



Land Acknowledgement: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-teachings/territorial-land-acknowledgement>

Course Number: DSGN 301

Course Name: Trans-scalar Studio I – Small Scale

Section Number: B02

Classroom: [REDACTED]

Instructor: Roxane Fallah

- Email: Roxane.fallah2@ucalgary.ca
- Instructor Email Policy: Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 48 hours excluding weekends and statutory holidays.

Class Dates: Tuesday and Friday, Sep 2 - Dec 5, 2025; 1:00pm to 4:50pm

Course Description:

"Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only. Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening."

- Coco Chanel

This trans-scalar studio explores fashion as an infrastructural system of everyday life: an aestheticized ecology of materials, assemblies, scales and ecological practices rooted in systems thinking. By working with locally sourced waste materials, the studio brings attention to issues of abundance, scarcity, and cultural narratives embedded in the things that condition our bodies and the spaces they inhabit.

The course consists of three phases – each addressing an overarching question through a series of lectures, tutorials and reviews. Phase 1 asks, *"What can a waste material tell us about the world it came from?"* Students will study designers who have repurposed and reformed waste materials, explore ecological patterns, and source waste materials local to Calgary for use in their own term projects. Phase 2 asks, *"How can waste be reconfigured around a human body?"* The studio will pursue an aesthetic of minimal elegance while iteratively applying materials and physically prototyping design strategies identified in phase 1. Phase 3 asks, *"How might these systems be examined across scales?"*

Students will speculate about the scalar limits of these systemic material formations aided by digital design tools and representations that reveal an expanded range of impacts and applications.

Across these three phases, students will build a catalog of precedents, produce a series of material-tectonic experiments, transform their research into a 1:1 wearable prototype, and finally, translate their system digitally to explore its capacity to adapt across scales that connects individual bodies to larger ecologies. The goal is to cultivate design sensibilities that merge ecological responsibility with innovative tectonic thinking and bridges material tactility with systemic elegance.

- Academic Calendar description: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/courses/1660551>
- Course Hours: 6 units; (0-4)

Requisites: See [Section 3.3.5](#) of the Academic Calendar for more information regarding School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape courses.

- Prerequisite(s): Design 203 and admission to the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation program.
- Antirequisite(s): Credit for Design 301 and either 302 or 303 will not be allowed.
- Corequisite(s): Design 311.

Course Delivery:

- Studio will be delivered in-person only consisting of lectures, tutorials, and lab (review) sessions.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will know and be able to:

1. Understand and source local waste materials.
2. Identify and apply ecological patterns in design.
3. Explore tectonic assemblies and material systems.
4. Develop scalable and modular design strategies.
5. Employ physical prototyping techniques.
6. Apply transscalar design thinking across scales.
7. Create 3D models and digital representations.

Learning Resources:

- Required readings, textbooks, and learning materials:
 - Gerrie, Vanessa, *Borderless Fashion Practice: Contemporary Fashion in the Metamodern Age* (2023)
 - C. Till and K. Franklin, *Radical Matter: Rethinking Materials for a Sustainable Future* (2018)
 - Neri Oxman, *Material Ecology* (2010)
 - Timothy Morton, *Ecology Without Nature* (2007)
 - Cecil Balmond, *Informal* (2002)

- Technology requirements:
 - In order to make use of the digital tools provided in the course, students will need a laptop capable of running the following [free] software (installed):
 - Rhino + Grasshopper
 - Adobe Creative Suite
- BDCI Makerspace Training Requirement:
 - Students must complete all relevant online University of Calgary safety courses and the online Trajectory Safety training course to be granted access to the BDCI Makerspace.

Special Budgetary Requirements:

Printing costs; material costs.

Design Studio Health and Safety:

Studios at SAPL are designated as lab-like environments under the University of Calgary's Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) requirements. All students and instructors must comply with both university-wide safety standards and the SAPL-specific studio rules outlined below. These rules are in place to ensure a safe, functional, and respectful working environment for everyone. Failure to comply may be considered Academic or Non-Academic misconduct and be subject to disciplinary action, including loss of studio and/or workshop privileges under the SAPL demerit system.

Conduct & Culture

- No horseplay, pranks, or behavior that could distract or endanger others. Keep voices and music at levels that don't mask hazards or emergency instructions.
- All posted door placards and safety signage must be followed at all times.

Fire Safety, Exits & Evacuation

- Keep aisles, doors, and all emergency equipment fully clear at all times; do not block exits with models, carts, or materials. Obey Emergency/Fire Wardens during drills and alarms.
- Nothing may be stored on top of lockers (fire code/OH&S).
- During an evacuation: leave immediately, use stairs, go to the assembly point, and wait for the all-clear.

Prohibited & Restricted Items in Studios

- No flammable sprays or solvents (e.g., spray paint, spray glue, fixatives) may be used or stored in studios. Use only in a designated spray booth with ventilation.
- Freshly laser-cut plastics must not be stored in studios due to off-gassing; allow time for ventilation per shop guidance.
- No concrete powder storage in studios.

- No small kitchen appliances (kettles, coffee makers, hot plates, etc.).
- No drugs or alcohol may be consumed or stored on campus.

Materials

- Use only materials approved for studio use. If you have any questions, please ask your instructor, workshop personnel, or the Manager of Faculty Operations.
- Store materials neatly; dispose of hazardous waste per posted instructions—never in regular bins.

Housekeeping & End-of-Term Cleanout

- Maintain a clean, orderly workstation; manage offcuts and trip hazards promptly.
- End of term: remove all models and supplies from studios and model storage by posted deadlines—items left will be discarded.

Layout, Furniture & Power

- Do not relocate furniture to other areas or reconfigure studio layouts without authorization from Faculty Operations.
- Each student may have one locker only.
- Nothing may be hung from ceilings except approved extension cords for power. If you need additional power, contact a technician or Building Operations; do not DIY electrical setups. Personal heaters require Faculty Operations approval.

Working Hours, Security & Working Alone

- After hours: do not admit unknown persons; theft and damage have occurred this way.
- If anyone is actively building/cutting/gluing, studio lights must remain on for safety.
- Working alone: follow UCalgary's Working Alone Standard—use the UCSafety App check-in feature or an approved plan, especially after hours.

PPE & Personal Safety

- Tie back long hair; avoid loose clothing, scarves, dangling jewelry, and headphones when performing tasks that could snag. Wear eye protection when there's risk from cutting/sanding/particulates; use respiratory protection/booths where required.
- Closed-toe footwear is mandatory; hearing/respiratory protection as task-appropriate. (See posted signage and SDS guidance.)

Tools & Equipment in Studios.

- Use tools only for their intended purpose and only those permitted in studios by your instructor and posted rules. High-risk tools (e.g., power tools) are not operated in studios without coordination with workshop personnel.

- Report damaged or malfunctioning furniture or equipment immediately—do not attempt repairs yourself.

Incidents, Reporting & Enforcement

- Report all injuries, near misses, and hazards immediately to your instructor and Campus Security; complete required incident reports per university procedure.
- Safety violations may be considered Academic or Non-Academic misconduct and trigger disciplinary action. Persistent non-compliance is escalated to Faculty Operations/Associate Dean.

Instructor Responsibilities (Studios)

- Instructors are responsible for monitoring and enforcing studio safety, addressing prohibited activities (e.g., sprays in studios, blocked exits), and escalating repeat violations to Faculty Operations. (Workshop personnel focus on workshop safety under the revised framework.)

Additional Classroom Conduct and Related Information:

- **Code of Conduct:** The SAPL Studio spaces and other SAPL/University-provided facilities and equipment are governed by the [University's Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#). Professional and courteous behavior is expected at all times. For more information, please refer to [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#), including the following categories: 1. Protection of Individuals; 2. Protection of Property; 3. Protection of University Functions, Activities and Services; 4. False Information and Identification; 5. Possession or Use of Dangerous Objects, Drugs or Alcohol; 6. Aiding in the Commission of an Offence; 7. Contravention of Other Laws and University Policies; and 8. Failure to Comply with a Sanction.
- If video conferencing tools such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams are used during course activities, the following studio guidelines will be employed:

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)).

When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as Microsoft Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others.

Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or

preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant [University of Calgary conduct policies](#) (e.g., [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)).

If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor in advance to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review the recorded session). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

- **Communication with Instructor(s) Outside of Class Time:** To communicate with the Instructor(s) outside of class time, please use your UCalgary email account (unless otherwise noted). Email is a widely used professional communication tool. Please specify the course name and section number in the subject line of all emails (e.g., DSGN 304, B01). Please ensure you check spelling, grammar, salutations, and other professional etiquette requirements for email communications. Instructors will not respond to emails that do not contain this information. Please provide at least 2 business days for the Instructor(s) to reply. While email is most commonly used by students to communicate with their Instructors, it can sometimes limit the effectiveness of communication and may not be the best way for to answer all student questions. When replying, if the Instructor determines that communicating via email is not optimal, they may request a phone call or a virtual/in-person meeting.

Assessment Components:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the Academic Calendar. In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Rubric	Phase 1	30%	1, 2, 3 and 4
Rubric	Phase 2	30%	1, 2, 3,4, and 5
Rubric	Phase 3	30%	4, 6, and 7
Rubric	Portfolio	10%	2, 4, 6 and 7

- Assessment and Evaluation Information:
 - If a student misses (or is late for) a required component of the course for a valid excuse or absence, they must contact the instructor in writing within 24 hours to discuss applicable options to submit and/or make-up for that component.
 - Alternate arrangements for missed in-person assessments with a valid excuse will be made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Instructor and upon review of the student's class participation and attendance record.
 - For assessments submitted online (e.g., D2L), all late assignments will lose a letter grade (e.g., A- to B-) every 24 hours after the submission date/time. Late assignments submitted more than four days late constitute an automatic zero (0).
 - Missed in-person assessments (e.g., oral presentation, exam, etc.) as a result of an *unexcused* absence will receive an automatic zero (0).
- Attendance and Participation Expectations:
 - Students are expected to attend and come prepared to meaningfully engage in all class sessions. This includes producing or preparing content necessary for discussion and contributing to individual and class-wide discussions and/or conversations/assessments with the Course Instructor.
 - **Excused Absences:** In the event of an exceptional circumstance (e.g., illness, bereavement, etc.) or an exceptional opportunity (e.g., varsity athletic competition, national conference or awards ceremony, pow wow, etc.) up to four excused absences (for courses that meet twice or more per week) and up to two excused absences (for courses that meet once per week) are allowable per semester before jeopardizing one's own course grade and ability to pass the course. However, any such arrangements must be approved by the Instructor with advance notice by the student.
 - **Unexcused Absences:** Attendance at all class sessions and participation in all assessments is mandatory. Unexcused absences in excess of two per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) and one per semester (for courses that meet once per week) are grounds for failure in the course.

- **Total Number of Absences:** The combined total number of excused AND unexcused absences per semester cannot exceed four per semester (for courses that meet twice per week) or two per semester (for courses that meet once per week). Any number in excess are grounds for failure in the course.
- Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:
 - All assignments (e.g., projects, papers, presentations, etc.) must be turned in on time.
 - Please submit all assignments electronically through Dropbox in D2L. Assignments may be submitted in PDF format (unless otherwise stated). Assignments should have a file name as follows: "Coursenumber_semester_Lastname-Firstname_assignment-title" (e.g., DSGN301_F25_Smith-Alex_Plan-Drawings).
 - Students are responsible for ensuring that all submitted digital files are in the correct format, complete, and accessible. Submissions that are corrupt, empty, incorrect (e.g., wrong file type), or inaccessible may receive a grade of zero. It is not the Instructor's responsibility to verify or notify students of submission errors. Students are encouraged to double-check their uploads and retain confirmation of successful submission.
 - **Late Assignments:** Please see above for the course's policy on late assignments/assessments
- Final Examinations:
 - There will be no examinations for this course. Please refer to the Phase 3 brief for details on the final assessment of this course.
- Expectations for Writing:
 - Please see the "Copyright and Legislation" Section of the University of Calgary Policies and Supports for information on the use of AI in this course.
 - Section E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum:
<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/2c2d1ce47b8c4d008aec9cc3da49876e>
- Criteria that must be met to pass:
 - **To successfully pass the studio, students must achieve a passing grade in each phase of the course. Failure to submit the required assignments or to participate in the final review for any phase will result in failing the course.**

Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade):

As per [Section 3.5.1](#) of the Academic Calendar, the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape will not permit the Flexible Grade Option (CG Grade) for any course offered by the School, with the exception of the following courses:

- Architecture 201
- Landscape Architecture 201
- Planning 201

Grading Scale:

Based on [Section F.1.1](#) of the Academic Calendar

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
A+	4.00	4.00	95-100	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	3.85-4.00	90-94.99	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	3.50-3.84	85-89.99	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	3.15-3.49	80-84.99	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	2.85-3.14	75-79.99	Good performance
B-	2.70	2.50-2.84	70-74.99	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	2.15-2.49	65-69.99	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	1.85-2.14	60-64.99	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	1.50-1.84	55-59.99	Approaching satisfactory performance. Minimum grade requirement for SAPL prerequisite courses.
D+	1.30	1.15-1.49	50-54.99	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
D	1.00	0.50-1.14	45-49.99	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
F	0.00	0-0.49	0-44.99	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Topic Areas and Detailed Class Schedule:

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessments and Due Dates
Sep 2-5	Phase 1	Lecture	
Sep 9-12	Phase 1	Student Presentation & Lecture	
		Desk Crits	
Sep 16-19	Phase 1	Group Discussion	
		Desk Crit	
Sep 23-26	Phase 1	Desk Crits	Sep 26 th Final presentation during Class time / All phase 1 component due at 1:00 PM
		Sep 26th, Phase 1 Final Presentation	
Tuesday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, University closed		
Oct 3	Phase 2	Lecture	
		Desk crits	
Oct 7-10	Phase 2	Student Presentation & Group Discussion	
		Desk crits	
Wednesday, October 8	City Futures: Undergraduate Design Research Symposium		
Oct 14-17	Phase 2	Student Presentation & Lecture	
		Desk crits	
Oct 21-24	Phase 2	Desk crits & Group Discussion	
Oct 28-31	Phase 2	Desk crits	Oct 31 st Final presentation during Class time / All phase 2 components due at 1:00 PM
		Oct 31st, Phase 2 Final Presentation	
Nov 4-7	Phase 3	Lecture & Group Discussion	
		Desk crits	
Nov 9-15	Term Break, no classes		
Nov 18-21	Phase 3	Student Presentation & tutorial	
		Desk crits	
Nov 25-28	Phase 3	Desk crits & Group Discussion	
Dec 2-5	Phase 3	Desk crits	Dec 5 th Phase 3 Final Presentation / All Phase 3 components due at 8:00 AM
		Dec 5th, Phase 3 Final Presentation (Final Review)	
Friday, December 5	Final Reviews + Reception (full day): second-year BDCI		
Tuesday, December 9	Portfolio submission		Portfolio due at 11:59PM

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

There are no scheduled out-of-class activities for this course.

University of Calgary Policies and Supports:

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY COVID-19 UPDATES AND PROCEDURES

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/covid-19-response/covidsafe-campus>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-accommodation-policy>

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf>

Students needing an accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor (contact information on first page above).

[Student Accessibility Services](#) will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures please visit:

- Student Academic Misconduct Policy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-policy>
- Student Academic Misconduct Procedure: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy>).

Notice to Students Regarding Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications and Tools in Learning Environments

- **Some Use Permitted:** Students may use generative AI tools in this course in accordance with the instructions and guidelines outlined for each course assignment or assessment. The use of generative AI tools must be referenced and cited following citation instructions outlined by the course instructor. Use of generative AI outside assessment or assignment guidelines or without citation will constitute academic misconduct. It is the student's responsibility to be clear on the limitations on the use of generative AI tools for each assessment or assessment, on the expectations for citation and referencing, and on fact checking statements created by generative AI tools. If you are in doubt as to the use of generative AI tools in this course, please discuss your situation with the course instructor.
 - AI tools can be used for creating assignment outlines or critiquing drafts, but the final work must be original.
 - AI tools may be prohibited for tests, major assignments, or research papers but allowed for information gathering.

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

The University of Calgary (University) respects your privacy and is committed to ensuring the privacy of all students, staff, and community members. UCalgary's collection, use, and disclosure of your personal information is authorized under section 4(c) of the Alberta [Protection of Privacy Act](#) (POPA). It will be collected, used and disclosed as permitted under POPA and in accordance with the University's [Privacy Policy](#) and [Notice of Collection, Use and Disclosure of Student Personal Information](#). All student assignments and personal information provided to your course instructor will remain confidential

unless otherwise stated before submission. It will not be disclosed to anyone else without your permission unless permitted under POPA.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual and/or gender-based violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual/gender-based violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual/gender-based violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/sexual-and-gender-based-violence-policy>.

UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPEALS OFFICE

If a student has a concern about a grade that they have received, they should refer to Section I of the Undergraduate Calendar (<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/uofcregs/university-regulations/reappraisal-term-work>) which describes how to have a grade reappraised.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk