ARCH 431 / 531 COMMUNITY DESIGN
Winter 2015
Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, FAIA, AICP
Credits: 3
Time: Tuesdays / Thursdays, 8:30 – 9:50 AM in 206 LA
Prerequisites: Junior Standing. Open to all majors
Especially relevant for Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning, and Environmental Studies majors.

GENERAL COURSE / CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Multidisciplinary examination of the history, theory, and practice in the design and development of meaningful and sustainable neighborhoods. Special focus selected by faculty.

SPECIFIC FOCUS THIS TERM:
The class will begin with an examination of the changes in suburban neighborhood design over the past 100 years as a result of changes in technology, governmental policies, life styles, demographics, and values. Special emphasis will focus on the review of appropriate housing / neighborhood models for the future, given demands for increasing density and responding to diminishing natural resources. Case studies primarily from the U.S., but also from England will be examined. Issues addressed will include: Smart Growth, differences in housing form and neighborhood morphology as a result of density issues (e.g., site, building, unit design principles); affordability; relationship of built environment to natural environment through whole systems approach; housing policy and housing financing; zoning and building codes; new and emerging lifestyles (changing demographics); New Urbanism and neo-traditional town planning; social and behavioral factors as form determinants; origins of suburbia and multi-family housing; providing a sense of community, identity, and memorable image in neighborhood design.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students are expected to develop an:
• Understanding of the many and complex factors involved in the design of various neighborhood types.
• Understanding of the theoretical, traditional, symbolic, practical, and technical considerations of various housing types and their application to good community design.
• Ability to analyze and conceptually design appropriate neighborhood projects based on the emphasis and issues addressed in the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation
Project #1: Case Study (small group project)
Project #2: Research paper (issue based for ARCH 431 / 531)
Or Take-Home Final Exam in lieu of Project #2 (for ARCH 431 only)
Project #3: Attendance, and one-page description of Neighborhood Meeting.
Note: This course is also part of the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI) and the City of Salem has asked that students in this course work on a Multi-family Housing Infill Design Standards project that will result in a final report. Students interested in this project will work closely with the instructor and Salem staff. Reimbursements for travel and material will be available. Students interested may substitute this project for Projects #1 and #2.

COURSE FORMAT:
Issues will be presented primarily in lecture format followed by further seminar discussion. Numerous guest lecturers will be included.

COURSE EVALUATION:
Project #1 40%; Project #2 50%; Project #3 10%; SCI Project (#1 & #2) 90%