

Urban Design Studio

EVDS 618 H (0-8)

Winter 2014 Tuesday and Friday 14:00 - 17:50

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Teaching Assistant: Ansbert Abobo Monah

Introduction

This studio aims to further develop skills in conceptualization and visualization through consideration of contemporary urban design issues. It includes documentation and analysis of urban form and process, and explores site planning and design of the public realm. Issues of local and regional identity and sustainability inform the approach of the studio. Development of a portfolio will be a requirement of the course.

Prerequisites: EVDP 625 or permission of the instructor

Objectives

1. To gain experience in documenting, analyzing and understanding urban form and its evolution
2. To develop knowledge of key concepts and principles of urban design and their application through the exploration of an approach and methodology for urban design
3. To develop the ability to address issues and opportunities at the urban scale in three-dimensional form through a process of design development
4. To gain experience in graphic thinking and communication as it relates to urban design

The course aims for students to engage with highly complex urban design challenges and to achieve levels of resolution well beyond their previous studio assignments, while critically engaging and challenging their own design processes. Students are required to take a clear position on the issues at stake and articulate that position visually and spatially through their own individual project. All assignment work will be project-based, with each of the stages building upon one another to produce a final design that demonstrates technical, theoretical, ecological and spatial competencies.

Teaching Approach

This course follows a studio-based format and is structured to allow students to develop a greater understanding of new design processes & methodologies as they relate to urban design specifically and the urban environment in general. The studio is largely self-directed, that is, you must work to uncover the project rather than being assigned one. Students are required to participate in the discussion of design ideas and processes at a class, group and individual level.

Content

1. Seminar based discussions

Throughout the semester, discussions based on assigned readings will be undertaken. It is the responsibility of the student to read the articles and to engage in discussion. Topics will include:

- urban design
- city form (urban morphology, typology and spatial structure)
- the importance of the public realm, public vs private interest, homogenization of public space
- urban corridors - analysis and methods for urban analysis

2. Skill-building

Each part of the larger urban design project will be tied specifically to a skill or technique that the student will be able to explore. Details will be included in the project handout.

3. Major project

A program and objectives for a site in Calgary will provide the primary means of developing urban design skills, and will involve exploration and communication through analysis and conceptualization, utilizing various drawing and modeling techniques.

4. Portfolio

Students will compose/compile a portfolio that is a record of the work of the semester and a reflection of the design process that has been developed.

Graphics and Computer Skills

Students should have some previous background with the following:

- image editing software, such as Photoshop
- vector drawing software, such as Illustrator, AutoCAD, Rhino
- 3D modeling software, such as SketchUp, Rhino
- desk top publishing software, such as InDesign
- presentation software, such as PowerPoint, Keynote
- GIS might also be useful but will not be required or taught in this course. Please consult the university calendar for various GIS courses.

Model-making will be included in some parts of the course, and will be able to be completed outside of the EVDS workshop and will not require specialized materials or tools. Any students choosing to utilize the EVDS workshop are required to complete the workshop safety course (please consult the EVDS website under Resources>Workshop).

Schedule

A course schedule will be provided at the beginning of the semester. There will be no classes during Block Week. The **final studio meeting will be Friday 11 April 2014**, and the **final review will be scheduled during the period 17 April - 29 April 2014**. A specific schedule will be provided with the project handout.

Means of Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the elements listed below. There will be no final examination. Assessment will be done on the basis of day-to-day performance as well as on the quality of work presented at reviews. While the *product* of studio work is important, equally important is the student's ability to develop a practical, appropriate and coherent planning and design *process*. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of each studio period.

Each component of the course must be completed, and a passing grade (i.e. minimum B-, or the 4-point or percentage equivalent) achieved, in order to pass the course as a whole. Because the studio work is evaluated during the interim and final reviews, all work must be completed on time, and all students must take part in the presentations and reviews. Late pinning up/submission of material to be presented in studio reviews is not acceptable (grades will be deducted for work pinned up or submitted later than the deadline specified in the course/project brief or as discussed in class). Some work will be completed individually with some completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups. Attendance and engagement are expected as a requirement for progress in design, and is characterized by active involvement in the work and discussions.

1. Major project (group work)	
corridor analysis	15%
preliminary masterplan (conceptual)	15%
final masterplan	20%
2. Major project (individual work)	
Design development	20%
Final individual design	20%
3. Portfolio - design process / reflection	10%
Total	100%

Special Budgetary Considerations

Site visits will be possible on foot or by LRT. Required base maps and air photos will be provided, or will be available from the MADGIC Centre or on-line, and any additional information and associated costs will be at the discretion of the student. Students should have basic drawing tools (pencils, a small selection of markers, scales, sketch rolls, other paper, a small cutting mat, knife, and drafting tape, and a small selection of pencil crayons will be useful). Some costs for plotting and printing should be anticipated, as per the typical studio practice.

Readings

Students are encouraged to read widely. Specific references will be handed out with the project outline.

EVDS Grading Scale

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	

Note: A student who receives a B- or lower in two or more courses will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average unless the program recommends otherwise. Individual programs may require a higher minimum passing grade. A grade point value of 3.0 on the 4-Point Scale is the minimum acceptable average that a graduate student must maintain throughout the program as computed at the end of each registration anniversary year of the program. A student who receives a grade of F will normally be required to withdraw unless the program recommends otherwise.

Notes:

1. This course may not be repeated for credit.
2. 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.
3. 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 Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>) Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre 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.

4. 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.

5. 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

6. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)

7. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)

8. Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/su-structure/contact-info>); 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>).