

Introduction to Environmental Design

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Office location and office hours Online via email

Introduction

An examination of the central concepts of environmental design, delivered in an online format. Topics include: the natural, built and human environments, and interdisciplinary issues.

Design is everywhere. It is part of your everyday communication, your household, your workplace. Design is also a complex concept. It is both a process and the result of that process -- the shape, style and meaning of environments that have been designed.

Many factors influence the design process: the location, the environmental issues, the relationship with its surroundings, the ideas of the designer, technological determinants, the cultural context that gave rise to the need for the project in the first place and finally the political and the legislative context that will frame the design.

Environmental Design is concerned with the built, natural, and human environments and focuses on fashioning physical and social interventions informed by human behavior and environmental processes. Therefore it includes fields such as architecture, planning, urban design, environmental science, product design and landscape architecture.

Objectives

1. To achieve an holistic understanding of the issues relevant to environmental design;
2. To acquire a basic knowledge of the various fields involved in design of the Environment;
3. To understand how an interdisciplinary approach can be used to solve complex problems;
4. To apply "design thinking" to a small but important problems of personal interest;
5. To become familiar with the various career paths and educational options relevant to the fields of Environmental Design.

Teaching Approach

This course will be offered online using the University of Calgary Desire2Learn (D2L) platform, which is where all course documents will be located. All assignments are to be submitted electronically through the D2L system.

The course will be divided into four broad topic areas -- natural, built, human (social and cultural environment) environments, and interdisciplinary aspects. It will utilize short video lectures by experts in their relevant area of expertise followed by study of and individual response to online materials.

Assignments related to each major topic area will be due on a weekly basis (see schedule.) Learners will need access to the Internet and a computer capable of playing video and audio content. Suitable facilities are available on campus (e.g. at the TFDL) though, of course, your own computer, tablet, etc. can be used.

Content: Topic Areas & Detailed Class Schedule (subject to change)

Course week starts each Wednesday and ends the following Wednesday at 2359. To be considered on time please submit your assignment by that time.

There will be no class activity from November 8-11 as it is Reading Week. The assignment for that week will be distributed one week early to provide time to work on it without interfering with Reading Week.

Late assignments will be accepted up until the Final Deadline (December 10, 2014 @2359) but may be penalized for lateness as shown below. Please try to keep up!

Week	Start Date	Topic	Presenter	Asst. due
1	Sept 10	Intro to course and Arch.	Dr. David Monteyne	Sept 17 @2359
2	Sept 17	E-visit to an Architecture Firm	Prof. Marc Boutin	Sept 24 @2359
3	Sept 24	Critical Residential Practice	Prof. John Brown	Oct 1 @2359
4	Oct 1	Landscape Architecture	Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand	Oct 8 @2359
5	Oct 8	Smart Communities	Dr. Tom Keenan	Oct 15 @2359
6	Oct 15	Sustainable Cities	Dr. Noel Keough	Oct 22 @2359
7	Oct 22	Urban Design	Dr. Bev Sandalack	Oct 29 @2359
8	Oct 29	Industrial Design	Prof. Denis Gadbois	Nov 5 @2359
9	Oct 29	Technology	Prof. Barry Wylant	Nov 12 @2359
10	Nov 12	Visualization	Dr. Richard Levy	Nov 19 @2359
11	Nov 19	Environmental Science	Dr. Mike Quinn	Nov 26 @2359
12	Nov 26	Lifecycle Assessment	Dr. Getachew Assefa	Dec 3 @2359
13		FINAL DEADLINE		Dec 10 @2359

Means of Evaluation

The course evaluation will be based on assignments and online participation. Students will complete a written assignment and submit it electronically each week as shown on the schedule above. Late assignments will be accepted up until the Final Deadline of 2359, April 14, 2014, but may be penalized one full grade (e.g. A to B).

Grading will follow the Undergraduate Grading System chart in the University of Calgary Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>

Grades and comments will be returned online through the D2L system.

Weighting

12 assignments @ 7.5% each for a total of	90%
Class participation over the term	10%
Total	100%

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Assignment and participation grades will be also reported as letter grades (A+, A, A- etc.) Percentage grading will not be used in this course. It is not necessary to pass any particular component to pass the course as a whole.

There is no final examination.

Class participation grade will be evaluated based on the quality and quantity of online discussion in the media specified by the instructors. To obtain full marks in the Participation component, students should make at least one timely, relevant, interesting and non-trivial posting each week

Readings

All required materials will be supplied electronically, though students are encouraged to supplement their work with other research materials they find.

Special Budgetary Requirements

None, aside from having access to a suitable computer which can be accomplished by using the "on campus" facilities.

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. The Academic Accommodations Policy can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>. It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403.220.6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
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 (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/contact>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).