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# Urban Design Spring 2018

LAA 4353c: 6 credits

Class meets: MWF, Periods 7 – 9 (1:55pm – 4:55pm)  
*and as required (site visits, presentations, workshops, etc. TBA)*

Location: 202 Fine Arts Building

Instructor: Alpa Nawre  
Office: 442 Architecture Building.  
Office hours by appointment.  
Please email me to set a time  
alpa.nawre@ufl.edu

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## Course Description

This studio explores the discipline of urban design and its relation to landscape architecture. The course focuses on urban green infrastructure, sustainable built environments and urban place-making. Topics include urban growth trends, development patterns, redevelopment strategies and infill approaches.

## Course Objectives

The studio helps position landscape architects to become leaders in urban design processes, at varied scales. Students enrolled in this studio will expand on the skills and training in landscape architecture by exploring current trends in urban design theory, revisiting the fundamental tenants of historic and contemporary urban development models, refining skills in approaches to the systematic analysis of complex biological, human and geophysical environments while advancing the development of skills in urban design.

Students will strengthen skills in values-based design decision-making, employing an iterative process towards defensible solutions to real-world problems. They will learn to explore the impacts and implication of policy on urban and architectural form, and to respond sensitively and appropriately to local cultural and environmental contexts. Students will develop sustainable solutions to complex urban problems and will design safe, vibrant and healthy urban environments with the goal of creating urban environments that are both joyful and memorable.

## Course Structure

This is a sixteen-week, full-semester course. The course includes lectures, group discussions and exercises, individual/team projects, and formal presentations.

## Textbook, Readings and Media

There is no required reading for this course. Recommended references include:

Waldheim C. **Landscape as Urbanism: A general theory.** Princeton University Press, 2016

Mostafavi, M. & Doherty, G. **Ecological Urbanism.** Lars Muller, 2016

Steiner, F, Thompson, G. F. & Carbonell A. **Nature & Cities: The ecological Imperative in Urban Design and Planning.** Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. 2016

Krieger A. & Saunders W. **Urban Design.** University of Minnesota Press. 2008

Alexander, C. A & Neis, H., Anninou, A. King, I. **New Theory of Urban Design**. Oxford University Press.1987

Jacobs, J. **The Life and Death of Great American Cities**, Random House. 1961

## Course Policies

### 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. Absences will result in a grade penalty of a letter grade reduction per three unexcused absences.

### Submission of Student Work

The Department of Landscape Architecture is required to maintain current archives of student-submitted work. Digital 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 (PDF, word file, etc.). All files must follow the file naming protocol as follows:

course#/ course name / assignment number/ student name / file type <dot> (dwg/pdf/jpg)

Example: 4353UrbanDesAssig7Jagger  
4ch 8ch 8ch 6ch

Use caps for separation

No spaces, hyphens, or underscoring

In cases of models and other 3-D work, high-quality (resolution, lighting, composition, etc) digital JPG photographs should 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.) and get permission from instructor to submit work late. Late submissions do not excuse missed presentations.

### Grading Policies

The weighting of assessment grades to determine the cumulative semester grade is:

Active Engagement & Leadership	20%
Individual and Group Assignments	80%

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. Final letter grades will convert from numeric grade as follows:

Grading will adhere to the University of Florida Grade Policy:

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

## 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.

## Disclaimer

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.