“A crucial part of maintaining the walkability and livability of neighborhoods is insuring that each neighborhood is complete, in the sense that it is possible to take care of most of one’s daily needs within the neighborhood. In addition, it is important that each neighborhood have its share of public and ‘third places’ where neighbors can encounter each other in their daily round. This is especially important for lower income neighborhoods, where people tend to rely more heavily on the resources immediately available in their neighborhood.”

Neighborhood Centers: Heart of Peoria Plan
by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company (DPZ), 2002

Studio Description: This studio focuses on the design of neighborhood environments, the characteristics of which have profound consequences for health, well-being, and quality of life of residents and daily visitors. The goal of the studio is to understand and imagine a neighborhood environment in the City of Peoria, Illinois, that supports positive health, well-being, and quality of life outcomes for all people who experience the place on a regular basis. To accomplish this goal, students are expected to collect, analyze, and utilize various types of data (e.g., environmental, health, economic, social, and psychological) throughout the semester; these data form the basis for a range of design decisions at multiple scales. Systematic searches
for existing literature on environment & health topics will augment data collected through meetings and participation with various segments of the Peoria community and city leaders and government. The studio will investigate the application of WELL Building Standards and the Living Building Challenge. Students will work with the AIA COTE Top Ten Sustainability Measures and are encouraged to submit to the 2016-2017 AIA-ACSA COTE Student Design Competition.

Vehicle: The medium for this studio’s investigation is a community-based mixed-use project that begins with the description of neighborhood centers outlined by Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company (DPZ) in the Heart of Peoria Plan. The studio focuses on the South Western Avenue urban corridor, specifically the Lincoln Avenue & Western Avenue neighborhood center defined by DPZ and its pedestrian shed (see #4 on the map above). To support development in line with the Heart of Peoria Plan, the city has designated a number of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts throughout the city. This studio targets the South Village TIF District in an area of Peoria that is challenged by a recent history of decline in the physical and economic environment, and which has a large number of vacant lots and deteriorated and/or dilapidated structures. This area of the city is also burdened with a high number of environment-linked lead poisoning cases among children, as well as high incidence of chronic disease with environmental contributors. The Project Area is bounded approximately by Martin Luther King Jr. Drive on the north, McArthur Highway on the east, Adams Street on the south, and Western Avenue on the west.

Process & Outcome: The expectations for studio outcomes include proposals for a walkable, mixed-use urban district with a neighborhood fabric offering a fine-grained mix of many environment use types that may include residential, office, retail, employment, education, commerce, public and community gathering, government and religious institutions. When woven together into an aesthetically inspiring ensemble, these should ultimately support the everyday needs of residents and visitors and provide a pleasant and stimulating sensory context. Students will work both individually and in teams throughout the semester on neighborhood-scale proposals as well as proposals for individual buildings within the neighborhood. Students must include short-term, intermediate and long-term strategies to support health in the community through urban and building scale interventions. Final proposals will be assembled in a published report for the studio’s Peoria partners and should help the city to attract businesses, investment, and residents to the South Village District.

NOTE: This studio will be conducted under “Planning and Designing for a Healthy Central Illinois,” an interdisciplinary grant from Illinois Cooperative Extension to the College of Fine and Applied Arts. It will build on the work of the Fall 2015 LA335 Studio, which proposed solutions to Peoria’s combined storm-sanitary sewer system. The spring 2016 studio will progress in tandem and develop synergies through cooperation with the DURP Health and Place Workshop and the ARTD Graphic Design Studio. This ARCH 572 studio will require students to make three trips to Peoria to work with individuals in the community, city government and neighborhood organizations. The first trip will take place early in the semester, the second one in mid-semester and the third near the end of the semester. Group travel for purposes of the project will be supported by the studio grant.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

TEXT BOOKS: In addition to readings provided by the instructor, students should have the following texts in their personal library and available for constant reference throughout the semester -


SOFTWARE:
Autodesk Revit - Educational license is free for students
AutoCAD – Educational license is free for students
Google Sketch Up Pro (2015 recommended) - Student license available from Google (49$)
Microsoft Office 2013 (2016 recommended) - Student license is free for U of I graduate students from Webstore

Students are strongly encouraged to utilize the following software in preparing their presentation materials: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign, and Adobe Acrobat Pro

HARDWARE: Laptop or PC with the following minimum system requirements:

Windows
Intel® Core 2 or AMD Athlon® 64 processor; 2 GHz or faster processor
Microsoft Windows 7 with Service Pack 1, Windows 8.1, or Windows 10
2 GB of RAM (8 GB recommended)

OR

Mac OS
Multicore Intel processor with 64-bit support
Mac OS X v10.9, v10.10, or v10.11
2 GB of RAM (8 GB recommended)