

Advanced Professional Planning Project EVDP 644 (3-8)

Winter 2013

MWF 14:00-17:50

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Introduction

This course is a research oriented project studio that explores contemporary themes in planning and provides training in advanced professional planning practice. The project work centres on an existing problem or project located in Calgary, involves the analysis of issues and context, and the formulation of a policy, plan or design solution, and it culminates in a professional report and presentation.

Studio is the core-teaching model employed in EVDP644. Students will work with faculty members to create innovative and strategic solutions. In this studio, the client and project are real, exposing students to the complexities of creating a project from expressed needs, developing a Project Management Plan to appropriately plan and scope the project and carrying out the work to arrive at a product that is agreed upon between the faculty, students and client. The product that results will reflect data analysis, design analysis, and economic analysis, and will have encouraged students to consider "best practices" in planning as well as innovative thinking.

Objectives

The objectives of this course are to provide students with knowledge of the three main components of a professional planning project:

- Defining the scope of work through the development of a project proposal
- Developing and carrying out a work plan that fulfills the project objectives and integrates the learning from previous courses of the Planning Program
- Delivering a comprehensive plan that includes policies, guidelines and design concepts

Content

The course will consist of lectures and studio work.

At the outset of the course, there will be a series of lectures to initiate the project process and establish the parameters. This phase of the course will be a collaboration between students of all streams (City and Community Planning, Urban Design and Development, and Regional and Environmental Planning) of the Planning Program. Following the introduction, the streams will separate and will start work on a project specific to their stream.

Reviews and presentations of the streams will be coordinated so all students benefit from the studio environment and peer-to-peer learning. Students are expected to attend all presentations and reviews.

City and Community Planning Stream

Project: Shawnessy Town Centre (To be confirmed)

Project Description

The key objectives of this proposal are:

- to facilitate student, professional, community and public interaction through project-led engagement, research and mentorship opportunities.

- to benefit and enliven the community through the discussion of a holistic vision for future public place-making.

The Community Association (CA) advocates a collaborative exercise to determine future growth strategies for the Shawnessy Town Centre area. This would involve developing an understanding of existing policies and growth plans that affect the area as well as a local needs assessment. The ultimate goal is to develop a conceptual master plan and/or designs which respond to particular community/City/regional concerns and that help to envision the future of the community.

While the CA has only loosely defined the project parameters, there is a great opportunity for engagement between the community and students in a collaborative process to appropriately scope the project and to create conceptual ideas.

The Community Association notes the study area is over-run with automobiles, there are few well-conceived public spaces and the area suffers from a lack of civic intensity and diversity. As a point of designated growth in Calgary, it is timely to examine the quality of such future spaces from the point of view of housing, employment, mixed-use, mobility, public amenities, ecological impact and energy/resources-use.

An initial workshop will kick off the project for information gathering and to allow students to engage with the community, professionals, and City of Calgary representatives.

Project Background

The Shawnessy Town Centre is located in south Calgary, near the junction of Highway 22x (Spruce Meadows Trail) and Macleod Trail. C-Train access is available from both the Shawnessy and Somerset stations. It is a popular destination for shopping and comprises local services for residents in the south. It has been identified by The City of Calgary as a 'Major Activity Centre'. In the future, it is likely The City will begin revising the local area plan to align with objectives for future growth and connectivity.

Project Stakeholders

The known stakeholders involved in this project include:

- University of Calgary
- Shawnessy Community Association
- Community residents
- Local businesses
- Federation of Calgary Communities
- Local professional architects / engineers / urban planners
- The City of Calgary Representatives

Urban Design and Development Stream

Project: West Springs Cougar Ridge, Calgary (To Be Confirmed)

Project Description

This projects deals with an area in Calgary's west city boundary that is transforming from its current country residential character to urban densities and mix of uses. The larger project area could include approximately 6 quarter-sections near the community of West Springs / Cougar Ridge (WSCR).

The project will develop a land use/urban design concept plan, with focus on eighteen 5 acre lots in the heart of the community. In the next years, this area will undergo a major transformation into new residential communities. The challenge will be to provide a comprehensive urban design plan taking into consideration the gradual development of 5 acre lots.

The following challenges will be analyzed and addressed:

- density versus open views and spaces. Is there a healthy balance?
- new housing concepts: WSCR is in support of a diversified community. Students are encouraged to explore new housing concepts: multi-generation housing and seniors housing, green building practices, etc.
- interconnectivity and continuity: incorporation of pathways, green spaces, pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets, stormwater ponds

Project Background

The community of WSCR is a community of choice; its location close to the rolling foothills and easy access to the City Centre makes it a desirable location. Another important quality is the still existing rural identity in large areas and free open spaces, which encourages use for evening walks and relaxation.

All acreages are under individual ownership. The owners are not obliged to develop within a certain timeframe, but this is anticipated within the next couple of years. As per the new ASP amendment, this area is considered residential, with standard to low densities, and residential densities between 3.0-5.0 and 1.0-3.0 units per acre. Those densities can be adjusted.

Project Stakeholders

The known stakeholders involved in this project include:

- University of Calgary
- West Springs/Cougar Ridge Community Association
- Federation of Calgary Communities
- The City of Calgary

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on four project landmarks.

Class participation is a key component of the grade and will be evaluated based on attendance to class, studio and group work. Any anticipated absence should be communicated to the teaching team as soon as possible.

1. Proposal	15%
2. Research and Analysis	25%
3. Final Presentation	25%
4. Final Document	35%
Total	100%

Each component of the course must be completed, and a passing grade (i.e. minimum B-) achieved, in order to pass the course as a whole.

Late submission of work is not acceptable; grades will be deducted for work submitted later than the deadline specified in the assignment brief or as discussed in class. One grade will be deducted per late day for example an A will be downgraded to A-. There will be no final examination.

Readings

Recommended resources:

Barton, Grant, Guise (2010) *Shaping Neighbourhoods, for local health and global sustainability* (Routledge)

Dunham-Jones, Williamson ((2008) *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs* (Wiley)

Lukez, Paul (2007) *Suburban Transformations* (Princeton Architectural Press)

American Planning Association (2006) *Planning and Urban Design Standards* (Wiley Graphic Standards)

UK Housing Corporation (2007) *Urban Design Compendium (vol. 1 and 2)*

Grading Scale

The four project landmarks will be evaluated as letter grades. Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	
F	0.00	0-0.49	

A student who receives a "C+" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

Notes:

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
2. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
6. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
7. Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/contact>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).