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## Fall 2023

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<b>Course Number</b>	PLAN 626	<b>Classroom</b>	PF 3160
<b>Course Name</b>	Urban Design Theory		
<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Beverly Sandalack	<b>Office Hours/Location</b>	PF 3102 By appointment
	<b>Email:</b> sandalack@ucalgary.ca	<b>Phone:</b> 403 615 4655 text only	
<b>Class Dates</b>	Mondays 9:00 am – 12:10pm		
<b>Instructor Email Policy</b>	Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email.		
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	Eti Borah eti.borah@ucalgary.ca		

### Course Description:

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to theories, concepts, methods, & contemporary issues in urban design. The course consists of lectures, seminars, local field trips (tentative), and assignments.

Urban design deals with three-dimensional design of the built urban environment at the scale of the street, neighbourhood, and city, providing integration between landscape and buildings, and with the processes and strategies of development. Urban design is at the intersection of several disciplines. By focusing on the public nature of all urban development, and by bridging the traditional jurisdictions of many professions, urban design has the potential scope to address the wholeness of the city. In this course, urban design is considered to be an approach as well as a methodology for city-building, and it involves, and links, various professions involved in the design of human settlements, including architecture, landscape architecture, and planning. Issues of local and regional identity and sustainability also inform the course.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/planning-plan.html#45202>

**LECTURES** will cover the following inter-related topics:

#### Urban design overview

- the evolution of urban form, and the planning & design ideas influencing urban development
- urban design as an approach / a way of thinking / a state of mind / a practice
- who is involved in the design and development of the urban physical environment?
- the value of urban design

#### Urban form and process

- schools of thought, methods, approaches
- urban form and the cultures that produce it
- urban morphology and typology
- urban analysis

#### Making better places

- the qualities of 'good' urban form
- the public realm and its evolution

- private development and its contribution to urban design
- identity and sense of place
- urban design guidance and review

**ASSIGNMENTS** will allow students to explore

- approaches and methods of urban analysis
- contemporary urban design issues
- documentation and communication techniques

**Course Hours:** 3 units; (3-0)

## Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will know and be able to:

1. Understand the evolution, theories, methodologies and concepts of urban design
2. Describe, analyze & understand urban form & its evolution by employing skills, techniques & vocabulary
3. Understand contemporary issues affecting urban design, urban quality, & urban life
4. Critically & constructively analyze urban form in terms of various qualities/metrics & at a range of scales
5. Articulate a personal approach to urban design based on theories, precedents & best practices

## Learning Resources:

It is expected that students will have a general understanding of the history of cities from their previous studies. Students without this background are strongly advised to read either Morris, AEJ (1979) *History of Urban Form* or Mumford, L (1961) *The City in History* or Bacon, Edmund N. (1974) *Design of Cities* prior to or early in the term. I encourage you to acquire one of the urban design readers as they contain many of the seminal ideas of urban design. Make use of various online used book resources (such as AbeBooks.com)

Students are encouraged to read widely from the books that will be covered in the seminar projects. Also recommended are the following, including Urban design / city readers, compendia and standards (older editions are also fine):

American Planning Association (2006) *Planning and Urban Design Standards* (Wiley Graphic Standards)  
 Carmona, Matthew and Steve Tiesdell (2007) *Urban Design Reader* (Architectural Press)  
 Ellin, Nan (1996) *Postmodern Urbanism* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers)  
 English Partnerships (several printings) *The Urban Design Compendium*. <http://udc.homesandcommunities.co.uk/>  
 Grant, Jill (2007) *Reader in Canadian Planning: Linking Theory and Practice* (Thompson Nelson Canada)  
 Jencks, Charles & Karl Kropf (eds) (1997) *Theories/Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture* (Academy Editions)  
 Larice, Michael and Elizabeth Macdonald (2007) *The Urban Design Reader* (Routledge)  
 LeGates, Richard T. and Frederic Stout (1996) *The City Reader* (Routledge)  
 Hough, Michael (1990) *Out of Place: Restoring Identity to the Regional Landscape* (Yale University Press)  
 Hough, Michael (1994) *Cities and Natural Process* (Routledge)  
 Newton, Norman (1971) *Design on the Land: The Development of Landscape Architecture* (Harvard Univ. Press)  
 Relph, Edward (1987) *The Modern Urban Landscape* (London: Croom Helm)  
 Sandalack, Beverly A & Andrei Nicolai (2006) *The Calgary Project: urban form/urban life* (Univ. of Calgary Press)  
 Trancik, Roger (1986) *Finding Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold)

## Technology requirements (D2L etc.):

Course materials will normally be posted to D2L. It is the student's responsibility to access this material.

All assignments will be able to be completed using hand drawings/diagrams or computer graphics used in the studios.

Presentation software, such as PowerPoint or Keynote, will also be required for some reviews; students should consult online tutorials if they are not familiar with the software, as instruction will not be provided in this course.

## Assessment Components:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Assignment (pairs or small groups)	20x20 <i>pecha kucha</i> : Talking about Urban Design	35%	2,3,4
Assignment (pairs or small group)	Seminar: Presentation	45%	1,3,5
Assignment (individual)	"Sketchplanation" of seminar concept	20%	1,2,3,4,5

### Assignment 1. 20x20 *pecha kucha*: TALKING about URBAN DESIGN

worth 35% of the course grade, Completed in groups of 3  
DUE October 23 and 30 (schedule tba). Submit slide presentation to D2L DropBox  
20 slides for 20 seconds, automatically advanced

What is "good" urban form? This question is a central concern of urban design and of this course. In this assignment, you will develop a short *pecha kucha* presentation that explores and illustrates one of the topics in the project brief (or another approved topic) and that contributes to the class understanding of the qualities of "good" urban form.

### Assignment 2. SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

worth 45% of the course grade, Completed in groups of 3  
DUE November 21 and 28 and December 5 (schedule of presentations tba). Submit slide presentation to D2L DropBox.30 minutes (20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes for class discussion or exercises)

Seminars considering selected urban design theories and theorists will build on the framework of the lectures and provide the class with an overview of many of the important contributions to urban design education and practice. Student groups will select one reference from the **Seminar Topics** in the project brief to review and present to the class. Each group will present a short explanation of the work and teach the main lesson of the article or chapter. The intentions of this assignment are that every student will a.) thoroughly understand one of the seminal concepts of urban design, b.) through active attendance of the other seminar classes, gain a broad overview of the foundations of urban design as a practice and a way of thinking.

### Assignment 3. "SKETCHPLANATION"

worth 20% of the course grade, completed individually  
Due 6 December (last day of the classes)  
One page, 8 ½ x 11 when printed, saved as a reduced file pdf and submitted to D2L Dropbox

Related to the seminars, but a separate deliverable, each student will develop an explanatory sketch or diagram (a "sketchplanation") that explains the main concept (or one of the main concepts) of the seminar. This component will be evaluated individually, and will be worth 20% of the course grade). The sketch component will be due on December 6<sup>th</sup>, submitted digitally to DropBox as a reduced size pdf.

## Assessment and Evaluation Information

### Attendance and Participation Expectations:

Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of all lectures, assignment presentations and reviews.

Because the assignments are partially evaluated during presentations and reviews, all work must be completed on time. Unless agreed to by the instructor for reason of illness, academic accommodation (see University Policy below), or on compassionate grounds (all of which are to be supported by written documentation by the student), late submissions will be penalized one half letter grade per day, up to a maximum of three calendar days (including weekends and holidays), after which the assignment will receive a failing grade. Late presentations will normally not be permitted to be re-scheduled. There may be an opportunity to remediate late assignments/reschedule presentations if a written request by the student outlining the circumstances is received and approved by the instructor, normally prior to the due date/presentation date.

Evaluation will be based on the project assignments, completed during the term. A passing grade (B-) in each assignment is required in order to pass the course as a whole. All assignments will be evaluated by letter grades. Final course grades will be reported as letter grades, with the final grade calculated according to the 4-point range, as per the SAPL grading scale. There will be no final examination. (NOTE: students may be given an opportunity to remediate failing assignment grades; if so, the student(s) must satisfy expectations and due dates as per each remedial assignment.)

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in evaluation of all course components.

Work will be completed individually, in pairs or in small groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in pairs or groups, unless it is clear to the instructor, or identified by the student team prior to the due date of the project, that there are issues with work distribution or quality or with communication among team members, in which case the issues will be discussed with the students and different grades may be assigned.

### Grading Scale:

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	

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

The School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School.

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-3.html>

## Topic Areas & Detailed Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments/Due Dates
September 11	Course introduction What/why is Urban Design?	Introduction of all assignments.
September 18	The Calgary urban context: Settlement patterns in the west; Calgary urban evolution	Seminar and <i>pecha kucha</i> topics and teams to be finalized
September 25	The qualities of “good” urban form; Environmental factors; Spatial structure	
October 2	Urban morphology and the building/street interface; Observing human behaviour	
October 9	No class Thanksgiving Day	
October 16	21 <sup>st</sup> C issues Part 1 The “isms”; post-pandemic urban design; Sense of place; health and built environ; urban design for multiple cultures. Guest tba	Presentations of <i>pecha kucha</i> project Part 1
October 23	21 <sup>st</sup> C issues Part 2 Climate change, the urban tree canopy, ecology and urban design Guest – Julie St-Arnault CSLA, Principal VLAN Paysages, Montreal	Presentations of <i>pecha kucha</i> project Part 2
October 30	Evaluating quality in urban design Guest – Peter Speary, CSLA, Lead Urban Designer, City of Edmonton	Presentations of <i>pecha kucha</i> project Part 3
November 6-10	No regular classes SAPL Block Week	
November 12-18	No classes. U of C term break	
November 20	Seminars	Seminar Presentations Part 1
November 27	Seminars	Seminar Presentations Part 2
December 4	Seminars Last class meeting day	Seminar Presentations Part 3
December 6	Last day of classes in Fall Semester	Assignment 3 due

# University of Calgary Policies and Supports

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>. Students needing 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 (contact information on first page above).

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

## ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>  
Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

## COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION:

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

## INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

## **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy> .

## **UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE**

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised. In addition, the student should refer to the SAPL's Procedure for reappraisal of grades

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk