by Lippard, Durrell, etc.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2:</strong> People in places</td>
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<td>Whyte, The Social Life of Small Urban Places</td>
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<td>Lynch, The Image of the City</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3:</strong> Utopian Visions</td>
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<td>Jacobs, Death and Life of Great American Cities</td>
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<td>Readings on modern and postmodern architecture</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4:</strong> Vernacular and Placelessness</td>
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<td>Kunstler, The Geography of Nowhere</td>
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<td>J. B. Jackson on the everyday landscape</td>
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<td><strong>Week 5:</strong> Contested space and the shock of the new</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. B. Jackson on the everyday landscape</td>
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<td>Relph, Place and Placelessness</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6:</strong> Place constructions and Fabricating Place</td>
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<td>Massey, A Global Sense of Place</td>
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<td><strong>Week 7:</strong> A Sense of Place 2.0</td>
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<td>Readings on SOP in a digital age</td>
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Policies

DEADLINES
The blog posts are due on Mondays and Thursdays. The comments on other people’s posts can be done a day or two later. (These are important deadlines, and the website makes it easy to track them.)

PLAGIARISM
In writing your posts, you are encouraged to copy and paste quotations from scholarly articles and other websites, but it is extremely important that you cite your source (author or title) and provide a link to it. The blog posts are a form of academic writing, and plagiarism is a serious violation of the rules of academic integrity.

ATTENDANCE
The class is a discussion seminar and meets only seven times, so attendance is very important and part of the final grade. If you miss a class, you can partly make it up by doing a few extra comments.

Contact
Office: 1 Washington Place, room 608
Phone: 212-998-7361
E-mail: ssh1@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Fridays, 11-12:30; 3:15 – 4:00; appointments recommended.