Introduction

"Intuition alone is never enough to explain what you see. One must learn to trust intuition but also to pursue its leads; to follow hints from peripheral vision but always to dig beyond first impressions: to see through a scene and its many processes, but also to see through it in time to understand how it came to be, and to guess more skillfully at what it might become."

Grady Clay,
Close-Up-How to Read the American City

"Her name was Jane Jacobs. And her book, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, would do more than any other single piece of writing in a century to change the way people looked at New York – and at all cities."

Ric Burns and James Sanders, with Lisa Ades,
New York, An Illustrated History

"In our American cities, we need all kinds of diversity."

Jane Jacobs,
The Death and Life of Great American Cities

This course is intended for PULSE students who are willing to investigate, analyze, and understand the history, problems, and prospects of Boston's neighborhoods. The above quotes frame our method of investigation. Assignments will require that you spend time observing, researching, and writing about the neighborhood in which your PULSE placement is located. With the exception of the fourth session, class meetings in the first half of the semester will meet on campus. Class #4 will meet in the Skywalk Observation Deck at the Prudential Center. For the second half of the semester, as snow banks give way to slush and sun and blossoms, we will analyze various neighborhoods in Boston.
Requirements:

- Participation in a Boston College PULSE Program field placement or other approved field placement
- Four Workbook Assignments
- Careful reading of the texts and spirited discussions
- Final Project

Texts

Flint
Wrestling with Moses, How Jane Jacobs Took On New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City

Gans
The Urban Villagers

Jacobs
Death and Life of Great American Cities

Levine & Harmon
The Death of an American Jewish Community

Roessner A Decent
Place to Live

Whitehill & Kennedy
Boston, A Topographical History
Calendar

January 19, 2012
Introduction - Different Ways of Seeing the City - Overview and Exploration
Location-O'Neill Library Room 211

January 26, 2012
Themes in the History of Boston
Read - Topographical History of Boston by Whitehill & Kennedy (Preface - 118)
Film - American Experience - James Michael Curley - Scandalous Mayor
Location-O'Neill Library Room 211

February 2, 2012
The Tragedy of the West End of Boston
Read - Urban Villagers by Gans - Preface, Chapters 1,5,13,14
Read - Topographical History of Boston by Whitehill & Kennedy - (119 - 199)
Film - Mission Hill: Miracle of Boston
Location-O'Neill Library Room 211

February 9, 2012
An Overview of Boston
Read - Topographical History of Boston by Whitehill & Kennedy - (200 - End)
Location-Class meets at the Skywalk Observation Deck at the Prudential Center at 3:35 p.m.
Cost $10

February 16, 2012
How Cities Really Work
Read - Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jacobs (1 - 221)
Optional Film: View Episode 6, New York PBS Series at O'Neill Library Media Center
Film - American Experience - Robert Moses - The World that Moses Built
Location-O'Neill Library Room 211

February 23, 2012
How Cities Really Work, Continued
Read - Death and Life of Great American Cities by Jacobs (222 - End)
Film - The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
Film - Selection from Episode 7, New York PBS Series
Location-O'Neill Library Room 211

March 1, 2012
Urban Transformations
Films - Down the Project and Point of Change
Read - A Decent Place to Live by Rossner
Location-O'Neill Library Room 211

March 8, 2012
No Class Spring Break
March 15, 2012
Class Presentations
Read - Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York’s Master Builder and Transformed the American City by Anthony Flint - Intro - 60
Location - O'Neill Library Room 211

March 22, 2012
Urban Themes, Issues & Prospects - South End Analysis and Tour Part I
(North Sector of the SE, Cyclorama, Haley House & Holy Cross Cathedral)
Read - Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York’s Master Builder and Transformed the American City by Anthony Flint - 61 - 136
Location-Downtown Boston

March 29, 2012
Urban Themes, Issues & Prospects South End Analysis and Tour Part II
(SW Corridor Park, South Sector of the SE, Venetian Gothic, Bradlee Design, Boston Medical)
Read - Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York’s Master Builder and Transformed the American City by Anthony Flint - 137 - End
Location-Downtown Boston

April 5, 2012
No Class Holy Thursday

April 12, 2012
Urban Themes, Issues & Prospects - Emerald Necklace & Forest Hill Cemetery
Read - Death of an American Jewish Community by Levine & Harmon - Intro - 44
Location-Boston Neighborhoods – Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester
Optional - After class dinner at Doyle’s Cafe in Jamaica Plain

April 19, 2012
Urban Themes, Issues and Prospects - Harbor Point
Read - Death of an American Jewish Community by Levine & Harmon - 44 - 66
Location-Boston Neighborhoods – Harbor Point, South Boston
Optional - After class dinner at Castle Island in South Boston

April 26, 2011
Urban Themes, Issues and Prospects
Read Death of an American Jewish Community by Levine & Harmon - 66 - End
Location-Boston Neighborhoods

May 3, 2012
Urban Themes, Issues and Prospects
Urban Adventure with South End Rooftop Cookout after Class
Location- Boston Neighborhoods - Chinatown, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, South End

May 2012
Final Exam (See University Exam Schedule for Exact Date and Time.)
Workbook Assignments

Understanding a city neighborhood is very different from understanding a book, a speech, or a work of art. It requires immersion in the everyday affairs of an area, a sensitivity to the people, architecture and other aspects of the environment. Research helps to establish an historical framework; meeting and talking with people brings history alive. The following assignments require a fair amount of work but should also yield a fair amount of understanding. Taken together, they should provide you with some valuable insights into the community where you work. They should be submitted on the date noted. You may take a one week extension on any one of the assignments without grade penalty.

Assignment #1
Obtain maps of the neighborhood where your PULSE Placement is located for the years mid 1600’s, 1700, 1850 (or thereabouts), 1900, 1950 and current. Describe in three to four typewritten pages the major changes you can detect from your inspection of these materials.


Suggested resources include the Boston Public Library, Whitehill Book and Internet links.

Assignment #1 is due on February 9, 2012

Assignment #2
Working in groups of 3, analyze one of the pairs of locations listed below and present your analysis in the form of a 15 to 20 minute Powerpoint presentation. You are free to use any analytic method(s) of your choice: compare and contrast, historical and architectural analysis, personal analysis, etc. Each member of your group MUST visit BOTH locations. Your presentation must be interactive.

Remember to ask questions of the class. You will be the teachers during your presentations!

a.) John Eliot Square and Fort Hill
b.) Peters Hill and Schoolmaster Hill
c.) Copp's Hill and Madonna Queen National Shrine
d.) Old City Hall and New City Hall
e.) Trinity Church & The Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
f.) Louisburg Square and Chester Square
g.) Castle Island and Dorchester Heights
h.) Mapparium and Boston Public Library McKim Building
i.) Ether Dome and Floating Hospital Bear
j.) Scarboro Pond and Jamaica Pond

Again, every member of your group must visit BOTH locations.

Assignment #2 is due on March 15, 2012
Assignment #3
Analyze two different one-block areas near your placement in Jacobs' terms. After your first visit, return to each location on a different day and at a different time for a second view. Pay particular attention to Jacobs' generators of diversity. In addition, give your suggestions for improving each area while wearing your "Jacobs' Hat." Finally, what do you predict will happen to each area in the next 10 to 20 years?

Formatting your assignment - Your paper should have sub-topics for each of the following:

Location #1
Name of Street or Intersection
Dates and Times Visited, Weather
Analysis of Each Generator of Diversity
Other Key Points in Jacobs' Analysis
Your Suggestions for Location Wearing your Jacobs' Hat
Your Future Vision for the Location

Location #2
Name of Street or Intersection
Dates and Times Visited, Weather
Analysis of Each Generator of Diversity
Other Key Points in Jacobs' Analysis
Your Suggestions for Location Wearing your Jacobs' Hat
Your Future Vision for the Location
Closing - Brief Comparison of Locations 1 and 2

You must include digital photographs of the two locations and the photos should be incorporated into the body of your paper. Five typewritten pages.

Assignment #3 is due on April 12, 2012

Assignment #4
View the film "Holding Ground." The film is on reserve in O'Neill Library. Analyze the course of action taken by the residents in the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative. Visit the area presented in the documentary film, "Holding Ground." Document the date(s) and time(s) of your visit(s). In your analysis please incorporate concepts from Wrestling with Robert Moses and The Death of An American Jewish Community.

Please include 4 digital photographs, along with the address of each photo, in the body of your paper. Present your analysis in three typewritten pages.

Assignment #4 is due on April 26, 2012

Final Project to be distributed in April.
### Dave's Selected Bibliography

* Personal Favorites - ** Worth a Summer Read

#### Boston History and Institutions

- Boston Society of Architects, Architecture Boston
- Campbell and Vanderwarker, Cityscapes of Boston
- Flynn, Nick, Another Bullshit Night in Suck City
- *Gans, Herbert, The Urban Villagers
- Goodman, Phebe S., The Garden Squares of Boston
- Handlin, Boston Immigrants
- Harrell & Smith, Victorian Boston Today
- Herndon, Boston Today (1892)
- Hirsch, Kathleen, A Home in the Heart of a City
- **Hirsch, Kathleen, Songs from the Alley
- *Kaye, Lost Boston
- King, Handbook of Boston
- Kozol, Death at an Early Age
- Krum, Three Deckers in Dorchester
- **Levine & Harmon, The Death of an American Jewish Community
- **Lukas, Common Ground
- O'Connor, The Boston Irish
- O'Connor, Fitzpatrick's Boston - 1846-1866
- Rawson, Eden on the Charles: The Making of Boston
- *Roessner, Jane, A Decent Place to Live
- Schray, Village School Downtown
- *Seasholes, Gaining Ground: A History of Landmaking in Boston
- **Small, Mario, Villa Victoria: The Transformation of Social Capital in a Boston Barrio
- Tucci, Built in Boston: City and Suburb, 1800 - 2000
- Warner, Streetcar Suburbs
- Warner, The Urban Wilderness
- Warner, The Way We Really Live
- Whitehill, Boston, A Topographical History
- *Zaitzevsky, Olmsted

#### Local Flavor

- Arrison, Franklin Park
- Curley, I'd Do It Again
- *Beatty, The Rascal King
- Dineen, The Purple Shamrock
- Elle, Not So Long Ago, Oral Histories
- *Hagland, Inventing the Charles River
- Halpert, Brahmins & Bullyboys
- *Krieger and Cobb, Mapping Boston
- Manzo and Peters, Cotting School
- Marquad, The Late George Apley
- McKendry, Beneath the Streets of Boston: Building America's First Subway (Young Adult)
- *O'Connor, The Last Hurrah
Prior to the first class students should suggest 3 ways to improve the city of Boston.