

Methods in Urban History and Preservation

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Time and Location to be determined, but not likely to meet every week.

Course Description

This research independent study/course will introduce students to the methodologies of urban history, with a specific focus on the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century built environment of El Paso. The course will introduce the controversies surrounding historic preservation efforts and tenement museums in cities throughout North America and Europe, and provide students with the skills necessary to identify architectural styles, to collect data points for historical geographic information system (GIS) and Google SketchUp analysis, and to craft historic preservation and landmark-status applications. In connection with the centennial of the Mexican Revolution, final projects will document key buildings and reconstruct city blocks for use in exhibits, walking-tour guides, and other public-history settings.

Course Method and Objectives

In the first third of the course, we will meet to discuss the assigned readings on historic preservation, downtown change, and the built environment, and to consider examples of historical GIS analysis.

In the second third of the course, we will gather data about certain blocks of El Segundo Barrio on photography field trips, excursions to UTEP and city archives, and through the ArcGIS software.

In the final section of the course, students will create decade-by-decade depictions of change on certain downtown blocks, using the GIS and SketchUp skills we will learn and improve together.

Explanation of Participant Requirements

Each meeting, students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings, participate in the collaborative research, or to learn and practice in the GIS lab.

Once during the semester, students will introduce discussion of the reading.

Once during the semester, students will provide a presentation on their findings about a certain block in El Segundo Barrio.

For a final assignment, students will provide decade-by-decade depictions of change on a certain downtown blocks, along with an essay of less than 15 pages describing their research experience and findings.

Texts:

NOTE: Due to the small size of the course, books cannot be ordered through the bookstore.

Andrew Dolkart, *Biography of a Tenement House in New York City: An Architectural History of 97 Orchard Street* (The Center for American Places, 2006). [160 pages. Paper ISBN 978-1-930066-70-0]

Colin Gordon, *Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008). [Hardcover: 304 pages. ISBN-13: 978-0812240702]

Selections from these books may be obtained as photocopies:

Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life* Steven Rendall, trans. (University of California Press, 1984) or reprints.

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (Random House, 1961) or reprints.

Juliana Maantay and John Ziegler, *GIS for the Urban Environment* (Esri Press, 2006) [ISBN: 978-1589480827]

Zane L. Miller and Edward Bruce Tucker, *Changing Plans for America's Inner Cities: Cincinnati's Over-The-Rhine and Twentieth-century Urbanism* (Ohio State University Press, 1998) [ISBN: 978-0814207628]

David Dorado Romo, *Ringside Seat to a Revolution: An Underground Cultural History of El Paso and Juárez, 1893-1923* (Cinco Puntos Press, 2005). [ISBN: 978-0938317913]

John R. Stilgoe, *Outside Lies Magic: Regaining History and Awareness in Everyday Places* (Walker & Company, 1999). [ISBN: 978-0802775634]