

Environmental **DESIGN**

architecture + landscape architecture + planning

University of Calgary / Faculty of Environmental Design

Urban Design Theory
Tuesdays 9:10 am – 12:20pm Room: PF 2165

EVDS 671 H (3-0)
Fall 2018

Instructor:

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Course Description:

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to urban design theories, concepts, methods and contemporary issues. The course will be of interest to architecture, landscape architecture and planning students, and includes lectures, seminars, local field trips, group and individual assignments.

'Urban Design' has evolved since the mid 1950's into both a recognized field of practice and method of creating more successful urban places. It brings together multiple professions and stakeholders. It combines strands of place-making and sustainable development, including environmental responsibility, social equity and economic viability. Urban design practice can be applied at the scale of regions, cities, communities, neighbourhoods and specific urban spaces.

In summary, urban design is about creating a vision for an area - and then deploying multidisciplinary skills and resources to realise that vision.

Urban design is the design of towns and cities, streets and spaces. It is the collaborative and multi-disciplinary process of shaping the physical setting for life in cities, towns and villages; the art of making places; design in an urban context. Urban Design Group

In this course, urban design is considered as both an approach and methodology. As an evolving area of practice, students will be exposed to various schools of thought, local and international case studies and best practices. Students will also be challenged to research, analyze, develop, explain and debate 'good urban design' practice.

Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course students should have developed:

1. An understanding of the evolution, theories, methodologies and concepts of urban design

2. The basic skills, techniques, and vocabulary required to describe, understand and analyze urban form
3. An understanding of contemporary issues affecting urban design and sustainable urbanism
4. To be able to critically and constructively analyze the urban design of places at a range of scales
5. To be able to articulate and present an approach to urban design based on research and best practices

Content and Approach:

This is a lecture course with an emphasis on student involvement and a mix of group and individual assignments. It will consist of lectures and seminars, local field trip(s), studio work time, course projects and presentations, culminating in a final 'urban design manifesto' summarizing each student's understanding and approach to urban design.

Lectures and guest lectures will cover:

- 1) Urban Design Overview
 - the evolution of urban form, planning and design ideas
 - urban design as an approach and in practice
 - the why, where, when and who of urban design
 - the value of urban design
- 2) Urban Form and Process
 - urban morphology and typology
 - schools of thought, methods, approaches
 - urban design thinking – from region to site scale
 - analysis tools and techniques
- 3) Creating Better Places
 - the qualities of 'good' urban form (evolving best practice)
 - the public realm and its evolution
 - private development and urban design
 - 'sense of place' and identity
 - urban design guidance and review

Assignments will allow students to explore:

- approaches and methods of urban analysis
- contemporary urban design issues
- application and communication of the above

Readings will be assigned to the class in order to complement the lectures. Students will be required to complete these readings prior to the related lecture and will be questioned in class regarding these readings – please come prepared. All of the readings are available through the Taylor Digital Library, with many in the form of e-books / e-periodicals. A bibliography will be provided at the first class.

Graphics and Computer Skills. Simple hand drawing, diagramming and sketching will be required to help analyze places and to present / communicate urban design ideas, concepts and approaches. This course will also provide students with an opportunity to use and practice basic graphic and computer skills including:

- Image editing (such as Photoshop)
- Vector drawing (such as Illustrator, AutoCAD / Vectorworks, Rhino)

- 3D modeling (such as SketchUp, Rhino)
- Mapping software (Google Earth Pro)
- Desktop publishing software (InDesign / Adobe Acrobat)
- Presentation software (e.g. InDesign, PowerPoint / Keynote, video players)

Course Schedule:

Date	In-Class / Lecture	Assignment / Deadlines
Sep 11	Introductions, expectations, discussion, Term outline Lecture: Urban Design Overview Kick-off to team Assignment 1: Urban Design Analysis	Begin Assignment 1 (Analysis) Project teams and study sites submitted by 5pm Friday
Sep18	No Class (Portland trip)	
Sep 25	Field Trip: meet at City Hall (9am sharp) Tour of City Hall/ Library/ East Village/ Bridgeland (return to U of C from Bridgeland Station) Kick-off to team Assignment 2: Points of View	Begin Assignment 2 (Points of View). Project Teams and debate positions submitted by 5pm Friday
Oct 2	Lecture: Urban Form 1 Walking / LRT tour of Transit Oriented Development (to be confirmed)	
Oct 9	Lecture: Urban Form 2 Walking tour of West Campus (to be confirmed) Kick-off to individual Assignment 3: Urban Design Manifestos	Begin Assignment 3 (Manifestos)
Oct 16	Block Week – no class	
Oct 23	Lecture: Battle of the ‘isms’ (Modernism, Post Modernism, New Urbanism, Landscape Urbanism, Sustainable Urban Team presentations	Assignment 1 presentations Deadline: Upload Manifesto (assignment 3) outlines to D2L by 5pm Friday October 26
Oct 30	Lecture: Urban Design - from Regions to Sites Team presentations	Assignment 1 presentations
Nov 6	Lecture: Big Projects Guest lecturer: James Robertson CEO West Campus Development Trust (University District) (tbc)	Assignment 1 presentations
Nov 13	No class - Fall Reading Week	
Nov 20	Lecture: Public Sector Urban Design guest lecturers: Sonny Tomic and David Down (City of Calgary) (tbc) (Doug away in NZ)	Deadline: Upload Assignment 2 (Debate) team positions to D2L by 5pm Friday Nov 23
Nov 27	Lecture: Private Sector Urban Design guest lecturer tbc Team Debate	Debates (assignment 2)

Dec 4	Lecture: Urban Design Review Team Debate	Debates (assignment 2) Deadline: Upload final Manifestos (Assignment 3) to D2L by 5:00pm Friday Dec 7th
Dec 11	Lecture: Bringing It All Together guest panel tbc Urban Design Manifestos – present and review Term wrap-up and debrief!	Present and review Manifestos (Pecha Kucha style presentations)

Note: dates, lectures and guest speakers subject to change.

Evaluation:

1) Public Space Analysis	30%
2) Points of View	35%
3) Urban Design Manifesto	35%
Total	100%
Bonus Assignment (optional)	5%

A passing grade (B-) in each section is required in order to pass the course as a whole. Work completed as a group or pair will receive a common grade unless it is clear to the instructor (or identified by the team at least one week prior to the due date) that the balance of the work has been unfairly distributed between team members. In this case the grading will be discussed with the team members in confidence.

All assignments will be evaluated by letter grades. Final course grades will be reported as letter grades, with a final grade calculated according to the four-point range as per the EVDS grading scheme. There will be no final examination. Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation of all course components.

Assignments:

Detailed briefs (to be handed out in class) will outline more specific requirements for all assignments.

1) Public Space Analysis

Students will document and analyse a public space and its context (your choice of location) based on the methods/ approach covered in the course and associated readings. This provides an opportunity to develop and refine skills in documentation and analysis; and to better understand and ‘test drive’ various theories of urban design.

Completed in pairs.

2) Points of View

This assignment involves deep consideration of a contemporary urban design issue, concern or challenge. It will also develop critical thinking skills and ability to present a clear and reasoned argument. Teams will select an issue to debate from a circulated list, and develop a reasoned, referenced argument, illustrated with slides. Students will have a choice of the issue to debate - and whether you will argue for or against the statement with justification from research, literature or case studies. Debates will be scheduled for the second half of the course. Each team will also submit a written, referenced summary of their

position including any supporting graphics. **Completed in teams of 2 to 3 students per debate position** (or side).

3) Urban Design Manifesto

This project provides an opportunity for each student to synthesize what they have learned in this class and others, and to reflect on urban design best practices both within Canada and internationally. Students will distil their learnings and relevant examples into a series of illustrated statements and present these in a standardized format. An outline (first draft) will be required in November with final Manifestos to be submitted prior to the final class. Each student will have to opportunity to present their position in rapid 'Pecha Kucha' style to the class and invited guests. **Completed individually.**

4) Bonus Assignment

An optional bonus assignment worth 5% will also be available to the class.

Readings:

Specific readings may be assigned. Students are encouraged to read widely from the general reference list below. It is expected that students will already have a general understanding of the history of cities. Students without this background are strongly advised to read Morris EEG (1979) *History of Urban Form*, Lewis Mumford (1961) *The City in History*, and/ or *Cities* (John Reader - 2004) early in the term. I also encourage you to read one of the urban design readers and take advantage of various online book resources (such as AbeBooks).

Budgetary considerations:

Any site visits in Calgary will be possible on foot or by LRT/ bus.

Grading:

EVDS 671 is a graded course. Incomplete (INC) and deferred term (DT) grades will be issued only for documented circumstances for which the student is clearly not able to complete the work due to significant illness, injury, etc. (please refer to Note #2 at the end of the syllabus). Evaluation will be based on the elements listed below. There will be no final examination. Assessment will be done on the basis of day-to-day performance as well as on the quality of work presented at reviews. While individual assignments and involvement are important, equally important is the student's ability to work effectively with others as a team. Some work will be completed individually with some completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups, unless it is determined by the instructional team that there has been an unfair distribution or unequal completion of work, in which case group members shall be evaluated individually. Attendance, teamwork and engagement are expected, as is active involvement in class discussions.

Timely Completion:

Unless agreed to by the Instructor on compassionate grounds, illness, or for reasons of academic accommodation (see note 2 below), assigned work that is handed in late will be penalized 10% of the total available grade per calendar day late (this includes weekends and holidays). Assignments more than two calendar days late will not be accepted and no credit will be given for them.

EVDS Grading Scale:

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Assignments will be evaluated by percentage grades, with their letter grade equivalents as shown.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	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	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Notes:

1. **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 GPA calculation, and both grades will appear on the transcript.
2. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission has been obtained from the instructor. Submissions must come from official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
3. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfill requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the designated contact person in EVDS, Jennifer Taillefer (jtaillef@ucalgary.ca). Students who require an accommodation unrelated to their coursework or the requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the Vice-Provost (Student Experience). For additional information visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
4. 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.

5. 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
6. Emergency Evacuation/ Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
7. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
8. Contact Info for: Student Union (<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/>); Graduate Student representative (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>)