



**COURSE NUMBER:** LAND 680.05 LEC 03 (replacing of APLA 682)  
**COURSE NAME:** CONTEXTS OF DESIGN PRACTICE RESEARCH

**Classroom:** Zoom  
**Class Dates:** Synchronous classes via Zoom: Tuesday 12:30 2:30pm MST  
(with the exception of Reading Week and other noted holidays). Other asynchronous assignments due as described in the project briefs, and for the November Symposium.

**Instructor:** Barry Wylant  
[bwylant@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bwylant@ucalgary.ca)  
PF2104; Office Hours: by appointment, via Zoom

**Email Policy:** Please note that all course communications should occur using your @ucalgary.ca email address. I will respond to emails within 2 business days.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Exploration of diverse contexts crucial to a research question and development of skills associated with the evaluation and use of extant research. The effects on design research of social, political, economic, and cultural contexts, as well as of academic and professional practices, are considered through the assessment of academic literature, case studies, and symposia presentations. The course illustrates how contexts impact the researcher, the research question, the choice of research methods, the dissemination of research, and other aspects of practice-based research.

**COURSE HOURS:** 3 Units

### **ONLINE DELIVERY / CLASS FORMAT**

This course will take place synchronously and online via Zoom (Tues 12:30 to 2:30pm MST) and will be supported by Desire2Learn (D2L). Students are required to participate in the synchronous Zoom classes, as per the noted times. Students will participate asynchronously, on their own time, to contribute to the D2L discussion board, watch videos, and to complete class assignments, projects and exercises, as required. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, a student is unable to participate in a live online session, please advise the instructor ahead of time via email.

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- 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;
- Broadband internet connection.

\*Note that most current laptops have built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Explore and investigate the variety of contexts that attend and inform design research questions; (including cultural, social, political, economic, theory and precedent contexts);
- To understand the role of context relative to design research & research methods;
- To understand the role of context in innovation;
- Develop diagramming / visualization and other design thinking skills to investigate such contexts;
- Use diagramming / design thinking approaches to synthesize effective research questions and insights regarding one's research objective;
- Prepare an analysis of context as part of the presentation at the November symposium.

## LEARNING RESOURCES / READINGS

The following readings provide useful reference/learning resources and are available via the library online or via D2L:

- Buchanan, Richard. "Wicked Problems in Design Thinking." *Design Issues*. 8, 2 (1995): 5-21
- Hara, Kenya. *Designing Design*. 2014. Lars Müller Publishers. (Chapter 8 "What is Design")
- Lupton, E. & Phillips, J.C. *Graphic Design: The New Basics: Second Edition, Revised and Expanded*. New York, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2015.
- Schön, Donald. "Knowing in Action: The New Scholarship Requires a New Epistemology." *Change*. 27,6 (1995): 26-34.
- Tanizaki, Jun'ichirō. *In Praise of Shadows*. 1977. Leete's Island Books.
- Ware, Collin. *Information Visualization: Perception for Design*. 2012. Elsevier Science & Technology.
- Wylant, Barry. "Design and Thoughtfulness." *Design Issues*. 32,1 (2016): 72-82

## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS / COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The course is evaluated based on submitted project assignments and there are ten assignments in total for the term:

P1	5%	Scripting Photography	Issued Aug 25	<b>Due Sep 08</b>
P2	15%	Urban Resource Project	Issued Sep 08	<b>Due Sep 22</b>
P3	15%	Precedent Context Project	Issued Sep 22	<b>Due Oct 06</b>
P4	45%	Thesis Context Project	Issued Oct 06	<b>Due Dec 01</b>
P5	20%	Reflective Paper	Issued Oct 20	<b>Due Dec 14</b>

**Attendance and Participation Expectations:** Given the seminar/project format for the course, attendance for all classes is expected.

**Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:** All assignments will be due in class on the noted due date. Additionally, all assignments must be submitted digitally to the designated Dropbox on D2L on the prescribed due date, in pdf format, including images of projects, pdf presentations and papers.

**Final Examinations:** There is no final examination for this course.

**Expectations for Writing** (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>): Students are expected to write at a graduate level, demonstrating a highly proficient and professional use of English, proper citation methods, and compliance with academic regulations to negate instances of plagiarism and academic misconduct.

**Late Assignments:** Late submission of project assignments will result in a half grade penalty, per day late. After 10 days late, the assignment will receive an 'F' grade. Note that in rare circumstances, students may seek an extension for a particular project. Students should advise the instructor as soon as the need is known.

**Criteria that must be met to pass:** students must complete all assignments by the prescribed due dates to pass.

## TOPIC AREAS AND DETAILED CLASS SCHEDULE

Pre-Course	Aug 25	Issue Course Outline & P1	<i>P1 Issued</i>
Week 1	Sep 08	Course Outline, discussion of P1 & P2	<i>P2 Issued</i>
Week 2	Sep 15	P2 Interim Discussion	
Week 3	Sep 22	<b>P2 Due:</b> Discussion	<i>P3 Issued</i>
Week 4	Sep 28	P3 Interim Discussion	
Week 5	Oct 06	<b>P3 Due:</b> Discussion	<i>P4 Issued</i>
Week 6	Oct 12 Oct 13	THANKSGIVING P4 Interim Discussion	
Week 7	Oct 20	P4 Interim Discussion	<i>P5 Issued</i>
Week 8	Oct 27	P4 Interim Discussion	
Week 9	Nov 03	P4 Interim Discussion	
Week 10	Nov 09 - 13	NO CLASS READING DAYS	
Week 11	Nov 17 Nov 20-22	P4 Pre-Symposium Interim <b>SYMPOSIUM</b>	
Week 12	Nov 24	P4 Post Symposium discussion	
Week 13	Dec 01	P4 Post Symposium discussion	
Week 14	Dec 08	<b>P4 Due: Discussion</b>	
Post Course:	Dec 14	<b>P5 Due:</b> uploaded to D2L	

## GRADE SCALE

Final grades shall be reported as letter grades, correlating to the grade point value as per column 2 below. Final grades shall be calculated according to the 4-point range as noted in column 3. Assignments calculated by percentage grades will use the equivalent values shown in column 4.

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	

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.

## GUIDELINES / CONDUCT FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

Students are expected to participate actively in all Zoom sessions and to turn on their webcam. Please join our class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in the Zoom sessions. Student must behave in a professional manner during the session. Students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and

respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor in advance to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review the recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

**COVID-19 PROCEDURE FOR SICK STUDENTS:** <https://ucalgary.ca/risk/sites/default/files/Covid-19%20Folder/COVID-19-Procedure-for-Sick-Students.pdf>

### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The Student Accommodations policy is available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS 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/](http://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 Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>  
<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://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 ([www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf)) 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 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 violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual 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/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

#### **UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE**

If a student has a concern about the course, academic matter, or a grade that they have been assigned, they must first communicate this concern with the instructor. If the concern cannot be resolved with the instructor, the student can proceed with an academic appeal, which normally begins with the Faculty. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/student-appeals>

#### **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