



Urban Design Studio
Zurich: People and Design
Zürich, Switzerland

PLAN 616

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Description of the Course

With a limited amount of land available for development Switzerland has been forced to increase the efficiency of land use and to find ways to densify without compromising the high standard of living. Large amounts of land are dedicated to natural conservation and agricultural practices, leaving the remaining land for urban development. This course aims to develop an understanding of how the Canton and City of Zurich preserve and manage land.

The course is centred around experiential learning with a combination of site visits, invited lecturers and research projects. The class will spend time on site as well as documenting, researching and gathering spatial data that will inform and provide background on what is observed on site. Guided walking tours will explore the different areas of the city and will be guided by the instructor as well as by invited guests. As a way of understanding the region we will also visit a couple of communities that are part of the greater Zurich area.

Students will develop skills in the analysis of neighbourhood form using a morphological approach. They will explore and spatially analyze the different components that make a complete neighbourhood. They will critically analyze what makes a neighbourhood vibrant, diverse and livable. They will develop typological studies to better understand the different building, open space and landscape types.

Learning Resources

Recommended readings, materials and data sources will be provided on site. Some online resources include:

Overview of Switzerland

https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/ch/Documents/tax/ch-tax-deloitte_Living_and_working_in_Switzerland_2018.pdf

Overview of Zurich

https://awa.zh.ch/internet/volkswirtschaftsdirektion/awa/en/standortfoerderung/lebensraum/_jcr_content/contentPar/downloadlist/downloaditems/2191_1503661875697.spooler.download.1503661503347.pdf/zuerichabisz_e.pdf

Online GIS Mapping

<http://maps.zh.ch/?>

<http://maps.zh.ch/?topic=CMS3ZH&scale=6000&x=683297.5&y=248397&markers=none,683311,248340,30,-1> Spatial

Planning in Switzerland

<https://www.are.admin.ch/are/de/home/medien-und-publikationen/publikationen/staedte-und-agglomerationen/raumplanung-in-der-urbanen-schweiz.html>

Course Learning Outcomes

1. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the basic concepts of urban design at different scales and how it impacts the quality of public life.
2. To develop an understanding of the local challenges in land management and densification, including the conservation of natural assets and agricultural land.
3. To expose students to the diversity of the planning and design approaches taken by the City of Zurich, the Canton of Zurich and some of the neighbouring cities within the region.
4. To build an understanding of the different points of view from the different actors involved in the urban development process.

Assessment Components

Evaluation will be based on two assignments. The work will be completed individually and in groups. To pass the course students need to pass all assignments. Class participation will not be evaluated directly but it is a key component of the grade for each deliverable. Participation in all site visits, lectures and studio work is expected. Any anticipated absence should be communicated to the teaching team as soon as possible.

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Dissection of a City - Neighbourhood Morphology (3-week group assignment)	This first assignment is intended to explore and critically analyze the different elements that form the built environment of the city. Students will focus on a study site that could represent a sample of general conditions of Zurich. This analysis will take into consideration the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the neighbourhood's physical form and sociodemographic composition.	45%	1,2,3 and 4
Positive Intervention - Conceptual Design Exercise (4-week individual assignment)	This second assignment is intended to use design as a tool for critical thinking. This assignment will focus on the design phase. It is a compact design process intended to incorporate the key elements of urban design into a comprehensive design solution. It is intended to be an exercise in summarizing ideas into what could be a design solution and to exercise creativity based on your learning from the site exploration.	55%	1,2,3 and 4

Assessment and Evaluation Information

Attendance and Participation Expectations:

Participation in all site visits, lectures and studio time is expected. Any anticipated absence should be communicated to the teaching team as soon as possible.

Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:

Specific guidelines for each assignment will be included on each assignment brief.

Final Examinations:

There won't be a final examination

Expectations for Writing (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>):

All writing included in the assignments should be original work of the student and include references when appropriate (see subsection on Academic Misconduct).

Late Assignments:

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-.

Criteria that must be met to pass:

In order to pass the course students are required to complete all assignments and achieve a combined passing grade.

Grading Scale

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	Percentage	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.

Media and Recordings in Learning Environments

Part 1

University Calendar: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>

Recording of lectures (other than audio recordings that are pre-arranged as part of an authorized accommodation) is not permitted.

Students may not record any portion of a lecture, class discussion or course-related learning activity without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor or authorization from Student Accessibility Services. For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed. Any use other than that described above constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.

Part 2

The instructor will notify all students and guests in the class that the event is being recorded. If a student or guest wants to take steps to protect privacy, and does not want to be recorded, the instructor will provide the individual (s) with an alternative means of participating and asking questions (e.g., passing written notes with questions). Students cannot be penalized for choosing not to be recorded in situations where participation is part of the course. Students must be offered other ways of earning participation credit that do not involve recording.

Any video-recording would be intended to only capture the instructor and the front of the classroom. Students/other participants would not necessarily be visible on video recordings.

University of Calgary Policy and Support

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact

Student Accessibility Services; 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/. 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.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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, (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. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.

For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

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) 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.

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.

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://ucalgary.ca/student-appeals/>

More student support and resources (e.g. safety and wellness) can be found here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>