

Department of Planning, Policy, and Design
University of California, Irvine

U282 URBAN DESIGN STUDIO FOR PLANNERS: AN INTRODUCTION
Winter 2010, Wednesdays 12:30-3:20 PM, SE 315

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STUDENT PROJECTS

INTRODUCTION

This course is organized as an introductory urban design studio for planning students. In this course, you will work on a variety of design projects to learn practical aspects of urban design. Lectures cannot serve the objectives of such a course, hence, we will regularly have studio consultation with individual students, class discussions, student presentations, and critiques of your assignments to guide you. The course is organized around several assignments to encourage learning by design. You need not have graphic communication skills at the beginning of the course but you will need to learn basic drawing skills fairly quickly to complete the assignments. Students best learn the subject matter of this course by working on design projects, by completing the drawings/readings in advance of the class, and by participating in class discussions. The assigned textbooks provide important background information for studio discussions and for making drawings for design projects. We will not cover these in the class. Please see the Course Schedule and Assigned Readings for details. Class discussions may include additional relevant materials as and when appropriate. It is expected that, by the end of the term, students will develop a better understanding of urban design and planning of built environment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS, DUE DATES, AND GRADING PROCEDURES

Attendance in all classes and field trips, and timely submission of all assignments is mandatory. All drawings and scale-models should be submitted in original. All written assignments should be clearly written, well-organized, and edited for spellings, style, and grammar. For the written part of the assignments (essay, project report, etc.) students must submit a plain paper copy; electronic submissions will not be accepted.

There are no exams. There will be a total of 5 assignments for this course. All assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the due dates. Any assignment not submitted in the class on the due date will be considered late. A 10% deduction of received points may apply per day to discourage late submissions. I may consider late submissions due to valid reasons and you will need to submit doctor’s note for any medical reasons. Any assignment not received by the last day of class will not be considered for final grade calculation.

The final grade will be based on total percent points received for this course and will be calculated using the grade conversion table included below. Assignments will be weighted according to the following distribution:

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Assignment 1	10%	Graphic representation and drawings
Assignment 2	5%	Comparing urban design quality: two “public open spaces”
Assignment 3	30%	Campus Plaza design
Assignment 4	35%	Playa Vista project design
Assignment 5	10%	Evaluating design proposals
Class Participation	10%	Attendance and participation in class
Total	100%	

Grade Conversion Table

100 Points Scale and Corresponding Letter Grade

95-100 (A)	89-94.99 (A-)	85-88.99 (B+)	82-84.99 (B)
79-81.99 (B-)	75-78.99 (C+)	72-74.99 (C)	69-71.99 (C-)
65-68.99 (D+)	60-64.99 (D)	0-59.99 (F) (No Credit)	

Team Work

In this course, you may be required to work in teams for completing an assignment. Since some students may put more effort than others, you will have the option of grading your team members at the end of the quarter. I may consider your feedback when preparing the final grades.

Academic Integrity and University Policy on Plagiarism

Acts of dishonesty in any academic work constitutes academic misconduct. You should familiarize yourself with university policies concerning academic integrity. I will follow the university policies in the event of academic misconduct.

ASSIGNMENTS

You will need to quickly learn drawing and graphic communication techniques to complete these assignments. Please note that design projects (Assignments 3 and 4) require preliminary proposals in the form of completed drawings and sketches. These preliminary proposals should be revised, based on feedback from the instructor, and must be resubmitted for final evaluation.

A general outline of the assignments is given below. I will provide more information and related details about some of these assignments in class.

Assignment 1: Drawing and graphic presentation skills

Submission Requirements: Plan and section drawings

For this assignment, you will prepare basic drawings including at least one plan and one section (to a scale 1" = 2' 0") of the steps area between building 215 (Social Ecology II) and building 221 (Graduate School of Management) on the UCI campus. Your drawing should include all the steps, sidewalls, profile of adjacent buildings, trees, shrubs, etc., in area. If you submit more than just one plan and one section, I will consider the additional drawings and freehand sketches for a total of 2 bonus points. Please be advised that the drawings and graphic communication skills used/developed in this assignment are very important for completing other assignments in this course.

Assignment 2: Comparing urban design quality: two "public spaces"

Submission Requirements: PowerPoint slides comparing two public spaces.

For this assignment, you will identify two (proposed or built) public spaces and compare the main design elements, strengths and weaknesses of urban design concepts and physical design elements, and evaluate the overall quality of each of these public spaces on a scale of 0 to 10. You will submit this assignment using only two PowerPoint slides. These two PowerPoint slides should include all the pictures, text, and graphic material for this assignment. You are required to submit an electronic copy of the PowerPoint presentation for a grade for this assignment.

Assignment 3: Campus Plaza design

Submission Requirements: Drawings and a model

You will redesign a parking lot on the UCI campus into a public plaza for this assignment. You will propose a design for the plaza that adds to the functional, aesthetic, and symbolic quality of open spaces on the campus. You will be required to draw at least one plan and make a scale-model of your proposed design for the plaza (scale 1" = 10' 0"). You may include additional drawings such as elevations and sections as well as sketches and photographs to further explain your

proposal. You will make a brief presentation in class discussing your final proposal. Your proposal will be reviewed and critiques by others in class. I may invite a guest critic to review your proposals and provide you with feedback.

Assignment 4: Redesign Playa Vista

Submission Requirements: A model of a block, a site plan

For this assignment, you will redesign a part of the Playa Vista project area in Marina Del Rey in Los Angeles area. The City of Los Angeles has decided to promote a higher-density, walkable neighborhood that incorporates mixed-use design on the project site. Although the Playa Vista project is currently being developed on a site of approximately 1087 acres, your proposal will primarily focus on a smaller area covering only about 200 acres of the project site. You will need to make a model of “a one-acre block” (scale 1” = 20’ 0”), draw a plan (scale 1” = 20’ 0”) of the block, and draw a site plan of your 200-acre project area to scale (1” = 200’ 0”).

Assignment 5: WTC Design Competition: A Critique

Submission Requirements: An Essay Including Illustrations as Part of a Critique

For this assignment, you will write a critique comparing two of the 5,201 design proposals submitted for the World Trade Center Site Memorial Competition. You will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of any two of these submissions, mindful of the guidelines that were provided to all the competitors, to identify the superior proposal. You will need to include illustrations of their design proposals (their drawings, sketches, etc. available online) in your critique.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Urban Design Associates (UDA). 2003. *The Urban Design Handbook: Techniques and Working Methods*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Wang, Thomas C. 1996 (Second Edition). *Plan and Section Drawing*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

American Planning Association. 2006. *Planning and urban design standards*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE TEXT

Jacobs, Alan B. 1996. *Great Streets*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Katz, Peter. 1994. *The New Urbanism: Toward an Architecture of Community*. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Lynch, Kevin and Gary Hack. 2000. *Site Planning*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Ramsey, Charles George; Harold Reeve Sleeper; and John Ray Hoke. *Ramsey/Sleeper Architectural Graphic Standards* (Tenth Edition). 2000. Somerset, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Whyte, William H. 1980. *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. Washington D. C.: The Conservation Foundation.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS*

Wk	Date	Activity/Assignments	Readings
1	Jan. 6	Introduction, Course Overview Assignment 1, 2 discussed	No readings
2	Jan. 13	Assignment 1 Due Assignment 3 distributed, discussed in class Instructor presentation: design of public plaza	Wang (Chapter 1-5 pp. 1-32); UDA (Chapter 2, 4 pp.27-43 & 57-130)
3	Jan. 20	Assignment 2 Due Student presentations of assignment 2: two “public spaces” Assignment 3 Concept Plan Due Studio consultation on assignment 3	Wang (Chapter 6-10 pp. 33-122); Lynch and Hack (pp. 431-443); Whyte (Chapter 1-3)
4	Jan. 27	Assignment 3 First Proposal Due Studio consultation on assignment 3 Assignment 4 distributed, discussed in class	UDA (Chapter 5 pp. 131-152); Whyte (Chapter 4);
5	Feb. 3	Assignment 3 Final Proposal Due Final review of assignment 3 and critique Assignment 5 distributed	UDA (Chapter 3, 6 pp. 45-56 & 153-179); Katz (pp. 1-116)
6	Feb. 10	Instructor presentation: housing types Video: Sacred Ground	Lynch and Hack (pp. 29-66 & 420-425)
7	Feb. 17	Block model and block plan for assignment 4 due Studio consultation on assignment 4 Discussion: Observation, Analysis & Design	Lynch (Chapters 1 & 3: pp. 1-13 & 46-90)
8	Feb. 24	Assignment 4 Preliminary Proposal Due Studio consultation on assignment 4	Review APA Urban Design Standards for Assignment 4; Jacobs (pp. 270-308)
9	Mar. 3	Studio consultation on assignment 4	Katz (pp. 117-220)
10	Mar. 10	Assignment 4 Final Proposal Due Final review of Assignment 4 and critique Assignment 5 Due	Any ssignment not received by the beginning of this class will not be considered for final grade

■ Indicates assignment due

* Please note that this schedule of classes, assignment due dates, and course content are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.