

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1:00–3:00 pm, and by appointment (arrange by email)

CLASS TIME & PLACE

Thursday, 3:30-6:00 p.m., 208 Music Hall

CONTEXT

UW-Madison's Department of Urban and Regional Planning is part of a local consortium awarded a \$2 million "Sustainable Communities Regional Planning" grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The grant is helping the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission and its partners advance sustainability and livability within Dane County (www.capitalregionscrpg.org/). The City of Madison's Parks Division is also in the process of assessing park and open space use and, potentially, changing recreational preferences and open space needs. This class will engage in research, planning, and design to support both of these initiatives.

LEARNING GOALS

Addressing the context-specific relationships among three basic components of the built environment – buildings, transportation systems, and open spaces – this course focuses on contemporary urban design issues. This course will help you develop skills in assessing the structure and function of the built environment, and in communicating this information effectively. Overarching questions that we will consider this semester include:

- What makes a *great* urban place? Or, a great urban outdoor space?
- How does the built environment's design (its 3-dimensional physical configuration) affect public health, safety, and welfare?
- What indicators and metrics can urban designers use in assessing the strengths and weaknesses of specific built environments?
- What institutional barriers inhibit public policy and practice reforms that could make communities healthier, more livable, and sustainable?

FORMAT

Typically, part of each class will be devoted to either a lecture or a discussion of assigned readings. The rest of the class will be devoted to guest speakers, student presentations, or in-class work sessions and critiques. The course is intended for graduate students and advanced undergraduates interested in the structure and function of the built environment. Design and/or graphic communication experience is helpful, but not required.

COURSE WEBSITE

The syllabus, lecture slides, and all assigned readings will be uploaded to the course website:

<https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Essay on your experience in a “great place”

A 1-2 page, *edited* essay on your personal experiences with a memorable, “great” indoor or outdoor place in the built environment (see: <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/>). Reflect on what made the place satisfying and memorable for you (e.g., buildings, vegetation, water, weather, people, food, sounds, smells, etc.). Deliverable: PDF of 2-page (max.) essay (please single space, skip a line between paragraphs, consider using headings and sub-headings to organize, include a title, your name, and date). Upload to Learn@UW course “dropbox” by noon on the due date.

2. Reading reflection

Compare and contrast any two of the readings assigned for weeks 1-10. This assignment, intended to encourage analysis, synthesis, and concise writing, is an opportunity to reflect on (and, potentially, disagree with) the opinions expressed in the selected readings. Deliverable: PDF of one 2-page (maximum) commentary. Upload to Learn@UW course “dropbox” no later than noon on November 21 (Thursday).

3. Urban open space systems project

In collaboration with the City of Madison’s Parks Division, the class will work in teams to: a) conduct a precedent study of leading urban open space systems and practices; b) conduct a literature review on the social, economic, and environmental benefits of urban open space systems; c) potentially, develop a taxonomy of existing public parks and open spaces; d) make recommendations to the City on methods for assessing the current and, potential, future uses of Madison’s parks and open space system and on developing a typology of parks and open spaces. This project will also consider opportunities for coordinating with other city and county agencies to develop a multi-functional, 21st century urban open space system.

4. Exam

A 1.5 hour exam on the principles, concepts, and terminology covered in the lectures and assigned readings through week 10. Questions include short-answer, multiple choice, and photo-annotation formats.

GRADING

Course grades will be based on the following:

Essay on place	10%
Reading reflection	15%
Urban open space systems project	50%
Exam	25%

Grading scale: A (94.0-100%), AB (88.0-93.9%), B (82.0-87.9%), BC (76.0-81.9%), C (70.0-75.9%), D (64.0-69.9%), F (63.9% or below)

ASSIGNED READING

All of the assigned readings are posted on the Learn@UW course website. Organized by theme, these are the following:

Smart Growth vs. Sprawl

- Cortright, J. 2010. *Driven Apart: How Sprawl is lengthening our Commutes and Why Misleading Mobility Measures are Making Things Worse*. CEOs for Cities. 20 pp.
- Parolek, D., K. Parolek, and P. Crawford. 2008. Why form-based codes? pp. 3-14. In: *Form-Based Codes: A Guide for Planners, Urban Designers, Municipalities, and Developers*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
- Rofe, Y. 1995. Space and Community – The Spatial Foundations of Urban Neighborhoods: An Evaluation of Three Theories of Urban Form and Social Structure and Their Relevance to the Issue of Neighborhoods. *Berkeley Planning Journal*, 10: 107-125.
- Slone, D., D. Goldstein, and A. Gowder. 2008. To suburbia and back: how urbanist law is different, pp. 1-27. In: *A Legal Guide to Urban and Sustainable Development for Planners, Developers and Architects*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons. pp. 1-27.

Health & the Built Environment

- Brecht, S., K. Lawler, and G. Tipton. 2012. The longevity challenge to urbanism, pp.3-19. In Ball, M.S., ed. *Livable Communities for Aging Populations: Urban Design for Longevity*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
- Frank, L., J. Sallis, T. Conway, J. Chapman, B. Saelens, and W. Bachman. 2007. Many pathways from land use to health: associations between neighborhood walkability and active transportation, body mass index, and air quality. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 72(1): 75-87.
- Jackson, R., A. Dannenberg and H. Frumkin. 2013. Health and the built environment: 10 years after. *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(9): 1542-1544.
- Jackson, R. and C. Kochtitzky. 2010. *Creating A Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health*. Washington, D.C.: Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse. 19 pp.
- Jackson, R. 2012. What does love have to do with the built environment?, pp.3-14. In: *Designing Healthy Communities*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
- Lopez, R. 2003. Density and Health: Is Less Better?

Urban Design Best Practices

- American Institute of Architects (AIA). 2005. *What Makes a Community Livable? Livability 101*. 58 pp.
- American Planning Association (APA). 2011. Multigenerational Planning: Using Smart Growth and Universal Design to Link the Needs of Children and the Aging Population. Family-Friendly Communities Briefing Papers 02. Chicago, IL: American Planning Association.
- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) et al. 2012. *Banking on Green: A Look at How Green Infrastructure Can Save Municipalities Money and Provide Economic Benefits Community-Wide*. 44 pp.
- Chiesura, A. 2004. The role of urban parks for the sustainable city. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 68: 129-138.
- Main, B. and G. Hannah. 2009. The role of furniture in outdoor spaces, pp.1-23. In: *Site Furnishings: A Complete Guide to the Planning, Selection and Use of Landscape Furniture*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
- Tzoulas, K. et al. 2007. Promoting ecosystem and human health in urban areas using Green Infrastructure: a literature review. *Landscape and Urban Planning*, 81: 167-178.

Institutional Challenges

- Kiparsky, M., D. Sedlak, B. Thompson, Jr. & B. Truffer. 2013. The innovation deficit in urban water: the need for an integrated perspective on institutions, organizations, and technology. *Environmental Engineering Science*, 30(8): 395-408.

OTHER RESOURCES

These resources supplement the assigned reading and pertain to urban design issues in Madison, Dane County, or other U.S. communities.

- American Institute of Architects (AIA). 2012. *Local Leaders: Healthier Communities Through Design*. 64pp.
- City of Madison. 2012. *Downtown Plan*. Madison: Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development.
- City of Madison. 2012. *City of Madison 2012-2017 Park and Open Space Plan*. Madison: Parks Division, Department of Public Works.
- Mid-American Regional Council. 2012. *Creating Sustainable Places (Multiple RFO's for Multiple Corridors)*
- Phillips, R. 2003. *Community Indicators*. APA PAS Report #517. Chicago: American Planning Association. 46 pp.

WEBSITES

Healthy Communities by Design - <http://www.healthycommunitiesbydesign.org/>

Planetizen: Urban Planning, Design and Development Network - www.planetizen.com

Mayors Institute on City Design - <http://www.micd.org/>

City of Madison's Sustainability Plan - <http://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/sustainPlan.cfm>

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Activities
1	9/5	skills & interests survey; introductions; course overview; essay assigned	Jackson, Dannenberg & Frumkin (2013) – Health and the built environment: 10 years after Jackson (2012) – What does love have to do with the built environment?	Videos (view on your own): “Planning and Designing Communities that Promote Healthier Lives” (CDC) - http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthy_community_design.htm Mayors Institute on City Design - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ7Krw46igI&feature=player_embedded
2	9/12	Pathways to regional sustainability	Jackson and Kochtitzky (2010) – Creating a Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health	<u>Guest speaker:</u> Steve Steinhoff, CARPC “Great place” essay due (upload pdf by noon)
3	9/19	Retrofitting the built environment	Parolek et al. (2008) – Why form-based codes?	<u>Guest speaker:</u> Bill Fruhling, City of Madison DPCED

			Slone et al. (2008) – To suburbia and back: how urbanist law is different Scan: Madison's Downtown Plan	Urban open space system project assigned; team-formation and project management discussion
4	9/26	Measuring urban <u>structure</u> (e.g., density)	Rofe (1995) – Space and community: the foundation of urban neighborhoods Brecht et al. (2012) – The longevity challenge to urbanism	<u>Lecture</u> : Urban structure: density & other measures Project: work session
5	10/3	Measuring urban <u>function</u> (e.g., mobility, property value, health)	APA (2011) – Multigenerational planning: using smart growth and universal design to link the needs of children and the aging population Frank et al. (2006) – Many pathways from land use to health: associations between neighborhood walkability and active transportation, body mass index, and air quality.	<u>Lecture</u> : Urban function: how form affects function Project: work session
6	10/10	Urban design best practices (principles)	AIA (2005) – What Makes a Community Livable? Livability 101 Lopez (2003) – Density and Health: Is Less Better?	<u>Lecture</u> : Aesthetics, visual preferences, and urban design Project: presentations & review (Aim 1 – precedent studies)
7	10/17	Urban design best practices (transportation systems)	Cortright (2010) – Driven Apart: How Sprawl is Lengthening our Commutes and Why Misleading Mobility Measures are Making Things Worse. Main & Hannah (2009) – The Role of Furniture in Outdoor Spaces	Project: presentation & review (Aim 2 – scientific literature review); discuss Aim 1 findings.

8	10/24	Urban design best practices (buildings)	Scan: AIA (2012) – Local Leaders: Healthier Communities Through Design	<u>Lecture:</u> Buildings: massing, articulation & style Project: work session
9	10/31	Urban design best practices (urban open space systems)	Chiesura (2004) – The role of urban parks for the sustainable city Tzoulas, K. et al. (2007) – Promoting ecosystem and human health in urban areas using Green Infrastructure: a literature review	Project: presentation & review (Aim 3 – SWOT analysis)
10	11/7	Urban design best practices (green infrastructure)	ASLA et al. (2012) – Banking on Green: A Look at How Green Infrastructure Can Save Municipalities Money and Provide Economic Benefits Community-Wide	<u>Lecture:</u> Multiple-purpose green infrastructure Project: work session
11	11/14	Exam Madison park & open space study		Exam (1.5 hours, comprehensive); Work session
12	11/21	Madison park & open space study	Kiparsky et al. (2013) – The innovation deficit in urban water: the need for an integrated perspective on institutions, organizations, and technology	<u>Discussion:</u> institutional challenges in reshaping the built environment Project: interim presentations & review
13	11/28	Thanksgiving Recess		No class
14	12/5	Madison park & open space study		Project: dry run for final presentation
15	12/12	Madison park & open space study		Project: final presentation of findings & recommendations to the Madison Park and Recreation Long-Range Planning Committee