

Advanced Professional Planning Project

Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 2-5:40 pm

EVDP644 F(1.5-4)

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Introduction

This course is an advanced studio exploring contemporary themes in planning and professional planning practice. It is centred on an existing community need; involves analysis, synthesis, and formulation of a planning or urban design solution; and 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.

The class will partner with the Community Association, the departments of Planning and Neighbourhood Services from the City of Calgary and the Federation of Calgary Communities. A series of public participation events will be included as well as stakeholder meetings and reviews.

Objectives

- To develop an approach and methodology for understanding the challenges of evolving established neighbourhoods that are facing pressure for redevelopment
- To design and integrate a public participation process with the members of the community and stakeholders involved in the neighbourhood
- To propose and detail strategies and designs that provide a framework for land use, density and urban design in the neighbourhood
- To develop a comprehensive report that addresses with detailed concepts, guidelines and recommendation all the issues identified by the research and the public participation process

Teaching Approach

The project will be completed in groups and individually. 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.

Reviews and presentations of the different work plan phases will be attended by the stakeholders involved, including the Community Association and City of Calgary planning staff. Students are expected to attend all presentations and reviews.

Project: Marda Loop Neighbourhood Design

Project Site

Marda Loop, Calgary

Project Description

This project deals with a neighbourhood in Calgary's southwest that is in transition from its current condition and character. Marda Loop is a neighbourhood established back in the early 1900s when it was conceived as a streetcar-oriented community. Currently it has been experiencing changes in demographics and pressure for redevelopment.

In the next years, this area could undergo a significant transformation with new residential development, 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 final deliverable for this course will be a land use/urban design concept plan that addresses all the issues identified during the analysis process. The plan should be considered as a potential framework for a future Area Redevelopment Plan.

The following challenges will be analyzed and addressed:

- Marda Loop character and identity that recognizes its heritage as well as its unique location
- Enhancing mobility and safe linkages for pedestrians within the community
- Guidelines for the appropriate redevelopment of main streets
- Assess options for enhancing the community open space system
- Assess impact and implementation guidelines for residential redevelopment

Project Background

The neighbourhood of Marda Loop is an established community in Calgary that includes the communities of South Calgary, Altadore, Garrison Woods, and River Park. It is bound by the communities of Bankview to the north, the community of North Glenmore Park and the Glenmore Reservoir to the south, the communities of Upper Mount Royal, Elbow Park and the Elbow River to the east and Crowchild Trail to the west. It is well located close to the Glenmore Reservoir and the 14th Street commercial corridor. The neighbourhood is connected to the city centre by the 14th Street corridor making it a desirable residential neighbourhood with a potential for an increase in density and 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

As part of the project development stakeholders will be consulted in different ways using focus group, interviews, a workshop and an open house. The main stakeholders involved in this project include:

- Marda Loop Community members (public at large)
- Marda Loop Community Association
- Federation of Calgary Communities
- The City of Calgary (Planning, Neighbourhood Services and Transportation Departments)
- Developers and business owners involved in the area

Skills

Students will gain skills in context analysis of the built and natural environment, community profiling and sociodemographic analysis, design of urban spaces, public participation processes and development of implementation strategies and policies. The project will require the use of skills previously acquired in other program courses and new research methods will be developed tailored to each project site.

Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on six project landmarks. The work will be completed in groups (maximum of three). 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 all grades 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. Physical Model	10%
4. Draft Concept	20%
5. Final Presentation	20%
6. Final Documents	20%
Total	100%

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.

Students are expected to complete all course assignments on time. There will be no final exam. Students must obtain an overall passing grade to pass this course, however, if a student fails any phase of the course worth 20% or more they will fail the course. A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded may have the paper re-graded. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within fifteen days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. More information can be found in the Graduate Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-o.html>

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.

Readings

Recommended resources:

American Planning Association. *Planning and Urban Design Standards*. Wiley Graphic Standards, 2006
 Barton, Grant, Guise. *Shaping Neighbourhoods, for local health and global sustainability*. Routledge, 2010
 Bullivant, Lucy. *Masterplanning Futures*. Routledge, 2012
 Dunham-Jones, Williamson. *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*. Wiley, 2008
 Hutchison, Edward. *Drawing for Landscape Architecture. Sketch to Screen to Site*. Thames & Hudson 2011
 Leung, Hok-Lin. *Land Use Planning Made Plain*. University of Toronto Press, 2003
 Lukez, Paul. *Suburban Transformations*. Princeton Architectural Press, 2007
 UK Housing Corporation. *Urban Design Compendium (vol. 1 and 2)* 2007
 Wheeler, Stephen M. *Planning for Sustainability. Creating livable, equitable and ecological communities*. Routledge, 2013
Additional resources will be provided throughout the course.

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. 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 (<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/contact/>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/>).