UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE

Winter 2024

Course Number: DSGN 223

Course Name: Shaping the Contemporary City I

Classroom: ███

Instructors: Prof. Alberto de Salvatierra, Marie (Cecile) Kotyk

- Emails: alberto.desalvatierr@ucalgary.ca, mariececile.kotyk@ucalgary.ca
- Office Hours and Location: Student meetings outside class time are by appointment only.
- Instructor Email Policy: Instructors will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails as soon as possible, usually within 48 hours (excluding weekends).

Teaching Assistant: Chris Lin (MArch '24)

- Email: chris.lin1@ucalgary.ca

Class Dates: Mandatory In-Person Tuesdays and Thursdays, Winter 2024, 11am to 12:15pm

Greta Thunberg leading a climate demonstration in 2019 in Berlin. Michael Kappeler, Getty Images.

Course Description:

This course is designed as a multi-media, discussion-based seminar* on issues related to the shaping of contemporary cities. Organized in five phases—Contexts (Phase I), Cities + Citizenship (Phase II), Systems (Phase III), Case Studies (Phase IV), and Communities (Phase V), this course explores the intersection of the ethics and politics of the urban with special emphasis on governance, economics, urban development, and social organization. The course also explores the agency of individuals and groups, through such topics as power and resistance, spatial justice, multiculturalism, professions, and the public. Class sessions will vary and will include instructor lectures, guest lectures, live readings + discussions, and film screenings. In Phase I (January 9 to 18), lectures will introduce the contours of the subsequent four phases, while introducing the three assessments for the course. In Phase II (January 23 to February 6), select live readings and discussions of the courses 1st textbook [Mohsen Mostafavi (ed), *Ethics of the Urban: The City and the Spaces of the Political,* Lars Müller Publishers (Zurich), 2017.] will interrogate the relationship between cities and citizenship—exploring the agency of individuals and groups to shape the urban. In Phase III (February 8 to 15), student presentations will focus on the "Map the System" Challenge that will constitute Project 2a and 2b. In Phase IV (February 27 to March 14), a guest lecture and select live readings and discussions of the courses 2nd textbook [Delia Doung Ba Wendel and Fallon Samuels Aidoo (eds), *Spatializing Politics: Essays on Power and Place*, Harvard University Press (Cambridge), 2019.] will explore global case studies on the challenges of contemporary cities, while examining power relations and systems across various geographies: the United States, Rwanda, South Africa, Nicaragua, and Canada. In Phase V (March 19 to April 12), in person and virtual guest lectures will focus on topics related to disenfranchised and oft-ignored communities with the aim to foster their equitable consideration and design in professional practice.

This course is the second in the "Global Citizenship" stream of BDCI courses and a prerequisite for *DSGN 321: Shaping the Contemporary City II, DSGN 323: The Future of the Global City*, and *DSGN 421: Leadership in City Innovation.*

* Seminar style means that course texts and topics are explored in an interactive, collaborative, conversational, engaging, and participatory manner. It requires students to engage in this way with new ideas or rethink old ideas and assumptions from previous courses in new ways, embracing—and reflecting on—the nuance, complexity, and even the ambiguity that might be found. Students are expected to engage with the reading material and participate in discussions and activities during class.

Academic Calendar description: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/design.html#48341

Course Hours: 3 units; (3-0)

Requisites: See Section 3.3.5 of the Academic Calendar for more information regarding School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape courses.

- Prerequisite(s): *DSGN 221* and Admission to the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation program.

Course Delivery:

- In-person Delivery

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to articulate critical theoretical arguments derived from a transscalar and transdisciplinary approach to the research and analysis of multiple historical, technical, social, political, economic, cultural, societal and environmental contexts. Emphasis will be placed on the value of engaged scholarship and critical inquiry as a means for epistemological exploration. Course learning outcomes include:

1. Developing the means, methods, and mindset to critically consider, compare and evaluate cities and the ethics and politics of the urban.
2. Developing knowledge and understanding on the structures of society as determinants of urban form.
3. Further refining the ability to be able to research, assess, interpret, and advance dimensions of the systems of urbanism.
4. Developing a transdisciplinary understanding of the connective tissue between aspects of the built environment, society, geography, culture, and politics.
5. Developing world and self-views concerning city innovation and urban planning and design, and its potential influence and impact upon cities, society, and civilization.
6. Synthesizing and applying visual communication and representational skills learned in other courses in the BDCI curriculum, particularly DSGN 213 and ENTI 201.

Learning Resources:

- Required readings, textbooks, and learning materials:
  - This course will draw readings from two required textbooks:
    1. Mohsen Mostafavi (ed), ***Ethics of the Urban: The City and the Spaces of the Political,*** Lars Müller Publishers (Zurich), 2017.
    2. Delia Doung Ba Wendel and Fallon Samuels Aidoo (eds), ***Spatializing Politics: Essays on Power and Place***, Harvard University Press (Cambridge), 2015.
- Technology requirements:

  - To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
    - A cellphone or DSLR camera;
    - A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
    - A current and updated web browser;

- - - Webcam (built-in or external);
    - Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
    - Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled; and,
    - Broadband internet connection.
    - Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.
    - [Student IT Resources](#)
  - Software requirements:
    - To successfully complete all assessments in this course, students may need access to the following software:
      - Adobe Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign)
      - Rhinoceros 3D
      - ArcGIS Pro (Students can download ArcGIS Pro through their UCalgary account): https://ucalgary.service-now.com/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=KB0033256
      - Microsoft suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
      - Adobe PDF
  - BDCI Makerspace Training Requirement:
    - If a course requires the use of the BDCI Makerspace, students must complete all relevant online University of Calgary safety courses and the online Trajectory Safety training course to be granted access to the BDCI Makerspace.

Special Budgetary Requirements:

- The only budgetary requirements of this course will be in securing access to the software articulated above and textbooks.

Additional Classroom Conduct and Related Information:

BDCI Conduct Code: The BDCI Studio and other SAPL/University-provided facilities and equipment are governed by the [University's Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. For more information, please refer to [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#), including the following categories: 1. Protection of Individuals; 2. Protection of Property; 3. Protection of University Functions, Activities and Services; 4. False Information and Identification; 5. Possession or Use of Dangerous Objects, Drugs or Alcohol; 6. Aiding in the Commission of an Offence; 7. Contravention of Other Laws and University Policies; and 8. Failure to Comply with a Sanction.

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Assessment Components:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in F.1 and F.2 of the Academic Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course the following weights will be used:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome*
Project 1	Shaping the Contemporary City Multi-Media Collage Diptychs	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Project 2a	Map the System, Part 1	30%	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Project 2b	Map the System, Part 2	30%	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Participation	Engagement and Professionalism	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Please refer to itemized Aligned Course Outcomes.

- Assessment and Evaluation Information:
  - Submitted assessments are evaluated on a stated balance of factors specific to each project submission and clarified by the accompanying project brief and grading rubric. Included factors encompass:
    - Submission deadline met
    - Competent use of toolsets
    - Completion of described project challenges
    - Depth of engagement/experimentation with project methodologies
    - Quality, clarity, and precision of visual communication
    - Proper use of citations, if applicable
  - Attendance and live participation for the entire duration of course assessments are mandatory (e.g., project presentations, etc.) and must be completed in person unless otherwise stated. If a student is unable to participate live due to unforeseen circumstances, please inform the Course Instructors in advance. Missed assessments with a valid excuse, as defined by the University's guidelines (Section G.2.3) or with advance prior notification to the instructors, may be considered without penalty upon review of the student's attendance and participation record. Failure to be present for a course assessment as a result of an unexcused absence are grounds for failure in the course. You may be required to provide supporting documentation, as per Section M.1 of the Academic Calendar to support your request.
- Attendance and Participation Expectations:
  - Students are expected to attend and come prepared to meaningfully engage in all class sessions. This includes producing or preparing content necessary for discussion and

contributing to individual and class-wide discussions and/or conversations/assessments with the Course Instructor.

- o **Excused Absences**: In the event of an exceptional circumstance (e.g., illness, bereavement, etc.) or an exceptional opportunity (e.g., varsity athletic competition, national conference or awards ceremony, pow wow, etc.) up to four excused absences (for courses that meet twice or more per week) and up to two excused absences (for courses that meet once per week) are allowable per semester before jeopardizing one's own course grade and ability to pass the course. However, any such accommodations must be approved by the Instructors with advance notice by the student.
- o **Unexcused Absences**: Attendance at all class sessions and participation in all assessments is mandatory. Unexcused absences in excess of two per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) and one per semester (for courses that meet once per week) are grounds for failure in the course.
- o **Total Number of Absences**: The combined total number of excused or unexcused absences per semester cannot exceed four per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) or two per semester (for courses that meet once per week). Any number in excess are grounds for failure in the course.
- Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:
  - o All assignments (e.g., projects, papers, presentations, etc.) must be turned in on time. This course will not be extending any assessment deadlines in order to respect the planning undertaken with assessment deadlines in DSGN 203 and DSGN 213.
  - o **Late Assignments:** Late assignments will lose a letter grade every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late constitute automatic failure. Late assignments with a valid excuse, as defined by the University's guidelines (Section G.2.3) or with advance prior notification to the instructors, may be considered without penalty upon review of the student's attendance and participation record. Please let your instructors know immediately if you cannot meet the deadlines specified. You may be required to provide supporting documentation, as per Section M.1 of the Academic Calendar to support your request.
  - o **Extra Credit Opportunity:** Attendance and participation in SAPL's Design Matters Lecture Series in person at the City Building Design Lab (CBDLab) can earn students extra credit marks in Project 1, 2a, or 2b. To earn extra-credit, the following must be completed:
    - Attend a Design Matters Lecture.
    - After the lecture, submit to the course D2L, on 1 page, a 200-word reflection on the lecture. The reflection should include 2 pictures: a picture of the student's favorite slide, and a self-portrait of the student on site at the lecture.
    - If the submission is deemed satisfactory, the student will earn a grade letter step increase (B to B+, for example) in their lowest-scoring assessment, applied at the end of the semester.

- To receive extra credit in Project 2a or 2b (a group project), all 3 members of the team must submit at least one reflection by the end of the semester (can be different lectures).
- Students can submit a maximum of 3 reflections for extra credit along the length of the course.

- Final Examinations:
  - No final examination required.
- Expectations for Writing:
  - All written components of assignments must use proper grammar and correct spelling. Formatting requirements, as specified by the instructors, must be followed. Citations and references are mandatory and must be consistent and follow guidelines as noted by instructors.
  - https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html
- Criteria that must be met to pass:
  - A passing grade calculated from the cumulative value of all submitted assignments. A submission for each of assessments is required for the completion of the course.

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade):

As per Section 3.5.1 of the Academic Calendar, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School.

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Grading Scale:

Based on Section F.1.1 of the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Good performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	Approaching satisfactory performance. **Minimum grade requirement for prerequisite courses.**
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Topic Areas and Detailed Class Schedule:

The following class schedule is subject to change according to the requirements, eventualities, and progress of the course. Instructors will update the class over the term as any changes are required.

Week	Dates	Month	Day		Session Type	Topic(s)	Lecturer(s)	Phase
			DSGN 223: Shaping the Contemporary City I (W24)					
			University of Calgary, School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape (SAPL)					
1	8-12	January	Tu	9	Instructor Lecture, **Project 2 Intro**	DSGN 223 Launch, Course Outline	Alberto de Salvatierra + Cecile Kotyk	PHASE I: CONTEXTS
					Live Reading + Discussion	"Agonistic Urbanism" by Mohsen Mostafavi		
			Th	11	Film Screening	*The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*	n/a	
2	15-19		Tu	16	Instructor Lecture, **Project 1 Intro**	Images, Colors, and Cities	Aberto de Salvatierra	
			Th	18	Instructor Lecture	Critical Race Theory and the Built Environment	Cecile Kotyk	
3	22-26		Tu	23	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"Beyond Differences of Race, Religion, Class: Making Urban Subjects" by Saskia Sassen		PHASE II: CITIES + CITIZENSHIP
			Th	25	**Deadline: Project 1 Due**	Shaping the Contemporary City Multi-Media Collage Diptychs		
					Live Reading + Discussion	"Insurgent Urbanity and the Political City" by Erik Swyngedouw		
4	29-2		Tu	30	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"The Fair City: Can We Design Neighborhood Equality" by Robert J. Sampson		
			Th	1	Film Screening	*Citizen Jane: Battle for the City*	n/a	
5	5-9	February	Tu	6	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"Bottom-Up Is Not Enough" by Michelle Provoost		PHASE III: SYSTEMS
			Th	8	**Deadline: Project 2a Due**	Map the System		
					Student Group Presentations	Map the System Presentations	Students	
6	12-16		Tu	13	**Student Group Presentations**	Map the System Presentations	Students	
			Th	15	**Student Group Presentations**	Map the System Presentations	Students	
7	19-23		Tu	20	*Term Break: No Class*			
			Th	22	*Term Break: No Class*			
8	26-1		Tu	27	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"From the Street: Civic Epistemologies of Urban Climate Change" by Michael Mendez		PHASE IV: CASE STUDIES (GLOBAL)
			Th	29	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"Imagining Spaces of Peace and Conflict in the Rwandan Radio Drama Musekeweya" by Delia Duong Ba Wendel		
9	4-8		Tu	5	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"Slum as Infrastructure: How the Politics of Informality Shapes South Africa's World Class Cities" by Kerry Ryan Chance		
			Th	7	Guest Lecture	Urban Planning and the Displacement of Africville	Irvine Carvey	
10	11-15	March	Tu	12	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"The Volcanic Heart of Nicaragua: Tiscapa and the Spatiality of Political Culture, 1936-1990" by Ryne Clos		
			Th	14	*Live Reading + Discussion*	"The Permeable Institution: Community Mental Health Centers as Government Technology, 1963-1974" by Joy Knoblauch		
11	18-22		Tu	19	Guest Lecture	Decolonizing Design	Shyniaya Duffy	PHASE V: COMMUNITIES
			Th	21	Guest Lecture	People-Driven Design/Indigenous Community Engagement	Teron-Jordan "TJ" Richard	
12	25-29		Tu	26	Guest Lecture	Queer Theory, Queer Spaces	Vlad Amiot	
			Th	28	Guest Lecture	Design Principles for People who are Unhoused	Mathieu Denis	
13	1-5	April	Tu	2	Instructor Lecture	Towards a Black Housing Equity Framework	Cecile Kotyk	
			Th	4	Guest Lecture	Designing with Black Communities	Shane Laptiste	
14	8-12		Tu	9	*Group Reflection + Discussion*	Shaping the Contemporary City	n/a	
			F	12	**Deadline: Project 2b Due**	Map the System		

Deadlines:

Project 1: Shaping the Contemporary City Multi-Media Collage Diptychs is due at the start of class time on Thursday, January 25th.

Project 2a: Map the System, Part 1 is due at the start of class time on Thursday, February 8th.

Project 2b: Map the System, Part 2 is due at 11:59pm MT on Friday, April 12th.

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

There are no scheduled out-of-class activities for this course.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports:

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES AND PROCEDURES

https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

Student Accessibility Services will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures please visit:
- Student Academic Misconduct Policy: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy
- Student Academic Misconduct Procedure: https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy) and requirements of the Copyright Act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual and/or gender-based violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual/gender-based violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual/gender-based violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html) which describes how to have a grade reappraised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk