**Urban Studies 0404**

**Remaking European Cities with Culture and Creativity: Policies and Practices**

Urban Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh

Summer 2024, Dr. Michael R. Glass – [glass@pitt.edu](mailto:glass@pitt.edu)

**Synopsis**

This course provides students with an active, place-based perspective on how culture and creativity are leveraged to overcome urban decline. The City of Lille, France was named Europe’s Capital of Culture in 2004, and uses a mix of culture based urban regeneration policies to remake itself into a vibrant urban hub at the crossroads of northern Europe. Students will learn the policy context for Lille’s creative regeneration practices, observe the impact of these policies through site visits and interviews, and evaluate whether Lille’s policy mix can be translated and transferred to other urban contexts. Key skill-building includes evaluation analysis, field research, and comparative policy analysis.

**Course Goals**

1. To provide direct experience with the practice of cultural regeneration for local development in Lille.
2. To provide students with opportunities to consider how governance and planning frameworks influence neighborhood development.
3. To provide an advanced overview of cultural regeneration strategies in the European Union, United Kingdom, and United States.
4. To examine neoliberalization as a *contingent* yet *prevailing* operating context that can create inequitable outcomes within and between urban neighborhoods.

**Learning Outcomes**

By successfully completing Urban Studies 0404, students will:

1. Gain a critical understanding of key evaluative frameworks used in contemporary urban policy research.
2. Demonstrate the capacity to gather and analyze data through these frameworks.
3. Develop an understanding of how urban policy processes shape the lived conditions of specific neighborhoods within the City of Lille through active engagement with stakeholders and the built environment.
4. Demonstrate a familiarity with key scholarly techniques including oral presentations, report writing and analysis.

**Course Texts**

Readings are drawn from a variety of sources. Copies of all class readings are available on Canvas. Complete your week’s readings in advance of the lecture.

**Assessment Summary**

* Field Exercises (6) 60%
* Field Research Journal 20%
* Group Blog 20%

1. Students will complete a field research journal during the field course, worth 20% of the course grade. This journal uses course concepts and readings to provide a critical, reflexive accounting of each student’s experience during the field course, focusing on site visits and perspectives on culture-led regeneration in Lille.
2. Students will complete six field exercises (one per week), each worth 10% of the course grade. These exercises will complement course themes and are intended to assist you acclimate to their urban environments.
3. Finally, students will develop a group blog that reports on experiences during the field course. Blog entries will include information on your experiences in Lille and will also catalog their activities during the course. Students are encouraged to make use of different media (i.e. text, pictures, maps). The final blog is worth 20% of the course grade, and is intended to provide a lasting record of the summer course for a public audience.

The journal and blog will be submitted before departure from France. Research exercises will be due each Friday at 5pm during the course.

**Course Policies**

Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](http://www.pitt.edu/~provost/ai1.html) (http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy.

In particular, note points 10 and 11 of the Student Code of Conduct, which deal with plagiarism. Presenting another person’s ideas or words as one’s own words, or submitting the work of another in a manner representing it as their own is a serious academic offense, and may result in sanctions.

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual class attendance is essential to your optimum scholastic achievement. Absences due to illness, attendance at university approved activities, and family or other emergencies constitute EXCUSED ABSENCES and must be supported by documentation presented to the instructor prior to or immediately upon the student’s return to class.

An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve any student of any course requirement.  Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and a student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written work, of all class meetings.

Cell phones and Texting

Turn off your cellphones or set them on silent mode when you come to class; it is rude for our activities to be interrupted by a ringing cellphone. You should bring your laptop or mobile device to class and use it to take notes, access readings we’re discussing, and to use the Top Hat app. You are *not* welcome to surf the web, check email, or otherwise perform non-class-related activities during class. Here’s my best advice: If you aren’t using it to perform a task specifically related to what we are doing in class at that very moment, *put it away*.”

Data Backups

There are many free cloud-based storage platforms (i.e. Dropbox, Box, Google Drive) for you to choose from…so losing your valuable data is no longer an avoidable calamity. Please ensure your files are backed up in multiple locations, because data loss is not an admissible excuse for missing a deadline!

Disabilities

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both the instructor and the [Disability Resources and Services](http://www.drs.pitt.edu/policies.html) no later than the 2nd week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (Voice or TTD) to schedule an appointment. The Office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.

E-mail Communication Policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. I will communicate with you, as appropriate, using this e-mail address and only this e-mail address. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)

Late Work

The deadlines for assignments are established in this course syllabus. The general policy on deadlines for any course work is that an assignment not handed in on the date that it is due will not be accepted. This policy may be amended on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.