

# Urban Design

(ART 230, ENV 180, GEO 334, HAA 388)

Days:	Mondays and Wednesdays	Office hours:	Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 PM
Times:	4:20-5:50 PM	Instructor:	Adam Blair
Classroom:	Arts and Letters 109	E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:ablair7@depaul.edu">ablair7@depaul.edu</a>
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*“Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.” – Jane Jacobs*

This course introduces the field of urban design and the many ways the built environment affects our daily lives. We will explore key concepts and theories of urban design through readings, multimedia, and hands-on work sessions, the latter of which will acquaint students with design and mapping tools including Google Earth, GIS, and SketchUp. Lectures and readings will cover the history of urban form in the United States and internationally, focusing on the City Beautiful Movement, Garden City Movement, and New Urbanism, as well as key figures like Daniel Burnham (*Plan of Chicago*), Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jane Jacobs, Le Corbusier, and Pierre Charles L'Enfant. We will also learn how design impacts urban transportation networks, health and wellness, and environmental sustainability, and how architects and planners retrofit suburbs to make them more walkable, bikeable, and transit-friendly. Finally, the course will use local examples like the Chicago Riverwalk and the 606 trail to illustrate how land use, zoning, and public engagement shape the practice of urban design.



## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to behave in a manner consistent with DePaul's Code of Student Responsibility (<http://www.depaul.edu/university-catalog/academic-handbooks/code-of-student-responsibility/general-information/pages/default.aspx>). Academic honesty and integrity are expected at all times. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating or copying during quizzes or exams, will be punished severely. DePaul University officials will be informed of any instance of academic dishonesty and notification will be placed in your file. Please read the DePaul Academic Integrity Resources page (<http://offices.depaul.edu/oaa/faculty-resources/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>) for definitions and explanations of plagiarism and the University's Academic Integrity expectations for students.

## Disability Accommodations

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). They will provide you with the accommodations and support services needed to ensure your success. You can reach CSD on the Loop Campus at (312) 362-8002 and CSD on the Lincoln Park Campus at (773) 325-1677. Students are invited to contact me privately to discuss your challenges and how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course.

## Department of Geography Learning Objectives

1. Understand spatial patterns and processes of modification of Earth's physical and cultural landscapes as social constructions; as systems that link Earth with human society in interdependent, dialectical relationships; and through mapping and visualization
2. Understand the concept of scale as a spatial phenomenon that ties the local, the regional, the national, the transnational, and the global in a system of interaction
3. Understand the phenomenology of the discipline of geography—most importantly, space, place, landscape, region, and location
4. Distinguish that spaces and places may have both objective and subjective/symbolic dimensions
5. Develop research and writing competences that will allow you to formulate a cogent research question about the spatial character of a physical, socio-cultural, or environment-societal phenomenon; write about it in ways that reflect analytical and critical thinking; and demonstrate ethical concern over social and environmental justice, consistent with the university's social mission
6. Engage competently in qualitative and quantitative spatial analysis, and with exercises concerned with explaining spatial regularities
7. Learn the basic utility of geographic information systems (GIS)
8. Achieve greater general knowledge of the world, its regions, its physical systems, its cultures, and political-territorial divisions

## Learning Objectives for this Course

1. Visualize and describe the shape and form of the modern city (i.e., 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries)
2. Distinguish urban form from suburban form, rural form, and other built environments
3. Recognize how urban design influences the lives of urban residents—through its impact on the natural environment, the economy, health, safety, and social interactions
4. Appreciate the multidisciplinary nature of urban design and how it combines creativity with functionalism
5. Learn several tools and techniques that can serve you throughout your academic and professional careers, regardless of whether you practice urban design
6. Become familiar with careers and graduate programs that are directly or tangentially related to urban design
7. See Chicago and cities around the world like you've never seen them before!

## Assignments and Grading

### Attendance and Participation

It's important that you attend and participate in every class because much of the quiz and final exam material will come from lectures and discussions. Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Arriving 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence. Students who miss class due to illness or other significant personal circumstance are required to complete the Absence Notification Process through the Dean of Students Office in order to have their absence excused. There will be many opportunities to participate in class. I encourage everyone to contribute to in-class discussions and ask lots of questions.

### Imageability Assignment

Kevin Lynch's book, *The Image of the City*, defines imageability as "that quality in a physical object which gives it a high probability of evoking a strong image in any given observer." In the late 1950s, students at MIT spread out over downtown Boston to map the city's "elements, their visibility, their image strength or weakness, and their connections, disconnections, and interrelations." They then conducted interviews with city residents, asking them to provide descriptions and drawings of their neighborhood and even having them act out imaginary trips. What resulted from this experiment was a collective image of Boston that revealed its true design characteristics.

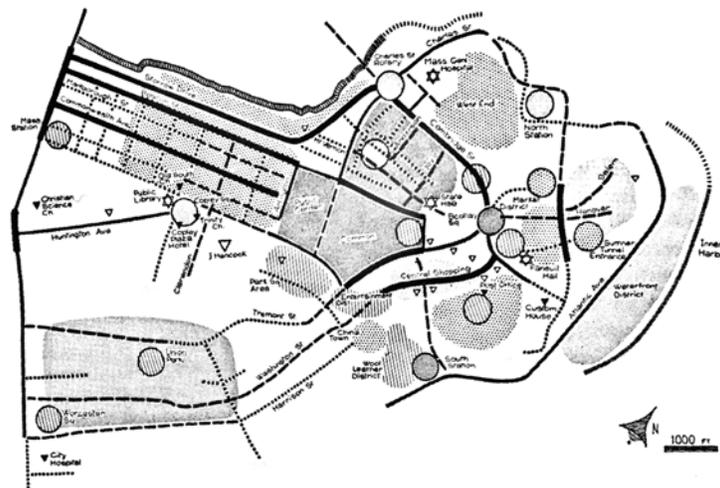


FIG. 35. *The Boston image as derived from verbal interviews*

For this assignment, teams of three students each will select one of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods and map its image. This will require visiting the neighborhood at least once and sketching its image using concepts covered in class, first on paper and then digitally using Adobe Illustrator. We'll then walk through each team's submission during class.

### Design Improvement Assignment

For this project, each student will identify at least one urban design "problem" in Chicago or another city of their choice. Students will spend the rest of the semester using the concepts covered during lectures and the tools learned during lab sessions to design a solution to the identified problem. We'll spend the second-to-last week of the course reviewing and critiquing one another's solutions.

### Quizzes and Final Exam

We'll take two quizzes throughout the quarter, each occurring on a Monday. Quizzes will include a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions covering readings and lectures. The course will conclude with a final exam that follows the same format as the quizzes.

### Grading Rubric

Component	Points
Attendance and Participation	10
Imageability Assignment	25
Design Improvement Assignment	25
Quiz 1	10
Quiz 2	10
Final Exam	20
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>100</b>

### Letter Grade Conversion Chart

Points	Grade
93-100	A
90-93	A-
87-99	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
<62	F

### Important Dates

March 31	Last day to add (or swap) classes to SQ2017 schedule
April 7	Last day to drop classes with no penalty*
	Last day to select pass/fail option
April 8	Grades of "W" assigned for classes dropped on or after this day
April 13	Last day to select auditor status
April 14	Good Friday - University officially closed
April 15-16	Easter Holiday - University officially closed
April 27	Begin AQ2017 Registration
May 12	Last day to withdraw from SQ2017 classes
May 29	Memorial Day - University officially closed
June 2	End SQ2017 Day & Evening Classes
June 3	Begin SQ2017 Day & Evening Final Exams
June 9	End SQ2017 Day & Evening Final Exams
	END SPRING QUARTER 2017
	TUITION DUE: SUMMER
June 10	COMMENCEMENT
June 11	COMMENCEMENT

\* 100 percent tuition refund if applicable and no grade on transcript

## Course Schedule

### Week 1 – Introduction

*Monday, March 27 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Introduce ourselves and complete a questionnaire
- Review the syllabus

*Wednesday, March 29 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Watch and discuss *The Social Life of Small Urban Places*
- Read the following by Monday: Jane Jacobs, "Introduction," from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, New York: Penguin Random House, 1992.

### Week 2 – Urban Theories and Thinkers

*Monday, April 3 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Discuss the Jane Jacobs reading
- Learn about some of the theories that influenced modern-day urban design
- Read by Wednesday: Carl Smith, "Antecedents and Inspirations," from *The Plan of Chicago: Daniel Burnham and the Remaking of the American City*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.

*Wednesday, April 5 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Discuss the Carl Smith reading and learn about the *Plan of Chicago*
- Read by Monday: Selection from Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1960.

### Week 3 – Elements of the City

*Monday, April 10 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Discuss the Kevin Lynch reading and learn about the Imageability Assignment
- Divide into groups and choose a Chicago neighborhood to focus on

*Wednesday, April 12 (SAC 224)*

- ArcGIS software tutorial
- Read by Monday: Congress for the New Urbanism, "Charter of the New Urbanism," 2001, online.

### Week 4 – Contemporary Design Principles

*Monday, April 17 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Discuss the Congress for the New Urbanism reading and learn about contemporary design principles
- Review for Quiz 1

*Wednesday, April 19 (SAC 224)*

- Quiz 1 at the beginning of class
- Learn about Adobe Illustrator while working on the Imageability Assignment
- Read by Wednesday: Lawrence D. Frank et al., "Transportation Systems," *Health and Community Design: The Impact of the Built Environment on Physical Activity*, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2003.

### Week 5 – Designing for Transportation, Health & Safety

*Monday, April 24 (Arts & Letters 109)*

- Discuss the Frank reading and learn how to improve transportation and health through urban design
- Submit Imageability Assignment to D2L no later than Wednesday, April 26, at the start of class

Wednesday, April 26 (Arts & Letters 109)

- Imageability Assignment show-and-tell
- Learn about how urban design influences mental health and safety
- Read by Monday: Selection from City of Neosho, *Green Infrastructure Design Handbook*, online.

## Week 6 – Green Urbanism

Monday, May 1 (Arts & Letters 109)

- Discuss the Neosho reading and learn how to address environmental issues through urban design
- Learn about the Design Improvement Assignment

Wednesday, May 3 (SAC 224)

- SketchUp software tutorial
- Read by Monday: Bernard Dahl and Donald J. Molnar, “Site Design Process,” from *Anatomy of a Park: Essentials of Recreation Area Planning and Design*, Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2003.

## Week 7 – Park Planning and Landscape Architecture

Monday, May 8 (Arts & Letters 109)

- Discuss the reading and learn about urban parks and parkways

Wednesday, May 10 (SAC 224)

- Learn more about SketchUp while working on the Design Improvement Assignment
- Review for Quiz 2

## Week 8 – Urban Design in Practice

Monday, May 15 (Arts & Letters 109)

- Quiz 2 at the beginning of class
- Learn about zoning, land use regulations, and the comprehensive planning process

Wednesday, May 17 (SAC 224)

- Learn more about SketchUp while working on the Design Improvement Assignment
- Read by Monday: Alex Krieger, “Where and How Does Urban Design Happen?,” from *Urban Design*, eds. Alex Krieger and William S. Saunders, Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

## Week 9 – Using What You’ve Learned

Monday, May 22 (Arts & Letters 109)

- Discuss the Alex Krieger reading and learn about careers in urban design and graduate programs
- Submit Design Improvement Assignment to D2L no later than Wednesday, May 24, at the start of class

Wednesday, May 24 (SAC 224)

- Review and critique one another’s SketchUp models

## Week 10 – Conclusion

Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day, no class)

Wednesday, May 31 (Arts & Letters 109)

- Play Cards Against Urbanity

Final Exam – Wednesday, June 7, at 2:30 PM in Arts and Letters 109!