

Site Graphics

EVDS 697.03 Q(3-0)

Winter 2019

Instructor

Matt Knapik

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Days & Times

Mondays + Wednesdays

09:00 - 12:50

PF2160

Course Description

A thoughtful practice in site design and representation is a foundational component of good urban design. Contemporary cities and landscapes are heavily articulated, regulated, and interdependent; to this challenge designers must bring strategies that are specific, critical, and coherent.

Projects that ignore (or perhaps worse, under-think) their sites fundamentally fail to capture value from their most immediate and tangible touchpoints. When many such projects are found grouped in an area, we might call that a *bad city*.

Site graphics are the tools that enable designers to 'read and write' site considerations into their work. They tell stories about a site that impact decisions at all phases of the design process. Sometimes the stories are analytical, other times emotive, and other times technical and prescriptive. Designers must equip themselves with a strong graphic practice in all of these domains.

EVDS 697.03: Site Graphics is an intensive workshop in which students hone their skills and instincts in the design and representation of site. It takes place over five days at the CBDLab in downtown Calgary.

2019 Thematic

Calgary's 'middle-ring' neighbourhoods—the city's first-wave suburbs generally developed between 1960 and 1990—share a common open space pattern: a large green area that contains schools, sport fields, natural areas, community centres, and other civic institutions. These neighbourhoods are currently undergoing their first generational shift, presenting an opportunity to re-imagine these open spaces with a renewed emphasis on ecological performance and public life.

In this workshop, we will use these middle-ring green spaces to build a stronger practice in formal site strategies and explore a range of modes of site representation.

Course Objectives

In this course, students will:

1. Explore a range of precedents in site design and representation.
2. Gather site information from various sources and file-types, and explore ways of managing and manipulating this information in design workflowss
3. Expand their software practices in support of clear, compelling, and defensible representations of site in their projects.
4. Produce a graphic project that demonstrates technical capacity and thoughtful application of design precedent.
5. Exhibit their work at the EVDS Downtown Campus.

Teaching Approach

The class will meet every morning from 0900 to 1200 at the CBDLab. Each session will be comprised of tutorial and review, with incremental deliverables set for the following session. The class will work toward an exhibition of graphic explorations of site for Friday afternoon, where guests will join us to review the final submissions and help celebrate the week's work.

Schedule

The class will meet in the mornings, but students are expected to complete work throughout the week and meet all deliverable deadlines.

Monday March 11	0900 – 1200 @ CBDLab	Class intro & course outline review Assignment overview, all sites distributed Tutorial 1: Gathering and parsing site data
Tuesday March 12	0900 – 1200 @ CBDLab	Tutorial 2: 2D methods in site graphics Exercise 1 & 2 Due Exhibition planning
Wednesday March 13	0900 – 1200 @ CBDLab	Tutorial 3: 3D methods in site graphics Lecture: Methods and precedents in site graphics Interim Pinup A
Thursday March 14	0900 – 1200 @ CBDLab	Tutorial 4: Production techniques in site graphics Interim Pinup B
Friday March 15	0900 – 1600 @ CBDLab	Exhibition setup Final assignment review CBDLab Party

Textbooks, Equipment, and Software

No textbooks are required for this class. Brief readings may be assigned and PDFs will be made available. Students are expected to have their own laptop computers and bring them to class. Print availability at the CBDLab will be limited; print deliverables will be limited and there are a range of print shops within walking distance of the studio, all of which open at 8am or earlier. We will be one of the first courses hosted entirely at the new CBDLab, so we'll have to be flexible and open to the constraints and opportunities of the location. I will be there to support you in this regard; please keep the lines of communication open.

Required software is listed below (additional plugins, as necessary, may be integrated into some exercises):

- Digital Camera (mobile phone cameras OK)
- Creative Suite
- Rhino 3D (v6, PC preferred)
- Google Earth Pro
- Sketchup 2018 or 2019

Assignment Weighting

Participation - 50%

Attendance - /1

Exercise 1 - /1

Exercise 2 - /1

Interim Pinup A - /1

Interim Pinup B - /1

Final Assignment - 50%

Technique - /25%

Info & Precision - /25%

Communication - /25%

Craft & Completeness - /25%

Means of Evaluation

The final assignment will be assessed according to the following categories.

Technique

(project demonstrates proficiency in the tools; correct tools are used to solve problems)

Information & Precision

(project demonstrates rigour, clarity, accuracy and shows an appropriate amount of detail)

Communication

(project is sensitive to story-telling, hierarchy, tone, and overall coherence)

Craft & Completeness

(project deliverables are present, outputs are well-crafted, overall care is evident)

Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Point	Percent Grade Range
A+	4.0	95-100
A	4.0	90-94.99
A-	3.7	85-89.99
B+	3.3	80-84.99
B	3.0	75-79.99
B-	2.7	70-74.99
C+	2.3	65-69.99
C	2.0	60-64.99
C-	1.7	55-59.99
D+	1.3	50-54.99
D	1.0	45-49.99
F	0.0	0-44.99

Note

All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.

Answering Questions

To make it easier for you to get answers to your questions, and to help us all manage the curve balls that life throws our way over the term, we have created a series of quick resolution guides. These should be pursued in order, from left to right, to make sure all avenues are adequately explored.

A. Software Tool Questions – i.e. how do I create a group in Illustrator?

Help files > Classmates > Google > Find another way

B. Course Organization & Evaluation Questions – i.e. how will this assignment be evaluated?

Course outline & assignment briefs > Matt

C. Theory / Concept Questions – i.e. what do you mean by contour lines?

Classmates > Matt

Extensions and Other Issues

To notify the instructor of an issue impacting your ability to complete coursework on time, or to request an extension, please send an e-mail containing the information in the bullets below. Submission of an e-mail does not guarantee an extension. The instructor commits to responding to e-mail within 24 hours. In your message, please include:

- Your full name & student number.
- A brief explanation of the issue.
- Your proposed solution to the issue (i.e. if requesting an extension, suggest a suitable replacement deadline).

Other 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. Academic Accommodations. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil 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 on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/
 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. Appeals: 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: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/appeals>
 5. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>)
 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(<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/about-the-gsa/gsa-executive-board/>) Student Union Wellness Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>; Library Resources: <http://library.ucalgary.ca/> and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>).
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