

Advanced Professional Planning Project (Urban Design and Development Stream) 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 this course. 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 methodology to appropriately plan and scope the project and carrying out the work to arrive at a product that is agreed upon between the instructors, students and client. The product that results will reflect a detailed analysis and design exploration, 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 work plan and methodology
- Developing and carrying out of 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/or design concepts

Content

The course will consist of some 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. Students will develop a work plan that will direct individual research focused on addressing the issues and challenges presented by the project. The process of developing a methodology and work plan will be assisted by the teaching team.

Specific research methods will be introduced based on the needs identified by the project teams. Most of the skills required to complete this project have been developed in previous courses, any additional skills needed will be presented in a series of mini-lectures. Invited lecturers will help provide insight into the positions and perspectives of the different actors involved in the project.

Reviews and presentations of the different work plan phases will be attended by the stake holders. Students are expected to attend all presentations and reviews.

Urban Design and Development Stream

Project: Highland Park, Calgary

Project Description

This project deals with a neighbourhood in Calgary's northeast that is in transition from its current condition and character. Highland Park is a neighbourhood that dates back to the late 1940s when it was conceived as a suburban community. Currently it has been experiencing changes in demographics and redevelopment pressure. Its location in the city provides it with unique opportunities for redevelopment.

The project will develop a land use/urban design concept plan. In the next years, this area could undergo a significant transformation with new residential development and changes in major urban infrastructure. The challenge will be to provide a comprehensive land use, urban design and development plan that takes into consideration the needs of the community, the new direction in the City's planning approach, and a supportive environment for developers. The plan should be considered as a framework for a future Area Redevelopment Plan.

The following challenges will be analyzed and addressed:

- Strategy for economic development
- Potential for infill housing
- Current social issues (e.g. aging in place, gentrification, etc.)
- Redevelopment of existing golf course
- A new transportation corridor, BRT and/or LRT alignment
- Public realm improvements
- Changes in open space needs

Project Background

The neighbourhood of Highland Park is an established community in Calgary. It is bound by the communities of Thornccliffe and Green View to the north, Mount Pleasant and Tuxedo to the south, Highwood and Queen's Park to the west and Greenview Industrial Park to the east. Its location close to the transportation corridor of Deerfoot and its easy access to the City Centre makes it a desirable residential neighbourhood with a potential for an increase in mix of uses. The Municipal Development Plan (MDP) adopted by the City of Calgary's Council in 2009 advocates for a balance of future growth between developed and developing communities. Any new Area Redevelopment Plan should align with the policies and direction of the MDP, this project will address such requirement.

Project Stakeholders

The known stakeholders involved in this project include:

- Highland Park community members (public at large)
- Highland Park Community Association
- Federation of Calgary Communities
- The City of Calgary

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on five project landmarks. The work will be completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups, unless it is clear to the instructors the balance of work has been unfairly distributed between team members. 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. Work Plan	10%
2. Research and Analysis	20%
3. Draft Concept	20%
4. Final Presentation	20%
5. Final Documents	30%
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>).