

Guidelines for a Short Personal Essay (10% of total grade, due on week 3)

This essay is about your personal experiences and memories of certain urban places.

You can write about your current experiences of urban places. Where you live, where you work, where you shop, where you relax, how you move around, etc, etc

1. If you moved recently, please describe key reasons why you selected your current place – housing price, convenience, schools, entertainment, neighborhood characters...
2. explain what are their pleasant (or unpleasant) elements in your experience
3. again draw free-hand image maps of your current urban experiences
4. please feel free to add other remarks that you like to your essay

The goal of this essay is to bring forward some of our personal experiences/memories of “everyday urbanism,” so that they can be tangible bases for us to study the concepts and practices of the current urban design issues in coming sessions.

The length of the essay is about 5-7 pages of double-spaced, no larger than 12 font format. Please note that it is a personal essay not a research paper. Yet, proper citation is expected, when needed.

Guidelines for the Exam

The exams are to test how well students understand the course materials. In specific, the dimensions and processes of urban design that we learn from Carmona text would be the main contents for the exams. There would be questions both for short answers and for a bit long essay answers.

Guidelines for Final Paper

The goal of Final Paper is to help each student articulate certain dimensions and processes of urban design that he or she would use in the case study. It consists of two parts:

In the part one, students are asked to select certain urban design topics/aspects; formulate relevant research/design questions out of them; and make outlines of contents from the questions. In the process, students are to study the existing researches that are related to their chosen topics/aspects. A brief format for the Part One might be as the followings:

1. what is your topic/aspect

2. how you define your topic/aspect
3. what kind of questions you are asking with this topic/aspect
4. what are some of the contents that you are outlining with the questions
5. what are related studies that are already existing
6. what could be your cases/ or data
7. how are you going to gather information about the case and data
8. references and bibliography
9. other relevant issues

*depending on the chosen topic/aspects, you can build your own paper frame and contents, but you are advised to consult with the instructor before hand.

In the Part two, students are expected to do case studies, utilizing the Part One frameworks. Many of you already had certain cases in mind. Please analyze the cases properly in the Part Two. You may refer to the following checkpoints.

1. case information
 - project title, location, size,
 - responsible bodies of the project, (private or public), planners/designers,
 - maps, photos, other visual information
2. connecting your frameworks to your cases
 - what you are aiming to get from this case analysis
 - i.e. purpose of your case studies (in relation to your Paper #1)
3. case analysis
 - morphological dimension (if applicable)
 - perceptual/behavioral dimension
 - visual/physical dimension
 - social dimension (if applicable)
 - functional dimension
 - temporal dimension
4. findings from the analysis
5. implication of the findings
 - what the findings are meaning
6. conclusion and bibliography

Unlike the essay, the Final Paper requires a research paper format. That is, you need to write precisely and to the point. You also need to refer to the sources properly, whenever you quote someone else's work. Proper citation matters a good deal.

Double-space, about 15 pages without figures and bibliography.

To prepare this paper, I would like to encourage frequent individual conferences.