



Course Number	ARCH 400	Classroom	Web-based instruction
Course Name	Introduction to Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture		
Pre/Co-Requisites	None		
Instructor	Dr. T.P. Keenan	Office Hours/Location	Office hours by appointment, via email or Zoom
	Email: keenan@ucalgary.ca	Phone:	
Class Dates	May 4, 2026-Jun 15, 2026. Completely online and asynchronous.		
Instructor Email Policy	Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. We will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 48 hours.		
Name and Email of Teaching Assistant(s)	Yaser Rahmaniani yaser.rahmaniani@ucalgary.ca Sneha Maliat Haque snehamaliat.haque@ucalgary.ca (You will be assigned to one of these TAs)		

Course Description

An examination of the central concepts of architecture, planning, and landscape architecture delivered in an online format.

<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/courses/1651601>

Design is everywhere. It is part of your everyday communication, your household, and your workplace. Design is also a complex concept. It is both a process and the result of that process—the shape, style, and meaning of environments that have been designed. Many factors influence the design process: the location, the environmental issues, the relationship with its surroundings, the ideas of the designer, technological determinants, the cultural context that gave rise to the need for the project in the first place, and finally, the social, economic, political and legislative context that will frame the design.

New tools, such as augmented reality, are continually being developed that will change the nature of our practice. This course helps you to understand the natural, built, and human environments and focuses on fashioning physical and social interventions informed by human behavior and environmental processes. It includes fields such as architecture, planning, urban design, environmental science, industrial and product design, technology, and landscape architecture.

GFC Hours (3-0)

Requisites

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

Prerequisite(s): None Corequisite(s): None

Online Delivery

This course is completely online and asynchronous, with no face-to-face meetings or Zoom sessions. Each week, *usually* on Thursday, two new units of material will be released, consisting of at least one video lecture, related readings, and an assignment. The assignments are to be completed and submitted to the appropriate D2L dropbox by the due date, as shown in the course outline. A discussion post on each topic should also be submitted to the appropriate discussion group. It is recommended that these be done together with the assignment, though the discussion posts can be made until the Final Deadline without a lateness penalty.

Evaluations are also returned via the D2L dropbox. Discussion group posts should be made in the appropriate topical discussion group.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Have an evidence-based, holistic understanding of the issues relevant to architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, and related disciplines.
2. Acquire basic skills in each of these disciplines.
3. Understand how an interdisciplinary approach can be used to solve complex problems.
4. Apply “design thinking” to small but important examples of personal interest.
5. Be familiar with the various career paths and educational options relevant to the fields covered in the course.

Special Budgetary Requirements

None

Learning Resources

Will be supplied on D2L though you are welcome and encouraged to use other resources. References are encouraged wherever appropriate, and they should be cited in APA format. Please see below for special instructions regarding the use of artificial intelligence in this course.

Technology Requirements

To successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection
- Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Student IT Resources information is found here: [Student IT Resources](#)

Land Acknowledgement

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

Assessment Components

Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
12 assignments worth 7.5% each	Submitted to the appropriate dropbox by the due date	90%	All
Class participation	Evaluated by quality and quantity of discussion board postings. At least one good, non-trivial post for each topic is required for full marks.	10%	All

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 and Evaluation Information

- **Attendance and Participation Expectations:** While there is no synchronous component, students are expected to study each topic during the week it is assigned. This involves watching the video(s), reading the materials provided, making discussion posts, and completing the associated assignment by the due date. It is **highly recommended** that you keep up with the rhythm of the course, submit assignments by the due date specified and make discussion posts during the week you are studying the material.
- **Guidelines for Submitting Assignments:** Please submit to the appropriate dropbox. Evaluations will be returned there. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the assignment is correctly submitted.
- **Final Examinations:** There is no final examination.
- **Expectations for Writing:**
(<https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/pages/2c2d1ce47b8c4d008aec9cc3da49876e>):
- **Late Assignments:** Assignment submissions made after the deadlines shown on the course outline will be accepted up until the Final Deadline. They may be penalized up to one full grade (e.g., A to B) for lateness. There is a single "day of grace" available to you, which can be used to extend the deadline for ONE assignment submission by 24 hours. Please note "day of grace" in the dropbox submission comment field if you choose to use this.
- **Discussion board postings** *should be made as you do each topic* but are accepted until the Final Deadline without a lateness penalty. No work will be accepted for grading after the Final Deadline has passed.
- **Criteria that must be met to pass:** It is not necessary to pass any specific component to pass the course. The minimum passing grade is D (45%)

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities: None

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 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 & Detailed Class Schedule		
<i>In general</i>, two assignments will be released each Thursday. The first will be due the following Monday, and the second the following Thursday @ 2359. See below for details/exceptions.		
Material Released	Topic & Profs	Assignments/Due Dates
May 4, 2026 (early release)	Topic 1 Intro to Course and to Architecture (Brown & Monteyne)	Asst 1 May 11 @2359
May 4, 2026 (early release)	Topic 2 E-visit to an Architecture Firm (Boutin)	Asst 2 May 11 @2359
May 7, 2026	Topic 3 Critical Residential Practice (Brown)	Asst 3 May 11 @2359
May 7, 2026	Topic 4 Landscape Architecture (Pollock-Ellwand, de Salvatierra)	Asst 4 May 14 @2359
May 14, 2026	Topic 5 Smart/Intelligent Communities (Keenan)	Asst 5 May 19 @2359 (Due to Victoria Day)
May 14, 2026	Topic 6 Sustainable Cities (Keough, Soto-Rubio)	Asst 6 May 21 @2359
May 21, 2026	Topic 7 Urban Design (Sandalack, Harker)	Asst 7 May 25 @2359
May 21, 2026	Topic 8 Industrial Design (Gadbois)	Asst 8 May 28 @2359
May 28, 2026	Topic 9 Technology (Wylant, Taron)	Asst 9 June 1 @2359
May 28, 2026	Topic 10 Visualization (Levy)	Asst 10 June 4 @2359
June 4, 2026	Topic 11 Environmental Science (Quinn, Galpern, Tyler)	Asst 11 June 8 @2359
June 4, 2026	Topic 12 Lifecycle Assessment (Assefa)	Asst 12 June 11 @2359
June 15, 2026	End of classes	Final Deadline @ 2359

University of Calgary Policies and Supports:

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 AND 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

There are many tools available to assist you in research and writing, and it would be foolish to ignore them or try to unreasonably restrict their use. On the other hand, it is imperative that the work that you submit in the twelve assignments and weekly discussion group postings comes from your own brain and your own lived experience. We want you to learn and understand the material, and not simply figure out how to create prompts for an AI program and use cut and paste.

Restricted Use: You are allowed to use tools, including ChatGPT, Microsoft CoPilot, Wikipedia, Google Search, etc., to help you understand the course material and to conduct research for your submissions. However, what you submit **must have come from your own mind and experience and have been created by you**. Many of the assignments are designed to lead you in this direction, e.g. one that asks you to match your own personal strengths against the admission requirements of our graduate programs, and another that asks you to find good and bad urban design features in your own neighborhood and to take photos of them and discuss them.

- Students must not copy or simply paraphrase from AI applications for assignments.
- Visual material you submit must not have been generated by an AI program
- If you believe that a new idea that you got from AI is particularly important to support a part of your submission, you should cite the AI-generated material. APA (our preferred citation style in SAPL) says that you should treat such material as the output of an algorithm and, therefore, cite the maker of the AI tool that you used. Again, **this must not be your entire answer**, but if it forms a part of it, you should, for academic integrity reasons, cite the maker of the tool (so e.g. for ChatGPT that is Open AI)
(See below for a worked out example of how to cite AI in APA 7).

The inappropriate or undocumented use of AI, including the use of work created by generative AI tools and applications in course assignments and assessments, may be considered in accordance with the university's academic misconduct policy.

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

Here is an example showing “how to cite AI” as generated by Microsoft CoPilot. Yes, AI is telling us how to cite AI, and I am hereby citing it:

If you used ChatGPT to generate text about the left brain/right brain divide, your citation might look like this:

In-Text Citation:

When prompted with “Is the left brain right brain divide real or a metaphor?” the ChatGPT-generated text indicated that although the two brain hemispheres are somewhat specialized, “the notion that people can be characterized as ‘left-brained’ or ‘right-brained’ is considered to be an oversimplification and a popular myth” (OpenAI, 2023).

Reference List Entry:

OpenAI. (2023). ChatGPT [Large language model]. Retrieved from <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

This format ensures that your citations are clear and that readers can understand the source of the AI-generated content. (Microsoft CoPilot, 2025)

References

Microsoft Corporation. (2025). Microsoft CoPilot [Large language model]. Retrieved from <https://copilot.microsoft.com>

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