Course ID and Studio 542a
Units:
Fall 2019: M,W,F 2-6pm

Location: Watt Hall

Instructor: Katherine Harvey and Naseema Asif
Office Hours: Office hours can be arranged via appointment on M,W,F between 12-2pm.
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Course Description

Studio Description: This studio will delve into urban conditions at the periphery of Los Angeles County in the east San Fernando Valley, focusing on Pacoima. Through field investigation and documentation students will take a comprehensive look at the neglected edges of the city. Students will gain an understanding and a point of view about how this periphery operates, looking into how the consistent lack of land-use and planning has led to a fragmented urbanism, overlaid with industrial infrastructure and controlled ecological regimes.

The challenge of this studio will be to develop new typologies and vernaculars for urbanism, in a formative region of Los Angeles County. A place where climate resilience, native landscapes, economic and social equity need integration. The studio work will move through increasingly granular scales to propose new urban frameworks that address climate change, equitable development, and the public realm as emergent and guiding urban propositions.

Site: Pacoima represents a transitional urbanism – one that is not quite urban and not quite rural. Wedged between the Angeles National Forest and the San Fernando Valley, Pacoima exists between the wild places and the iconic post-1940s suburbs that define Los Angeles County. This region has not benefitted from comprehensive planning that acknowledges this tension, but has developed organically where pressures of the mega-region coexist with traditional rural modes. The recent award of State Cap and Trade funds highlights this region as a place that should be considered in terms of social equity and planning for changes in climate with compatible development.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

Site Analysis: Students will be able to collect data and compile maps using various sources to conduct urban scale analysis.

Community Process: Students will engage community groups and organizations around issues of open space and equity, and use these sessions to inform their design work.

Planning Frameworks: Students will be able to conceive, strategize, and represent interventions on large scale territories.

Landscape Design: Students will be able to conceive and represent proposals for large site scales with relevant public realm components.

Urban Design: Students will be become familiar with and appropriately deploy urban block typologies, massing, density, and infill strategies.

Landscape Assembly: Students will be able to integrate the materiality of landscape in their proposals including hardscape, furnishings, and planting design.

Prerequisite(s): Arch 541a, Arch 541b

Course Notes

Blackboard: All course materials will be shared on Blackboard.

Archiving: All course work must be uploaded to the Studio Dropbox site, no later than 1 week after submission or presentation of work.

Studio Culture: The studio environment is a supportive and productive place for learning and developing one's design tendencies. Students are encouraged to work during studio sessions and to work in the studio after-hours. Sharing and learning from your peers is an essential part of design school

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Adobe Creative Suite, GIS, Rhino and CAD will be integral to the work conducted in studio. Brief tutorials will be given in studio but it is expected that students will gain proficiency through use and tutorials outside of studio hours.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Readings will be available on blackboard. See individual assignments for readings.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

SCALE 1 –Field work (*2 weeks*)
1.1 Topic Research, Mapping + Data Collection
Through a combination of visits to the field and desktop analysis students will delve into comprehensive information collection on three major categories of the studio. In groups, students will address the following topics through analytical maps, photo-documentation and drawings. Each group shall become an expert on Pacoima, relative to the topics below and present findings to the full class and compile gathered research into a presentation document for use throughout the rest of the semester.
- Climate Change + Resilience
- Equity + Economic Development
- Community + Society

SCALE 2 - Urban Framework*: (5.5 weeks)*
2.1 Time/ Plots/ Territory *– (2 weeks)*
Students shall take their comprehensive understanding of Pacoima and begin to construct a speculative territory to direct their individual work through the semester. They shall identify a working ground for their proposals through a series of sites that plotted together begin to speak to their individual lens and the impacts that they will address through the semester. The territory shall be represented through time and image into a composite mapping.

2.2 Urban Framework – *(3 weeks)*
Each Student will create a framework for Pacoima which collects a series of impactful proposals into a connected infrastructure. These frameworks shall combine environmental, economic, and community benefits.

SCALE 3 -Site- *(6 weeks*)
3.1 Focus Territory
Each student will identify a focused territory within their framework to develop in more detail as a demonstration project which is emblematic of the framework's impact. These site development proposals will address urban form and the public realm as spaces which support and transform public life and allow for resilient and emergent social and environmental processes.

Grading Breakdown

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Scale 1		20%
Scale 2		40%
Scale 3		40%
TOTAL		100%

Grading Scale (Example)
Course final grades will be determined using the following scale
A   95-100
A-   90-94
B+   87-89
B   83-86
B-   80-82
C+   77-79
C   73-76
C-   70-72
D+   67-69
D   63-66
D-   60-62
F   59 and below

Assignment Rubrics
Assignments will be evaluated using the 5 metrics below:

1. Progress: Student shows consistent progress and development at studio sessions and desk crits. Student shows effort to work through both conceptual and representational modes.

2. Rigor: Student addresses all aspects of assignment and shows dedication to methodical observation, recording, and development of design strategy.

3. Ingenuity: Student considers multiple ways of approaching work and is willing to test options and be inventive and critical with the resolution.

4. Craft: Work is carefully assembled with both drawing, modeling, and presentation techniques.

5. Presentation + Point of View: Student clearly articulates their point-of-view and project proposal through both oral and visual presentation.

Assignment Submission Policy
Assignments will be reviewed during Final Pin Ups and Reviews for assignments.

Grading Timeline
Grades will be returned with comments, no later than 1 week after review for each assignment.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

See individual Assignments for more detail.

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings and Homework	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Week 1 8/26	Intro Lecture and Site Visit SCALE I Assignment		**Due: 9/11/2019**
Week 2 9/2	**Labor Day**		
Week 3 9/9	**REVIEW SCALE I** SCALE 2 Assignment 2.1		**Due: 9/25/2019**
Week 4 9/16			
Week 5 9/23	**PIN UP SCALE 2** SCALE 2 Assignment 2.2		**Due: 10/16**
Week 6 9/30			
Week 7 10/7			
Week 8 10/14	**MIDTERM REVIEW** **SCALE 1, 2.1, 2.2** **Fall Recess**		
Week 9 10/21	**VERTICAL STUDIO**		
Week 10 10/28	SCALE 3 Assignment		**Due: Week 16 Midterm**
Week 11 11/4			
Week 12 11/11			
Week 13 11/18	**PROGRESS PIN UP**		
Week 14 11/25	**Thanksgiving Break**		
Week 15 12/2	Prepare Final Presentations		
FINAL	**MIDTERM REVIEW**		Date: For the date and time of the final for this class, consult the USC *Schedule of Classes* at classes.usc.edu/.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421
studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.
Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101
diversity.usc.edu
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.