

Instructor: Dr. Thomas P. Keenan, FCIPS, I.S.P.

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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 social, economic, political and the legislative context that will frame the design. New tools, such as augmented reality are continually being developed that change the nature of our practice.

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 evidence-based, holistic understanding of the issues relevant to environmental design;
2. To acquire basic skills in the various disciplines of environmental design;
3. To understand how an interdisciplinary approach can be used to solve complex problems;
4. To apply "design thinking" to small but important issues of personal interest;
5. To become familiar with the various career paths and educational options relevant to the disciplines 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, and comments and grades will be returned through D2L.

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, smartphone, tablet, etc. can be used.

Readings

All required readings will be provided on D2L, though students are free to consult additional resources and to cite them. The use of references, where appropriate, is encouraged in this course, and will be considered in grading.

Special Budgetary Requirements

None

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 February 18 to 25, 2018 because of Mid-Term Break. The due dates for the assignments are adjusted accordingly.

Late assignments will be accepted up until the Final Deadline (April 11, 2018 @2359) but may be penalized for lateness. Please try to keep up!

The planned week by week course topics and presenters are shown below, but are subject to change, so please consult the online material each week as it is opened up on D2L each Wednesday.

Week	Start Date	Topic	Presenter(s)	Asst. due
1	Jan 10	Intro to course and to Architecture	Dean J. Brown Dr. D. Monteyne	Jan 17 @2359
2	Jan 17	Arch. Practice & Bldg. Structures	Prof. M. Boutin Prof. M. Soto-Rubio	Jan 24 @2359
3	Jan 24	Critical Practice	Dr. J. Brown Prof. J. Taron	Jan 31 @2359
4	Jan 31	Landscape Architecture	Dr. N. Pollock-Ellwand	Feb 7 @2359
5	Feb 7	Smart/Intelligent Communities	Dr. T. Keenan	Feb 14 @2359
6	Feb 14	Sustainable Cities	Dr. N. Keough	Feb 28 @2359
7	Feb 28	Urban Design	Dr. B. Sandalack	Mar 7 @2359
8	Mar 7	Industrial Design	Prof. D. Gadbois	Mar 14 @2359
9	Mar 14	Technology & Data Science	Prof. B. Wylant Dr. P. Galpern	Mar 21 @2359
10	Mar 21	Visualization	Dr. R. Levy	Mar 28 @2359
11	Mar 28	Environmental Science	Dr. M. Quinn Dr. P. Galpern	Apr 4 @2359
12	Apr 4	The Edge of Cities & Lifecycle Assessment	Practitioner-in-residence H. Harker Dr. G. Assefa	Apr 11 @2359
		Final Deadline:	Apr 11, 2018 @2359	

Means of Evaluation

The final grade in this course will be based on assignments and participation in online class discussions. Students will complete a written assignment and submit it electronically as shown on the schedule above. Late assignments will be accepted up until the Final Deadline of 2359, April 11, 2018, but may be penalized up to one full grade (e.g. A to B). Assignments not submitted by the final deadline will receive a grade of F.

Class participation will be evaluated based on the quality and quantity of online D2L discussion, which should build upon the topics presented in that week. Posting of relevant resources that may be helpful to the other students in the class is particularly encouraged. To obtain full marks in the participation component, students should make at least one timely, thoughtful, relevant, interesting and non-trivial posting each week.

There is no final examination.

Writing quality (clarity, spelling, grammar, etc.) will form part of the basis for assignment and discussion evaluation. You are encouraged to go beyond the minimum requirements of the assignments, e.g. by providing properly-cited references where appropriate, and by making your submissions clear, thorough, and visually attractive.

Weighting

12 assignments @ 7.5% each for a total of 90%
Class participation, on a regular basis, 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 used by the Faculty of Environmental Design. Assignment and participation grades will be also reported as letter grades (A+, A, A- etc.) Percentage grading will not be used in this course. Your "grade to date" (taking into account all work that has been submitted and graded) should be visible to you on D2L. It is not necessary to pass any particular component to pass the course as a whole.

Grades are to be interpreted according to the chart shown below, which is the official grading scheme of the Faculty of Environmental Design. **Please note that this grading scheme may differ from that of the faculty in which you are registered.** In particular it is significantly different from the Undergraduate Grading System chart in the University of Calgary Calendar <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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

Grading Scale of the Faculty of Environmental Design

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	

For students registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies ONLY: 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.

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 fulfill 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/>).