

Studio in Urban Conservation

Master of Preservation Studies
Tulane School of Architecture

PRST 6521
Spring 2016
1-5 PM M, W & F
RMH 401 Studio (lectures as noted)

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PRST 6521 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. Students will examine the relationship between the public perimeter and private interior of the blocks, and will consider—from a physical, social, cultural and spatial perspective—how the buildings and courtyards have been used and changed over time.

Project 2 will involve documentation, analysis and preparation of a proposed preservation plan for an urban commercial Main Street corridor and its neighborhood. The project will focus on issues of community revitalization, economic development, and historic district protection.

Project 3 will involve the repurposing and preservation of a large institutional heritage site and will entail broad brush preservation planning including reuse concepts, with exterior conservation treatment recommendations, for large-scale “white elephant” buildings in campus-like settings.

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:

- Have an understanding of 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 Reserved Reading
- 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 are 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 (lasting one afternoon) is are planned to observe revitalization efforts along a selected New Orleans commercial corridor 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>

Blackboard

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.