

## Introduction to Environmental Design

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### 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 problem of personal interest.

## Teaching Approach

This course will be offered online. The majority of the study and interaction will be done asynchronously (on your own schedule) but some opportunity may be provided for synchronous interaction with the instructor and other learners on an optional basis.

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 February 16-23 as it is Reading Week but the instructor will be available for assistance via email during that period.

Late assignments will be accepted up until the Final Deadline (April 14, 2014 @2359) but will be penalized for lateness as shown below. Please try to keep up!

Week	Start Date	Topic	Presenter	Asst. due
1	Jan 8	Intro to course and Arch.	Dr. David Monteyne	Jan 15 @2359
2	Jan 15	E-vist to Arch. Firm	Prof. Marc Boutin	Jan 22 @2359
3	Jan 22	Critical Residential Practice	Prof. John Brown	Jan 29 @2359
4	Jan 29	Landscape Arch.	Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand	Feb 5 @2359
5	Feb 5	Smart Communities	Dr. Tom Keenan	Feb 12 @2359
6	Feb 12	Sustainable Cities	Dr. Noel Keough	Feb 26@2359 (due to Reading Week)
7	Feb 26	Urban Design	Dr. Bev Sandalack	Mar 5 @2359
8	Mar 5	Industrial Design	Prof. Denis Gadbois	Mar 12 @2359
9	Mar 12	Technology	Prof. Barry Wylant	Mar 19 @2359
10	Mar 19	Visualization	Dr. Richard Levy	Mar 26 @2359
11	Mar 26	Environmental Science	Dr. Mike Quinn	Apr 2 @2359
12	Apr 2	Lifecycle Assessment	Dr. Getachew Assefa	Apr 9 @2359
13		FINAL DEADLINE		Apr 14 @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 will be penalized one full grade (e.g. A to B).

Assignment grades will be returned online.

## 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, non-trivial posting about each of the weekly topics.

## Readings

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

## Special Budgetary Requirements

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

## Grading Scale

Final grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range. Percentage grades will not be used in this course.

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	92.5-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	85-92.49	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	80-84.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	76-79.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	73-75.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-72.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	66-69.99	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	63-65.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	60-62.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	56-59.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	50-55.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-49.99	

Notes:

The above requirements of a minimum passing grade of B- are directed at graduate students only.

### 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. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>) Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. 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>).