



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

Course Number: DSGN 303

Course Name: Transcalar Design Studio I - Large Scale

Section Number: B01

Classroom: [REDACTED]

Instructor: Francisco Alaniz Uribe

- Email: falanizu@ucalgary.ca
- Phone: Zoom call by appointment
- Office Hours and Location: [REDACTED] by appointment
- 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: Mandatory all in-person, Tuesdays and Fridays 1:00 PM - 4:50 PM

Course Description:

This introductory transscalar design studio enables students to explore a particular thematic built environment issue at a large scale.

Design is both a process of creation and transformation. In the context of sustainable urban design and planning, this process focuses on reshaping spaces for human habitation with sustainability as a central objective. Successful design emerges from a robust and thorough understanding of the problems at hand, as well as the opportunities for improvement.

This course equips students with the ability to identify, analyze, and understand the functioning of large-scale urban systems and to explore how design can contribute to their improvement. The term urban is understood broadly to include cities, towns, and human settlements of all sizes. Emphasis is placed on recognizing the complexity of these environments and the interdependent nature of their systems.

While it is not possible to address every urban system in a single term, the course will focus on the most essential:

- The public realm and urban forests, including the role of public trees in climate adaptation
- Public transit, considering its layered and networked structures
- Land use and land management, encompassing residential areas, employment centres, and production (industrial) zones

The principles of climate change adaptation, resilience, and livability will guide analysis. Livability is framed here as the combination of affordability and quality of life, which includes safe and healthy public spaces, affordable housing, accessible transportation, and inclusive recreational opportunities. Students will begin by examining regional climate change forecasts and anticipating potential crises based on these projections.

The design phase of the course will involve developing modifications to one or more systems at a selected site or sites. These interventions will be conceived as prototypes, aimed at improving, complementing, and transforming systems to advance sustainability objectives.

The research methods for this course include general systems theory, urban morphology and townscape analysis.

Through this process, students will develop a methodical approach to understanding urban systems and their interconnections. This approach will not only apply to the systems addressed in the course but will also prepare students to engage with additional systems in future professional practice.

- Academic Calendar description: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/courses/1660561>
- 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.
- Corequisite(s): Design 311.

Course Delivery:

- In-person Delivery

Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Identify and describe the key large-scale systems that shape urban settlements, including cities, towns, and smaller communities.
2. Interpret regional climate change forecasts and anticipate potential future crises.
3. Explain the role of sustainability in urban design, with emphasis on climate change adaptation, resilience, and livability.
4. Evaluate the functioning of specific urban systems, including:

- a. Public realm typologies and urban forests
 - b. Public transit networks and their layered structures
 - c. Land use and land management (residential, employment, and industrial areas)
5. Apply methods of system analysis to identify opportunities for improvement in urban environments.
6. Design site-specific or multi-site interventions that act as prototypes for improving and transforming urban systems.
7. Integrate considerations of affordability, quality of life, public health, and safety into urban design proposals.
8. Develop a transferable, methodical approach to understanding and improving additional urban systems beyond those covered in the course.

Learning Resources:

- Recommended readings:
 - Systems theory in urban design
 - Montuori, A. "Systems Approach". Encyclopedia of Creativity, Elsevier Science & Technology, 2011. ProQuest Ebook Central
 - Urban morphology
 - Moudon, Anne Vernez. "Urban morphology as an emerging interdisciplinary field." Urban morphology 1.1 (1997): 3-10.
 - Townscape analysis
 - Sandalack, Beverly. "Townscape Analysis: A Comprehensive Methodology for Landscape and Urban Design." Routledge Handbook of Urban Landscape Research (2022): 318-332.
- Technology requirements:
 - A laptop is required during all classes.
 - Software required includes ArcGIS, Illustrator or similar, AutoCAD or Rhino, Photoshop or similar, and InDesign or similar
- 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.

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 behaviour 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.

Assessment Components:

The University policy on grading and related matters is described in [F.1](#) and [F.2](#) of the Academic Calendar. It is essential to note that a student must obtain a passing grade on their final individual assignment to pass the course. In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Oral presentation, hard copy and digital submissions (group work)	Systems Spatial Analysis + Problem Definition	30%	1, 2, 3 and 4
Oral presentation, hard copy and digital submissions (group work)	Large Scale Systems Conceptual Design	30%	3, 4, and 5
Oral presentation, hard copy and digital submissions (Individual work)	Large Scale Systems Design	40%	6, 7, and 8

- **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 *without a valid excuse* 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.
 - Assignment submission will be specified in each assignment brief.
 - 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:
 - Final presentations will be on Friday, December 5th.
- 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:
 - It is essential to note that a student must obtain a passing grade on their final individual assignment to pass 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:

A more detailed schedule will be provided on the first day of classes. Details of site visits will be coordinated in class and will be scheduled entirely within class hours and taking into consideration travel time.

Course Schedule Date	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessments and Due Dates
Sep 2-5	Y2 Studio Launch + Large Scale Studio Introduction		
Sep 9-12	Research based urban analysis	Sep. 12 Site visit to Nose Hill	
Sep 16-19	Research based urban analysis	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Sep 23-26	Research based urban analysis	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Tuesday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	No class	
Oct 3	Research based urban analysis	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Oct 7-10	Research based urban analysis	Oct. 7 Lectures + Site visit to Downtown	Oct. 10 Systems Spatial Analysis + Problem Definition Presentation
Oct 14-17	Systems thinking, problem definition and conceptual design	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Oct 20-24	Systems thinking, problem definition and conceptual design	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Oct 28-31	Systems thinking, problem definition and conceptual design	Oct. 28 Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	Oct. 31 Large Scale Systems Conceptual Design
Nov 4-7	Systems thinking and detailed design	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Nov 9-15	Term Break, no classes		
Nov 18-21	Systems thinking and detailed design	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Nov 25-28	Systems thinking and detailed design	Lectures + Desk Crit + Studio	
Dec 2	Systems thinking and detailed design	Studio	
Friday, December 5	Final Reviews + Reception (full day): second-year BDCI		

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

- **Unrestricted Use:** Students may use generative AI tools throughout this course to enhance their learning in any course learning activities, assignments, and assessments. Students are responsible for citing and referencing all work generated by AI tools as outlined by the course instructor.
 - Students may use AI tools for understanding course materials and producing assignments, but are accountable for the content of their submissions.
 - AI-generated content must be cited appropriately.

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