

8-18-14

Urban Planning Project URP 6341 6 credits

Instructor: F. Lewis fslewis@ufl.edu

MEETING TIMES & PLACE

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, periods 7-9

Architecture Studio #318

Office hours: by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

URP 6341 is an advanced planning and design studio. The course introduces collaborative working approaches in planning and design, working on a community planning project at a professional level.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

This course will focus on developing a body of research skills, data, and analysis to inform recommendations for a community plan.

The course advances the development of core research skills in planning and design that are uniquely useful to professional planners and designers in preparing community plans, particularly plans informed by community quality of life values. The course provides an opportunity to work in a case study framework, using a range of data types and analytical methods. Students explore the role of research in planning and design to understand how evidence-based approaches build towards defensible decision-making, and ultimately lead to design and planning outcomes that address the diverse quality of life values of clients and residents.

This studio taught collaboratively with Landscape Architecture, LAA 6656c, providing a unique opportunity for students to hone collaboration skills across disciplines.

PREREQUISITES

This course is for URP students who have completed their foundational courses, and are in the latter part of their career at UF. The URP instructor will advise students on whether they are prepared for these studies.

DELIVERABLES

The studio will produce a body of data and analysis with which recommendations can be made for a quality-of-life-oriented community plan that focuses on a particular community issue.

Plans take the form of a 'gap analysis': 1. What is the current situation? 2. What should it be in the future? 3. How do we cross the gap between 1 and 2? The course takes as fundamental that the third question can only be answered with an understanding of the community's values.

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Research not only gathers data on a community and its issues, but also more fundamentally, articulates community values.

ASSESSMENTS & EVALUATIONS

Student's performance will be assessed on individual accomplishments, contribution to group projects and active participation and engagement in course activities. *Attendance at all course meetings and field trips are mandatory.* Grades will be derived from assessments proportioned across the following areas:

Attendance and Participation – 10 %

Attendance, active participation and engagement during all scheduled seminars and studio hours is mandatory. Requests for excused absences will be considered when the request is submitted in writing by email to the course instructor at least 24 hours in advance of the class being missed.

Emergency excused absence requests may be made by emailing the course instructors PRIOR to the beginning of class and will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Requests received after the start of class will not be considered. All absences must be approved. A single unexcused absence will result in a full letter grade reduction for the course. Three unexcused absence shall result in a failed evaluation for the course.

In the case of illness or a family emergency, a schedule for the completion of make-up work must be determined with the instructors as soon as possible upon a student's return to class. Failure to comply with the agreed upon schedule will result in a failing grade for that project.

Studio Projects – 90%

The overall studio project portion of the grade is comprised of multiple exercises and assignments throughout the semester. The weighting of each exercise and project will be identified on the individual project descriptions. Students will meet with the course instructors to discuss their performance and progress in the course.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

This course is structured as a studio. The instructors guide students through activities including lectures, seminar-style discussions, design and planning projects and exercises, and in-field visits to local sites (within 2 hours of Gainesville).

The course plan for the semester includes lectures and/or discussions that will introduce and explore concepts, principles and approaches that will underpin all subsequent exercises. These lectures and discussions will typically happen at the beginning of the class on days appropriate in the sequence of project assignments. *Tardiness will not be tolerated.*

Any time not devoted to lectures and/or discussions is devoted to studio work (*working independently and in teams, in studio, during the posted class hours*). It is expected that you will be at your desk advancing the work of your projects and exercises for the full duration of the noted studio hours. From time-to-time, you will have an opportunity to meet with a studio instructor to discuss your work and to explore directions for advancement.

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Please be aware that your day-to-day progress will be evaluated and documented. This evaluation determines a significant part of your final assessment for each exercise and project and for the semester in general.

Class discussions are not lectures. Students are expected to be prepared to participate and to make thoughtful, polite and respectful contributions to the discussions. Evaluations for discussion activities will be based on initiative, thoughtfulness, collaborative inquiry. You will also be evaluated on the basis of professionalism, which is based largely on evidence that you are engaged and interested in the topics and discussions surrounding these topics. Positive attitudes are essential student's success in this course.

Exploring ideas in Design and Planning

There are few absolutes in design and planning problems. "Solving" a problem means identifying and exploring the situation, options and values involved, and arriving at solutions after exhaustive exploration. The instructor(s) and teaching assistant will assist you in your process and challenge you with different perspectives and alternatives. If you are confused or unclear about any direction you receive during desk critiques, please ask for clarification.

Developing Your Process

While it is essential that the studio develop and produce its "deliverables," developing your personal working process is also important. Pay careful attention to the development and advancement of your work from as the course progresses. The best students are:

- *organized about where they've been in their explorations*
- *articulate in communicating ideas during the process of exploration*
- *clear about how their work will contribute to the assignment's objectives*

Desk Critiques ("desk crits")

Be prepared and organized for your desk crits. Be clear and articulate about how you have developed your work over the course of subsequent crits. Have new work to present at each desk crit. Desk crits are not meant to give you the answers to design and planning problems, rather it is an opportunity to engage in analytical and problem-solving processes, and to challenge yourself to understand and master new approaches and solutions. Instructors will not provide desk crits for students who are unprepared.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is a sixteen-week, full-semester course. The course includes lectures, group discussions and exercises, individual projects, possible mandatory field trips and formal presentations.

READINGS

Reading will be provided by the instructors.

There is one book that students must secure:

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Gawande, A. (2014). *Being mortal: Medicine and what matters in the end*. Metropolitan Books.

It is available used online, and a copy has been put on reserve in the Art and Architecture Library.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory and requires active and constructive participation in all activities of the course. Absences will only be excused if cleared in advance with the course instructor and only for acceptable reasons. Unexcused absences result in a comprehensive grade penalty (based on 1000 points) of 250 points per class period. This course meets for three consecutive periods each week.

SUBMISSION OF WORK

All student work may be retained and used by the Departments and the client. Copies of student work for this course must be turned in at the completion of each assignment. No grades will be computed into the final course grade until digital submissions have been turned in as requested. Please follow the directions given by the instructor as to how they will be submitted.

LATE SUBMISSIONS

Late submissions are generally not accepted. Late submissions will receive a full letter grade deduction for each 24 hour period past the deadline.

If a student suffers undue hardship and is not able to meet a submission deadline, they may make a formal request for an extension to the course instructor prior to the deadline. The student must email the course instructor informing the instructor of the situation that warrants consideration for an exception (death in the family, serious illness documented as required by the University, etc.).

IMPORTANT: Accommodations will NOT be made due to lost data.

GRADING

1000 points total are possible, in two categories of activity. The weighting of how those assignments contribute to the cumulative semester grade is:

Active Engagement & Leadership:	10%
Individual and Group Assignments (including quality of work, meeting deadlines, etc.)	90%

Please note that participation is mandatory. Group Assignments include a participation component.

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We expect that all students should be able to accomplish a “B” grade, but will mark lower when a student does not show adequate understanding. “A” grades require exceptional quality, depth, synthesis of ideas, or creativity.

Grading will adhere to the University of Florida Grade Policy.

UF POLICIES

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

University Policy on Academic Misconduct: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php>.

Communication Courtesy: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats.
<http://teach.ufl.edu/docs/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

GETTING HELP

Students are encouraged to contact the course instructor at anytime by email to discuss concerns relating to the course or its contents.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for: Counseling and Wellness resources Disability resources Resources for handling student concerns and complaints

Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	.. E
Numeric Grade	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
Quality Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	.. 0.0

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CHANGES TO THIS SYLLABUS

This syllabus represents our current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes are not unusual and should be expected. Any updates to the syllabus will be announced in studio and/or by email. Students are responsible for being up-to-date with any changes made to the syllabus.