

Community Planning

EVDP 637 H (0-8)

Winter 2015 Monday and Wednesday 14:00 - 17:50

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Teaching Assistant: TBD

Introduction

The overall objective is to introduce students to land use planning and development issues in the suburban context. Addresses one of the most important urban challenges related to smart growth management. Provides a step-by-step introduction to community planning processes and essential planning policies to create development that is economically feasible, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly.

Objectives

1. To gain experience in documenting, analyzing and understanding suburban communities and their evolution
2. To develop knowledge of key concepts and principles of community planning and their application through the exploration of an approach and methodology for community planning
3. To develop the ability to address issues and opportunities at the suburban scale in two and three-dimensional form through a process of design and planning development
4. To gain experience in graphic thinking and communication as it relates to community planning

Teaching Approach

This is a studio-based course that will consist of a series of both lectures, which will provide background and content, and a series of projects that will gradually build towards the completion of a comprehensive community plan. Much of the work will be done in a studio setting, where students learn by doing, and through input from instructors, collaboration with peers, and evaluation of assignments. It is essential that students bring materials to the studio times that demonstrate their progress. It is through these reviews and discussions during studio time, that much of the feedback on these projects is obtained. The more a student's work is presented and discussed, the more concrete feedback and clear direction will be offered by the instructors. The studio is largely self-directed, that is, you must work to uncover the project rather than being assigned one.

Content: Topic Areas & Detailed Class Schedule

The content of the course will include:

1. Sustainable community planning
2. Policy and statutory framework
3. Environmental, social and economic context analysis
4. Conceptual community planning (housing, services, infrastructure, open space, transit)
5. Subdivision design process
6. Land use planning
7. Policy and plan drafting and development

Graphics and Computer Skills

Students should have some previous background with the following:

- image editing software, such as Photoshop
- vector drawing software, such as Illustrator, AutoCAD, Rhino
- 3D modeling software, such as SketchUp, Rhino
- desk top publishing software, such as InDesign
- presentation software, such as PowerPoint, Keynote
- GIS might also be useful but will not be required or taught in this course. Please consult the university calendar for various GIS courses.

Schedule

A course schedule will be provided at the beginning of the semester. There will be no classes during Block Week. The **final studio meeting will be Wed April 15 2015**, and the **final review will be scheduled during the period April 16-29 2015**. A specific schedule will be provided with the project handout.

Means of Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the elements listed below. There will be no final examination. Assessment will be done on the basis of day-to-day performance as well as on the quality of work presented at reviews. While the *product* of studio work is important, equally important is the student's ability to develop a practical, appropriate and coherent planning and design *process*. Students are expected to be in attendance for the entirety of each studio period.

Each component of the course must be completed, and a passing grade (i.e. minimum B-, or the 4-point or percentage equivalent) achieved, in order to pass the course as a whole. Because the studio work is evaluated during the interim and final reviews, all work must be completed on time, and all students must take part in the presentations and reviews. Late pinning up/submission of material to be presented in studio reviews is not acceptable (grades will be deducted for work pinned up or submitted later than the deadline specified in the course/project brief or as discussed in class). Some work will be completed individually with some completed in groups. Students will receive a common grade for work done in groups. Attendance and engagement are expected as a requirement for progress in design, and is characterized by active involvement in the work and discussions.

Evaluation breakdown

1. The Role of Policy	15%
- Analysis and summary of relevant policies	
- Deliverable: written summary and brief class presentation	
2. Project Management	10%
- Community Plan process outline	
- Includes steps, tasks, team member responsibilities, and milestones	
- Deliverable: written report	
3. Site and Data Analysis	20%
- Summary and analysis of information gathered	
- Issues and opportunities derived through the site analysis	
- Deliverable: multiple poster presentation	
4. Draft Concept	20%
- Draft version of Community Plan (Area Structure Plan)	
- Deliverable: draft written report and class presentation	
5. Final Concept	35%
- Final version of Community Plan (Area Structure Plan)	
- Individual self evaluation prepared by each team member	
- Deliverable: draft written report and class presentation	
Total	100%

A Note on Critical Review

Critical review of student work is vital to design projects. This is part of feed-back for learning purposes. Such reviews must not be misunderstood as indicators of standards and they are different from assessment. Students have a responsibility to attend critical reviews at the appointed time as part of the learning process. Review panels are composed of internal and external members for the appointed times and cannot be re-composed to consider late submissions. Consequently late work will not receive a critical review, though it will be assessed with marks.

- **Critical Review:** May take place during the development phases of a project as well as at the time of the final submission. Its purpose is to identify strengths and weaknesses in the work and to offer suggestions to generally encourage the student. An encouraging critical review does not necessarily mean a good assessment result.
- **Assessment:** May take place at a stage in a project or on final submission (or both). Its purpose is to value the work in terms of the objectives stated in the Syllabus and project brief and to express this as a grade.

Special Budgetary Considerations

Required base maps and air photos will be provided, or will be available from the Spatial and Numeric Data Services (SANDS) or on-line, and any additional information and associated costs will be at the discretion of the student. Students should have basic drawing tools (pencils, a small selection of markers, scales, sketch rolls, other paper, a small cutting mat, knife, and drafting tape, and a small selection of pencil crayons will be useful). Some costs for plotting and printing should be anticipated, as per the typical studio practice.

EVDS Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding - evaluated by instructor
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Very good performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	All final grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	

Note: A student who receives a "C⁺" or lower in any one course will be required to withdraw regardless of their grade point average (GPA) unless the program recommends otherwise. If the program permits the student to retake a failed course, the second grade will replace the initial grade in the calculation of the GPA, and both grades will appear on the transcript.

Notes:

1. Written work, term assignments and other course related work may only be submitted by e-mail if prior permission to do so has been obtained from the course instructor. Submissions must come from an official University of Calgary (ucalgary) email account.
2. Academic Accommodations. The Academic Accommodations Policy can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>. It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403.220.6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
3. Plagiarism - Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar.
4. Information regarding the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>) and how this impacts the receipt and delivery of course material
5. Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>)
6. Safewalk information (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>)
7. Contact Info for: Student Union (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/affordability-accessibility/contact>); Graduate Student representative(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>) and Student Ombudsman's Office (<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights>).