ARCH 431/531 Community Design
Fall 2010
Department of Architecture
University of Oregon, Eugene
Instructor: Professor Michael Fifield, AIA, 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, environmental studies majors.

GENERAL COURSE 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 increased 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.
This term the instructor will be working closely with the Sustainable Cities Initiative and the City of Salem. There will be opportunities for students to work directly with planners from Salem on some of the issues the City would like to address. In addition, the City of Eugene is embarking on Envision Eugene, seeking to reexamine many of their own land-use policies and zoning. City staff from Eugene will also participate in the class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students are expected to develop an:
• Awareness 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 design appropriate neighborhood projects based on the emphasis and issues addressed in this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Class attendance and participation
Project #1: Case Study (small group project) or City of Salem project
Project #2: Research Paper (Issue based for 510) or City of Salem project
Or Take-Home Final Exam in lieu of Project #2 (for ARCH 431 only)
Project #3: Attendance and one-page description of neighborhood meeting.

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

COURSE EVALUATION:
Project #1 50%
Project #2 or Final Exam: 40%
Project #3 Neighborhood Meeting: 10%