

Introduction to Environmental Design

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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.

Introduction

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 natural, built 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 problem 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 generally starts each Wednesday and generally 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 11-15 due to Reading Days. The assignment for that week will be distributed early to provide time to work on it.

Late assignments will be accepted up until the Final Deadline (December 8, 2015 @2359) but may be penalized for lateness as shown below. Please try to keep up!

Week	Start Date	Topic	Presenter	Asst. due
1	Sept 9	Intro to course and Arch.	Dr. David Monteyne	Sept 16 @2359
2	Sept 16	E-visit to an Architecture Firm	Prof. Marc Boutin	Sept 23 @2359
3	Sept 23	Critical Residential Practice	Prof. John Brown	Sept 30 @2359
4	Sept 30	Landscape Architecture	Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand	Oct 7 @2359
5	Oct 7	Smart Communities	Dr. Tom Keenan	Oct 14 @2359
6	Oct 14	Sustainable Cities	Dr. Noel Keough	Oct 21 @2359
7	Oct 21	Urban Design	Dr. Bev Sandalack	Oct 28 @2359
8	Oct 28	Industrial Design	Prof. Denis Gadbois	Nov 4 @2359
9	Oct 28	Technology	Prof. Barry Wylant	Nov 18 @2359
10	Nov 18	Visualization	Dr. Richard Levy	Nov 25 @2359
11	Nov 25	Environmental Science	Dr. Mike Quinn	Dec 2 @2359
12	Dec 1	Lifecycle Assessment	Dr. Getachew Assefa	Dec 8 @2359
13		FINAL DEADLINE		Dec 8 @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, December 8, 2015, but may be penalized one full grade (e.g. A to B).

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	

Notes:

Please note that this is different from the Undergraduate Grading System chart in the University of Calgary Calendar

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>

This is because (as noted in that section of the Calendar) "University policy requires that students' grades in a course are reported according to the grading scheme of the faculty giving the course (regardless of the faculty in which a student is registered) and are so recorded on students' transcripts of record."

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

There is no final examination.

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.

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. 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 (jtaillefer@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 offense. 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>).