This graduate seminar offers an introduction to the intertwined histories of architecture, design and urbanism in the United States. Through readings and discussion we will engage with key themes, problems and writings, including gender, race, cultural landscape and the vernacular, park design, city planning, regionalism and identity, preservation, and collective memory. Collectively we will apply these concepts to the analysis and research of a local landscape: the Denton Civic Center and Park. The site, a palimpsest, has several layers: African-American Quakertown from the 1870s-1921, City Park from 1923 to the 1950s, and the construction of several civic buildings by O’Neil Ford, a distinguished mid-century modernist architect in the 1960s and 70s. More recently, the memory of the Quakertown community has been integrated into the site itself with a plaque and mural. Extensive field work, mapping, visits to local archives, and guest speakers will help us unpack the processes, ideas, and conditions that have shaped the layers of this rich site.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOME**

If you attend each class meeting and engage actively in discussion, do the required reading, work conscientiously on your research and presentation assignments, and participate in fieldwork and discussions, by the end of the semester you should:

-- be familiar with important themes, theories, and writings in the fields of American architecture, design, and urbanism.

--acquire visual and spatial literacy: the ability to critically “read” and understand the significance of the designed, built world.

--develop research, presentation, and writing skills, using fieldwork, archival, oral, and online resources.

**TEXTS, REFERENCES, AND AUXILIARY MATERIALS**


**LIBRARY RESERVES**

The course texts are available, on two-hour library reserve, at the Eagle Commons Library Reserve desk. Find the reserve course page at: http://iii.library.unt.edu/search/r
COURSE WEBSITE
The Blackboard website for this course can be accessed at learn.unt.edu with your EUID. This is an important source of information and you should check it regularly. I will post announcements on Blackboard, as well as the syllabus, assignments, class handouts, calendar, and gradebook. Blackboard will also be a site for your research work, including your final presentation.

COURSE EVALUATION
Your grade will be determined by the following criteria:

Class Attendance and Discussion Participation                      10%
Online Database Assignment                                      10%
Research and Resource Notebook                                  30%
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography                             10%
Research Presentation                                           15%
Final Research Paper                                            25%

FINAL GRADE SCALE
A   90-100
B   80-89
C   70-79
D   65-70
F   64 and below

SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES
Online Database Assignment                                      August 28
Fieldwork and Research OneNote entries                         Sept 3, 10, 24, Oct 1, 22, November 5
Proposal and Annotated Bibliography                            Oct 15
Rough Draft Due                                                 November 5
Research Presentation                                           November 19 and December 3
Final Research Paper                                            December 10

SCHEDULE AND READINGS:
August 27 Introduction and Resources Discussion
Meet at UNT Willis Library Room 136

J.B. Jackson, “The Almost Perfect Town” Landscape, 1952

September 3 Studying American Architecture
Meet at the Denton Public Library 502 Oakland Street, Special Collections


September 10 Style and Form
Meet at the Bayless-Selby House Museum 317 West Mulberry Street, Denton


September 17 Vernacular Architecture and Design


http://mrso.pbworks.com/f/Peirce%2520Lewis_Axioms.pdf


September 24 Quakertown
Meet at African-American Museum 317 W. Mulberry Street


Additional readings and resources:

Quakertown Archaeological Report
http://www.dentonhistory.net/page32/Quakerarcheology/quakerarcheology.html


**October 1 Gender and Campus Design**  
Meet at Texas Women’s University Special Collections, Blagg-Huey Library


Phyllis Bridges, *Marking a trail: the quest continues: a centennial history of the Texas Woman’s University* (electronic version)


**October 8 Parks and Planning**  
**Guest Lecturer: Susan Allen Kline**


Alan Trachtenberg, “White City” in *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (McMillan, 2007) 208-234


**October 15 Civic Center Architecture**  
Meet at Dallas City Hall


**October 22 O’Neil Ford and Architectural Biography**  
Meet at Little Chapel in the Woods, Texas Women’s University Campus. Guest Lecture: Mike Cochran.


**additional readings and resources:**


George U. Hubbard, *Texas University Little Chapel in the Woods: A Historical Sketch*. Denton, Texas: Texas Woman’s University Printing Services TWU.


**October 29 Preservation and Public Memory**


**November 5 Paula Blincoe Collins and Public Art in Denton**

Meet at Denton Civic Center Building, 321 E. McKinney Street, Denton

**November 12  Writing Conferences Week**

**November 19  Student Presentations**

**December 3  Student Presentations**

**Assignments:**

Research and Resource Notebook: During the course of the semester you will be required to keep an ongoing notebook, using Microsoft One Note, to record and reflect upon your fieldwork, research and reading. It should include photographs, sketches, reading responses, weblinks, screenshots, and other collected materials. There are several required entries, which will be checked periodically throughout the semester.

Research Project: Each student will take on a research topic which explores an aspect of the Denton Civic Center site and work on it throughout the semester using fieldwork, primary resources, and published scholarship. Components include a proposal, annotated bibliography, written draft, 15 minute in-class presentation, and final paper of 15-20 pages.
**Course Policies**

**Attendance:** Your success in this lecture course will depend on your exam grades but also in part, upon your attendance and active engagement. You are expected to be in class at every assigned meeting, including field trips. An attendance sign-up sheet will be circulated. Be on time for class; arrivals later than 10 minutes after roll is taken may be counted as an absence.

Sometimes an illness, emergency, or other circumstances may cause you to miss class. Absence will only be excused in the case of serious medical or family problems. To be excused for an absence please notify your TA before class or immediately afterwards and provide proper documentation.

More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduced grade. Each absence beyond two will result in a reduction of your final earned grade. 5 points of your total score will be deducted from your final grade for each absence after two absences. For example, 3 absences = 5 points deducted from your total points. A final course grade of 90 (A) will become an 85 (B). If you experience serious personal or academic problems that interfere with your attendance please let me know before it wrecks your grade.

If you miss class, try to borrow a classmate’s notes. The instructor and teaching assistant will not assume responsibility for providing class notes to you.

**Field Trips:** Experiencing and learning about architecture and design outside of the classroom is an essential aspect of this course. There is one required and one optional field trip this semester, the first to be held during class time, the other on your own time to a Dallas.

**Late or Missing Assignments:** All assignments must be completed to pass the course, and submitted on the due dates, in person or through previously arranged electronic submission. Students will only be permitted to turn in late projects in the case of religious holiday observance or medical or family emergencies. Computer, disk, or printer malfunction are not valid excuses. Back up your work at all times. Late assignments will be penalized, with a drop of 10 points per day, including weekend days. Incompletes will be awarded only in instances of medical or severe family emergencies, or other unusual situations beyond the student’s control. Documentation will be required.

**Electronic Citizenship:** As many students have reported to me, the use of music players, email, or video games during class is distracting to those around you, and detrimental to your own learning and performance in class. A Canadian study has proven that laptop use in the classroom negatively affects student grades. http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/parenting/back-to-school/laptops-in-class-lowers-students-grades-canadian-study/article13759430/ Therefore there will be no use of electronic devices in class. Please turn off your cell phones, put away your ipad and laptops when you sit down. Accommodations may be made in the case of students with disabilities with official documentation.

In this course, I will often use email to send messages to students regarding announcements, assignments, and answers to questions. I am receptive to email messages from students; however, I prefer to meet with students in person during my office hours. I hold office hours every Monday 10-11 and by appointment. I encourage every student to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with me one on one. Given the size of the class I encourage every student to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with me, even if only to introduce yourself. Your teaching assistant will also have regular office hours. This is the ideal, appropriate time to ask for clarification about course material and policies, or to get help with your research project.
When that is not possible, feel free to email me, but you must allow at least 24 hours for my reply. If you are writing to notify me that you will not be in class, direct your email to Emily Wiskera, your TA. She maintains the attendance record and is the first line of communication about any practical or administrative aspect of the course. Because email often takes the place of face-to-face communication, please maintain the same level of courtesy and respect in electronic communications that you would in conversation. Do not write something in an email that you would not feel comfortable saying in person.

**Academic Integrity:** Students in this class have the right to expect that their fellow students are upholding the academic integrity of this University. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense because it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of the community and defrauds those who may eventually depend on our knowledge and integrity. Such dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.

The University of North Texas has established a range of penalties for students guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty. Appropriate penalties include a failing grade for the course, a failing grade for the assignment, or a reduced grade or redone assignment or even expulsion from the University. All instances of serious plagiarism are reported to the Dean of Students.

Plagiarism is the most common form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism can be a difficult concept to define; however simply put, plagiarism is using other people’s ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. It is important to note that at the university we are continually exposed to other’s idea. We read ideas and words in textbooks, hear them in lectures, discuss them in class, and incorporate them into our own writing. You must always keep in mind that you must give credit where credit is due.

Plagiarism can occur in many forms and media. Although most commonly associated with writing, all types of scholarly work, including interior design projects, music, scientific data and analysis, and electronic publications can be plagiarized. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, and receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any other means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

To avoid plagiarism you must give credit (for example, in a footnote) whenever you use:
- another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphics, visual images (i.e.: drawings, videos, etc.) that are not common knowledge.
- quotations of another person’s spoken or written words; or
- paraphrase of another person’s spoken or written words

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, or have difficulty addressing source material in your papers, please consult with the instructor.

**Syllabus Changes:** The syllabus is a reliable outline for the semester’s work, but readings and assignments may be changed at any time at the discretion of the instructor.

**American Disabilities Act:** The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable
accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course.

If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline.

Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in UNT Policy 18.1.14, at www.unt.edu/oda, and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You may also call the ODA at 940.565.4323.

Course Risk Factor: According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category one course. Students enrolled in this course will not be exposed to any significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

Building Emergency Procedures: In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather-related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Students in this course are subject to the University of North Texas code of student rights and responsibilities. By taking this course, you agree to refrain from any and all forms of physical and/or verbal abuse, harassment, threats, or intimidation towards students, faculty, staff, or others associated with course delivery or instruction. Cases of harassment, threats or abuse will be reported to University authorities. See www.unt.edu/csr for further information.

Student Behavior in the Classroom: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csr.
Please sign this declaration of understanding and agreement with the above syllabus provisions and risk factor.

I ____________________________ (print) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies as well as the risk factor rating. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

__________________________  ____________________________  
Course number and section   Risk Rating

__________________________  ____________________________  
Student phone #, e-mail address (print)   Signature   Date

__________________________  ____________________________  
Faculty Name   Signature   Date

Civic Center Presentations:
John Bakewell, Jr. and Arthur Brown Jr., Pasadena City Hall and Civic Center, 1926-7

Frank Lloyd Wright, Marin County Civic Center, 1959-1966

Alvar Aalto: Saynatsalo Town Hall and Library, 1952

Bennie M. Gonzales Associates, Scottsdale City Hall, 1968

Eugene W. Betz Associates, Kettering Government Center, 1968-69

Michael and Kemper Goodwin, Tempe Municipal Building, 1969-71

Viljo Revell: Toronto City Hall, 1965

Murphy/Jahn: James R. Thompson Center 1985

Antoine Predock, Austin City Hall, 2003