

The Center for the Living City Announces - The Parklet – Public Design Project Course



Please join The Center for the Living City's Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium for this unique College Course offered in the Summer of 2022.

For the first time, 5 Scranton Institutions of Higher Education will work together towards the common goal of greening their city while earning credits.

The Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium is offering its first Public Design Project course. We are accepting students from Lackawanna College, Johnson College, Marywood University, Penn State Scranton and the University of Scranton. Any student enrolled in any major is welcome. The more diverse the better. For 5 weeks this Summer, July 11th – August 13th, students will engage with community leaders, tackle critical city issues and develop sustainable, environmentally healthy strategies for a greener future. The course will culminate in a Parklet, a green parking space, designed by the class and installed in downtown Scranton on International Park(ing) Day in September, a worldwide initiative to green cities. This fun collaborative, real world, experiential learning and internship opportunity is the first step towards many more cross disciplinary initiatives to strengthen our collective future.

Designing a dream city is easy; rebuilding a living one takes imagination.

- Jane Jacobs

This project is being sponsored by The Center for the Living City and
the Architectural Heritage Association, Scranton PA



For more information and registration visit:

[The Center for the Living City](https://www.centerforthelivingcity.org)

Or email: Maria MacDonald maria@centerforthelivingcity.org

Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium - CLC22DB Syllabus Outline SUMMER 2022

Instructors: Professor Maria MacDonald / Cole Hastings Goldstein
mnmacdonald@marywood.edu maria@centerforthelivingcity.org

Register @ centerforthelivingcity.org [[link](#)]



PUBLIC DESIGN PROJECT

Greening the City – the Parklet

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This studio-based course focuses on the integration of sustainable technologies into the design of a public space in the city of Scranton. We will explore integration at various scales: the human scale, the site scale, and the city scale - while covering subjects like materiality, people's behavior, and innovative sustainable solutions for a zero-carbon footprint in an effort to green the city. The work of the course will be a combination of creative exploration, research and hands-on installation. The methodology will include experiential learning, learning by doing, and research through direct observation. This course is part of the Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium at the Center for the Living City.

INTRODUCTION:

This course focuses on the integration of sustainable technologies into the design of a public parking space in the City of Scranton. We will explore this integration through the 3 lenses of the ecology of Cities : Economic, Social and Environmental. Depending on students' individual major, delivery methodology and mediums will vary.

LEARNING FRAMEWORK:

Project 1. Economics / City Governance, Politics and Community Planning & Business

Meet with City Officials - City of Scranton's Department of Planning

Meet with Mayor's Office - City of Scranton Mayor Paige Cagnetti

Meet with Community Business Leaders - Downtown Scranton Business Association

Meet with Scranton's Chamber of Commerce

Learning Outcomes: Students will work with City officials and Business Leaders to identify "green" opportunities. Students will create an advisory report on green alternatives for the city that will include mapping and documentation of environmental features in the City.

Resources:

"Street Fight " Jannette Sadik Khan

"Urban Acupuncture " Jaime Lerner

"Tactical Urbanism" tacticalurbanismguide.com

"How to Study Public Life" Jan Gehl & Birgitte Svarre

Project 2. Social - Observation of Human Behavior in the City / Health, Sociology, Art, Culinary, Social City Events & Initiatives.

This exercise is an introduction to the field of human behavioral research and will focus on observing how people use public spaces, particularly as related to sitting and comfortable spaces for gathering. Through the use of diagrams, photography, and/or video clips, students will create a short story highlighting existing use and physical conditions of a site and identification of ways in which the site can be improved based on observation and environmental design research.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will understand human scale and human dimensions and develop observation skills to record human behavior and existing site use and conditions. They will understand the role of human behavior in the design of public spaces and incorporate systems thinking into the research and design related to public space. Use digital media skills to communicate design and research findings students will generate innovative, site-specific design proposals based on observation and research.

Resources:

“ Humans of New York “ Brandon Stanton

Video: Powers of Ten by Charles and Ray Eames

Reading: from Jan Gehl, *Cities for People*, “Senses and Scale”

Eco Psychology: How We Attach to Our Places (m)

Reading: Daniel Smith: *Is There an Ecological Consciousness?*

Project 3. Environmental - Sustainable Solutions / Upcycling of Materials / Zero Net Carbon Footprint / Plant & Animal Life

Students will gain understanding of the potential for upcycling and material investigations. They will explore solar power technology, use of recycled materials, sustainable building practices, alternative transportation methods and plant and animal life.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will gain real world applications of green solutions, sustainable materials, healthy environments and reducing waste.

Resources:

Video: Blue Gold

Reading: Introduction to *Cadillac Desert* by Marc Reisner

No Time to Waste: The only species that creates garbage (m)

Video: Landfillharmonic

Reading: McDonough and Braungart, “Waste Equals Food”

Culminating Course Objective:

Project 4. Design + Build The course culminates in a built Parklet for the city of Scranton to be installed during International Park(ing) Day, Friday September 16th. Students will collaboratively participate in design, fabrication, execution and installation of the Parklet. The design and build will occur during the Summer and the install will be over a two day period.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Students will be evaluated on the following criteria for transfer credit and internship hours:

- Creativity: Ability to problem solve, and to generate unique ideas in the design process.
- Communication: Development of graphic communication skills through diagramming, traditional drawings, modeling and photo-montages; and your ability to present your ideas verbally, in writing and in video.
- Research: Ability to use library resources and databases to perform quality research that supports your projects.
- Improvement: Effort shown in all assignments including degree of improvement and your ability to positively respond to feedback.
- Leadership: The initiative to challenge yourself and the class by taking risks in the design process

Maria MacDonald is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Public Design Project Q&A Session

Time: Mar 4, 2022 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81367834178?pwd=Vm5pMjZGd08zQWF0cyt4MXpUZ21aQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 6783 4178

Passcode: 808223

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