DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES
MAXINE GOODMAN LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS
CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

UST 476/PDD 576 - Historic Preservation

Instructor: Dr. Virginia O. Benson
Meeting Time: 4:00 pm - 5:50 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays
Meeting Place: Sweet Room, 241 Urban Building unless otherwise noted
Office: 221 Urban Building
Office Hours: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays
          or by appointment, leave message on phonemail or e-mail
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Course Description

Historic preservation is an interdisciplinary topic that brings together the skills of planners, developers, urban designers, architects, historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, engineers, politicians, real estate brokers and a variety of other persons who are interested in the development or redevelopment of the landscape. For the purposes of this course, we will focus on the interactions of these professionals with citizens and property owners in the interest of preserving those aspects of urban American heritage that are considered important to American culture.

The course will examine the history of the preservation movement in America, the rationale for preserving, the organizational structures and public policies that currently impact the preservation movement and the economic aspects of historic preservation. We will survey various policy tools used by preservationists on the federal, state and local levels and will scrutinize preservation projects in the Greater Cleveland area through field trips, slides and presentations by visiting lecturers. The course will emphasize the mechanisms involved in designating landmarks and historic districts as well as the process of evaluating, purchasing and restoring historic structures.

The course is intended to prepare students to consider the role of historic preservation in the future development and quality of life for citizens of the American city.

Course Texts

*Historic Preservation for Professionals* by V. Benson and R. Klein (Kent, O.: Kent State University Press, 2008).

Class Assignments
Graduate Students Only - Prepare a 10-page paper on a Cleveland area threatened historic building or landmark from list provided by Cleveland Restoration Society. If you wish to do another landmark than those on the list, please get permission from instructor. The paper should outline the history of the building with dates of construction, the architect, original plans or articles written on the building, changes made to the building over the years, changes to the neighborhood in which the building sits or any other relevant details that would be useful for those making an argument to save it. For the presentation to the class, it would be good to have slides of the building. The format for this paper should follow the National Register application guidelines which will be provided by the instructor.

You must make the case for why this building should be saved.

Grads and undergrads - Prepare a 10-page paper on one of Cleveland's historic districts. You may work in teams on this project but each student must prepare his/her own final paper. Information on historic districts may be obtained from the Cleveland Landmarks Commission which carries out the designation.

Other material can be solicited within the district through interviews of longtime residents or local development corporations or planning officials. Here again, slides or prints with a Power Point presentation would enhance the class presentation. Slides may be shared by teams. Power Point may also be used in place of slides.

Historic districts should be outlined on a map that can be shared with the class. Data on the district such as demographics (population characteristics) should be obtained from NODIS as well as information on the history of the neighborhood, the date of designation as a historic district and a description of the housing or commercial development in the area. Although some of the information needed may be obtained from the Landmarks Commission, the student team will be expected to research the area and produce new details on the district: personal interviews, plans under consideration.

In both papers, all information sources should be cited in the bibliography including personal interviews. All students: Please use a style guide for citation styles.

Cleveland Historic Districts

Franklin Circle

Market Square

Brooklyn Center

Tremont
Mall
Historic Gateway Neighborhood
Historic Warehouse District
Flats Historic District
Euclid Avenue Historic District
Superior Avenue Historic District
Playhouse Square
East Boulevard
Newton
Shaker Square
Hessler Road
Broadway
Miles Park
Ludlow
Little Italy

Optional Reading List


