O'Neill

Lead for the Greater Good

O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs
SPEA A407/Y507 – Seminar in Community and Place, Fall 2024

Instructor: Adrian Starnes, Associate Director, IU Arts & Humanities Council
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Class Time/Location: T/Th – 11:30am – 12:45pm | MX 222/Zoom/Canvas
Office Hours: Available by appointment (please email to schedule)

Course Description

This seminar explores arts and community development, partnering with IU's Center for Rural Engagement and Arts & Humanities Council. The CRE connects rural communities with IU's cultural assets, research, data, community-engaged teaching, and student service. Students engage in projects with partnering communities involving arts administration and quality of place.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester students will have knowledge about the unique characteristics, challenges, and opportunities for the arts and community development, not only from an overview of what is happening around the world, but also from experiences working with communities in Indiana. Readings, guest speakers, and course assignments will give students knowledge of best practices for how arts and culture can be leveraged to build an authentic sense of place in communities. Students will be able to function comfortably in communities of various sizes, with an assured understanding of the nature of how arts can best flourish in sparsely populated communities that are economically and educationally challenged.

Through specific, community-engaged projects, students will learn about asset-based community development through the arts and gain real-world experience by producing deliverables that aid in the cultural development of partnering communities. By completing these projects, students will learn specifically about funding resources available to organizations and creatives eager to build community and quality of place through the arts. Students will develop their ability to understand and analyze historical and current events through the lens of concepts from this course.

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Texts and Materials

Fallows, J., & Fallows, D. *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America.*
New York: Pantheon Books, 2018.

Low, Setha. *Why Public Space Matters*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023.

Wuthnow, Robert. *The Left Behind: decline and rage in rural America*. Princeton: Princeton
University Press, 2019.

All non-textbook readings and resources are posted on Canvas, and noted with a * on the
schedule of assignments.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Your town assignment (5%): True "homework", please take roughly 500-750 words to reflect
on your own home community and the sense of place, culture, and values that exist there. What
makes you feel connected, proud, hopeful, or discouraged about that place? Feel free to define
your community as you see fit (ie. City, town, neighborhood, culture etc). Be brief but
descriptive and try to connect this reflection with what you hope to get out of this course.

Participation and Reflections (25%): Engage in extensive discussions during live meetings
with each other, the instructor, and guests about community arts, the condition of rural America
and its challenges and opportunities, and strategies and tactics to build quality of place;
Complete discussion questions and written reflections when assigned.

Writing Assignments (30%): Throughout the semester, we will read and discuss books and
articles related to life and the arts in communities across the country. You will have two short
writing assignments (around 1,000 words, each worth 10%) and a few discussion board prompts
on key issues from readings and class discussions. Details and prompts will be forthcoming.

Group project - written and presentation (40%): Each student will participate in a group
project in partnership with the Cook Center for Public Arts and Humanities team. The project
will include a written component and presentation. Possible projects include:

Rural Placemaking Studio
The Rural Placemaking Studio, a collaboration between the Center for Rural Engagement and
the ServeDesign Center at the Eskenazi School of Art, Architecture + Design, enhances quality
of place within communities by facilitating partnerships with expert IU faculty and students in
comprehensive design, creative placemaking, and community arts engagement to uncover, link,
and leverage unique assets identified by residents. Projects will build on designs produced during
the 2024 summer design studio to assist communities in developing plans for funding and
activation of public spaces. Potential partners include:

Charlestown, IN | Pocket Park – Design students worked with community stakeholders to design a new park featuring seating, lighting, and art. The community is interested in using this new space for public events and performances to attract tourism and link sections of the community.

Elberfeld, IN | Pocket Park – This project aims to transform a vacant parking lot into a social hub on the town's Main Street. The design features green space, public art, performance space, and a community gathering table. Community stakeholders want to activate this space for families and important community events.

*We will meet with leaders of the organization to determine a specific scope of work and deliverables for the project.

A note on readings and assignments: It is likely that connections between our course and events outside the classroom will come up in class discussions and assignments. Those connections will demand careful thought, openness, and respect to everyone engaged in the class. The ability to understand and think critically about ideas and events is a core skill in pursuing a professional career and prepare you for your life beyond IU.

Grading Scale
A+: 97.5 and higher A: 92.5-97.4 A-: 90.0-92.4
B+: 87.5-89.9 B: 82.5-87.4 B-: 80.0-82.4
C+: 77.5-79.9 C: 72.5-77.4 C-: 70.0-72.4
D+: 67.5-69.9 D: 62.5-67.4 D-: 60.0-62.4
F: 59.9 and below

Course Policies and Protocols

Attendance: You may miss two classes without any penalty. The only exceptions are: religious holidays; when students request accommodation approved by DSS in advance using the appropriate form; extended illness, which will require a hard copy letter signed by a licensed medical professional stating that extended absence is medically necessary; and possibly extended family emergency, which will also require documentation.

Office Hours: I'm happy to meet with students to answer questions about assignments or chat about the course. Please note that my regular office is in Maxwell Hall, and I would prefer to arrange meetings in my office or via Zoom this semester. Thanks!

Communication: Email is my preferred method of communication. I will respond as soon as possible, but am also happy to answer questions before, during, or after class whenever I can.

Canvas: Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the course's Canvas page. I will use the "Announcements" section to communicate with the group. You are responsible for any information posted there. Read the announcement emails thoroughly and make sure you are receiving notifications from Canvas. If not, please reach out to IU UITS (University Information Technology Services). Canvas will also be frequently updated with readings, resources, and other info.

Technology in the classroom: A computer or tablet is fine for note-taking, but please keep other devices on silent and disconnected from personal business during live class meetings. You should always have your book(s), the day's readings, and be engaged in the discussion.

Deadlines, late work, incompletes: Only documented illness, death in the family, or an unavoidable conflict caused by an official university obligation are grounds for missing assignment deadlines. You must tell me about an absence before the relevant deadline and show documentation for each absence. If you miss class for any other reason, I do not need to know why you were not in class. If you should miss class, please connect with a colleague on what you have missed. All assignments submitted after due dates receive a full grade deduction for each day/part of a day late. O'Neill policy is that incomplete grades can only be considered if most of the course work has been completed (75% at least) and a student is physically unable to complete the remainder.

Late Withdrawal: Withdrawal after the automatic withdrawal period requires approval by your Program Director and must be based on dire circumstances relating to extended illness or equivalent distress. Requests to drop due to a failing grade will not be approved. The student must be passing the course at the time of withdrawal.
> NOTE: After the auto-W deadline, withdrawal will be significantly limited, and you will need permission to withdraw and must meet requirements established by O'Neill.

Regrade requests: Re-grade requests must be made via email within one week of when the assignment is returned. These will be honored if points were tallied incorrectly or if your answer is correct but was marked wrong. Papers and assignments will not be re-graded to alter the number of points deducted for a wrong or incomplete answer.

Religious Observation - In accordance with the Office of the Dean of Faculties, any student who wishes to receive an excused absence from class must submit a request form available from the Dean of Faculties for each day to be absent. This form must be presented to the course instructor by the end of the second week of this semester. A separate form must be submitted for each day. The instructor will fill in the bottom section of the form and then return the original to the student. Information about the policy on religious observation can be found at the following website:https://policies.iu.edu/policies/aca-59-accommodation-religious-observances/index.html

Academic Integrity – The O'Neill School does not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. For further information on your rights as a student and your responsibilities to the campus community, please refer to the IUB Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (http://studentcode.iu.edu/).

Use of AI (such as ChatGPT) in this class. Using AI (such as ChatGPT) to assist in completing assignments in this class is prohibited. If you do use AI, you will be committing plagiarism* and will be subject to penalties in this class and sanctions by Indiana University.

*Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's work, including the work of other students, as one's own. *Any ideas or materials taken from another source* for either written

or oral use *must be fully acknowledged*, unless the information is common knowledge. What is considered "common knowledge" may differ from course to course. https://studentcode.iu.edu/responsibilities/academic-misconduct.html.

Note Selling – Several commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/study guides to their classmates. Selling the instructor's notes/study guides/workshop videos/etc in this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct (violation of course rules). Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/study guides are being sold, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. Additionally, you should know that selling a faculty member's notes/study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using IU email, or via Canvas may also constitute a violation of IU information technology and IU intellectual property policies; additional consequences may result**.**

Materials - The faculty member teaching this course holds the exclusive right to distribute, modify, post, and reproduce course materials, including all written materials, study guides, lectures, assignments, exercises, and exams. While you are permitted to take notes on the online materials and lectures posted for this course for your personal use, you are not permitted to re-post in another forum, distribute, or reproduce content from this course without the express written permission of the faculty member. Any violation of this course rule will be reported to the appropriate university offices and officials, including to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct.

Student Mental Health and Well-being - I care about the welfare of all students in my classes and am committed to advancing your mental health and well-being. As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that interfere with learning. If you need assistance, please ask; I will help to the best of my ability. The O'Neill School and Indiana University also have resources available for students, such as:

Counseling and Psychological Services - In partnership with the Health Center and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), O'Neill offers students access to two Counselors in Residence. Students wanting to make an appointment should call 812-855-5177 and indicate they are O'Neill students.

For more information about services offered to students by CAPS: https://healthcenter.indiana.edu/counseling/index.html

In addition, check out these **CAPS workshops** and consider making an appointment with one of O'Neill's designated Wellness Coaches.

TimelyCare
Indiana students have free, 24/7 access to virtual mental health care services with TimelyCare. Students do not need insurance to access TimelyCare services. https://www.iu.edu/mental-health/find-resources/timely-care.html#0

Accessible Educational Services
Securing accommodations for a student with disabilities is a responsibility shared by the student, the instructor, and the AES Office. For information about support services or accommodations available to students with disabilities, and for the procedures to be followed by students and instructors: https://studentlife.indiana.edu/student-support/iub-aes/index.html

Emergency Food Relief - If you find you are in need of food and do not have the resources to purchase it, please consider utilizing the emergency food relief system on campus and in the community. The following units/agencies are here to assist with food relief:
- Crimson Cupboard: https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/student-support/crimson-cupboard/index.html
- Emergency Meal Project @ IU: https://www.dining.indiana.edu/news-updates/emergency-meal.html
- Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Food Pantry: https://www.mhcfoodpantry.org/
- Other pantries: https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/in-bloomington

Emergency Funding - For emergency funding issues, please visit the Student Advocates Office (SAO) website. For additional concerns not covered by the SAO, apply for funding from the O'Neill School here.

Sexual Harassment - As your instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. Title IX and our own Sexual Misconduct policy prohibit sexual misconduct. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help.

If you are seeking help and would like to talk to someone confidentially, you can make an appointment with:
- The Sexual Assault Crisis Service (SACS) at 812-855-8900
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 812-855-5711
- Confidential Victim Advocates (CVA) at 812-856-2469
- IU Health Center at 812-855-4011

For more information about available resources: http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/help/index.html.

It is also important to know that federal regulations and University policy require me to promptly convey any information about potential sexual misconduct known to me to our campus' Deputy Title IX Coordinator or IU's Title IX Coordinator. In that event, they will work with a small number of others on campus to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available to the student who may have been harmed. Protecting a student's privacy is of utmost concern, and all involved will only share information with those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist.

Commitment to Diversity: Find your home and community at IU

Asian Culture Center
Address: 807 East Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408 Phone: 812-856-5361
Email: acc@indiana.edu
Website: https://asianresource.indiana.edu/index.html

First Nations Educational & Cultural Center
Address: 712 E 8th St., Bloomington, IN 47408 Phone: 812-855-4814
Email: fnecc@indiana.edu
Website: https://firstnations.indiana.edu/contact/index.html

LGBTQ+ Culture Center
Address: 705 E 7th St., Bloomington, Indiana 47408 Phone: 812-855-4252
Email: glbtserv@indiana.edu
Website: https://lgbtq.indiana.edu/contact/index.html

La Casa Latino Culture Center
Address: 715 E 7th St., Bloomington IN, 47408 Phone: 812-855-0174
Email: lacasa@indiana.edu
Website: https://lacasa.indiana.edu/

Neal Marshall Black Culture Center
Address: 275 N Jordan Ave Bloomington, Indiana 47405 Phone: 812-855-9271
Email: nmgrad@indiana.edu
Website: https://blackculture.indiana.edu/index.html

O'Neill School expectations of civility and professional conduct[1]
The O'Neill School takes matters of honesty and integrity seriously because O'Neill is the training ground for future leaders in government, civic organizations, health organizations, and other institutions charged with providing resources for the public, and for members of society who are vulnerable and who are lacking in power and status. Precisely because O'Neill graduates tend to rise to positions of power and responsibility, it is critical that the lessons of honesty and integrity are learned early.
O'Neill requires that all members of its community – students, faculty, and staff – treat others with an attitude of mutual respect both in the classroom and during all academic and nonacademic activities outside the classroom. A student is expected to show respect through behavior that promotes conditions in which all students can learn without interruption or distraction. These behaviors foster an appropriate atmosphere inside and outside the classroom:
- Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be prepared for class.
- Students must be punctual in their arrival to class and be present and attentive for the duration of the class. Eating, sleeping, reading the newspaper, doing work for another

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[1] These expectations are excerpted from the O'Neill School Honor Code which can be found under Student Ethics and Policies: https://oneill.indiana.edu/undergraduate/course-advising/advising/resources.html

class, wandering in and out of the classroom, and packing up or leaving class early are not civil or professional behaviors.

- Students must abide by the course policy regarding use of electronic devices in the classroom.
- Students must responsibly participate in class activities and during team meetings.
- Students must address faculty members, other students, and others appropriately and with respect, whether in person, in writing, or in electronic communications.
- Students must show tolerance and respect for diverse nationalities, religions, races, sexual orientations, and physical abilities.
- Students must not destroy or deface classroom property nor leave litter in the classroom.

Schedule of Assignments: *A full schedule of readings, assignments, and other resources will be posted on Canvas. The instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule as deemed necessary.*

Date	Module/Topics	Readings/Assignments
8.27	Intro to Course; Syllabus Review	*Wendell Berry, "The work of local culture"
8.29	Center for Rural Engagement Overview	*CRE Report/Materials; Websites: www.rural.indiana.edu; www.artsandhumanities.indiana.edu
9.3	Sustaining Hoosier Communities and Project Overview	*Asset-based community development (ABCD) model
9.5	Community Reflection – First Thursdays Festival	Community + Place @ First Thursdays | **"Your Town" assignment due**
9.10	Lay of the land | Quality of Place	Film: *North Putnam*
9.12	Lay of the land | Quality of Place	Discussion: *North Putnam* | Group Project Assignments
9.17	Lay of the land | Quality of Place	**Visit with CRE staff – Placemaking Studio**
9.19	Lay of the land | Quality of Place	Wuthnow: Intro through Ch. 2
9.24	Lay of the land | Quality of Place	Wuthnow: Ch. 3, 4
9.26	Lay of the land | Quality of Place	Wuthnow: Ch. 5, 6

10.1	Group Project Workshop	Community partner connections and planning
10.3	Responding to the challenge | First Thursdays Festival	Community + Place @ First Thursdays
10.8	Responding to the Challenge - Towns on the Move	Fallows, *Our Towns*: 2013 travels
10.10	Responding to the Challenge - Towns on the Move	Fallows, *Our Towns*: 2014 travels
10.15	Responding to the Challenge - Towns on the Move	Fallows, *Our Towns*: 2015-16 travels
10.17	Responding to the Challenge - Towns on the Move	Community Partner Discussion – Huntingburg, IN
10.22	Cultural Policy and Community	*Rural Prosperity through the Arts & Creative Sector: A Rural Action Guide for Governors and States
10.24	Group Project Workshop	**Community partner connections; Reflection paper #1 due**
10.29	Community and Public Space	Low, *Why Public Space Matters:* Ch. 1-2
10.31	Community and Public Space	Low, *Why Public Space Matters:* Ch. 8
11.5	Creative Placemaking and the Role of the Arts	Discussion: *Gadwa, "Small is beautiful: creative placemaking in rural communities"; *Anne Gadwa "Fuzzy vibrancy: creative placemaking as ascendant US cultural policy"
11.7	Placemaking | First Thursdays Festival	Community + Place @ First Thursdays
11.12	Creative Placemaking and the Role of the Arts	Putnam County Mural Project
11.14	Creative Placemaking and the Role of the Arts	*Creative Development: Crafting Vibrant, Rural Places Through Art; Supplemental Readings/Resources on Creative Placemaking
11.19	Creative Placemaking and the Role of the Arts	*Fundraising models and grant programs for public spaces

11.21	Group Project Workshop	**Reflection paper #2 and project outline due**
11.26	**Thanksgiving Break**	
11.28	**Thanksgiving Break**	
12.3	Placemaking Cont./Group Project Feedback	Review project work; Creative placemaking examples
12.5	Building Community Vibrancy	*Building a vibrant community is imperative; the good ones succeed through a shared focus; *Cultural Vibrancy
12.10	Setting Goals and Measuring Impact; Wrap-up	*Understanding the Value of Arts and Culture
12.12	Project Presentations	Presentation/discussion on final project deliverables
12.19	Final Exam Period	**Final Project - Written materials due by end of day.**