



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

Course Number: DSGN 500

Section Number: B05

Course Name: Experiential Learning in Design and City Innovation

Classroom: Online (Zoom)

Instructor: Connery Friesen

- Email: Connery.friesen@ucalgary.ca
- Office Hours and Location: By Appointment Online
- Instructor Email Policy: All course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and I will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 24-48 hour.

Class Dates: Mandatory real-time Zoom classes, Mondays and Thursdays, May 4 – June 15, 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

- This course will take place remotely online, but could require asynchronous remote elements depending on the specific work of students & schedule of instructor. In the case where a class must be held outside regularly scheduled class time, advance notice will be provided and discussed in class prior to.

Course Description:

- This seminar and workshop critically examines the construction of site through digital media, positioning images, datasets, and algorithmic systems as active agents in shaping spatial understanding. Moving beyond traditional notions of documentation, students employ forensic drawing, computational tools, and hybrid media to interrogate how digital proxies, such as Google Earth and Street View; produce partial, distorted, and often surreal representations of the physical world. Through iterative investigation, reconstruction, and speculative intervention, the course frames representation as a mode of knowledge production, revealing the digital sublime as a condition where perception, authorship, and environment are continuously reconfigured.

“Drawing is a form of probing. And the first generic impulse to draw derives from the human need to search, to plot points, to place things and to place oneself”

John Berger



Neil Spiller, Baroness's Filaments in Full Frenzy, 2009.

Research Methods

Research in this course is structured as a "design charrette" that oscillates between theoretical grounding and immediate forensic production. The following core methods guide the work:

- **Forensic Analysis:** Students treat digital distortions - such as stitch seams, lighting discontinuities, and censored blurs, as primary site data. By cataloging these artifacts through a "distortion taxonomy," students reveal how the medium itself designs our 'view' of the world.
- **Mediated Extraction:** Using student-selected tools (e.g., Rhino/Grasshopper, Machine Learning, or Photogrammetry), research involves extracting 3D geometry and metadata from 2D digital proxies.

- **Speculative Projection:** Research moves beyond reconstruction to "disclosure," where students use collage or coding to fill gaps in the digital record, proposing what the proxy erases or accidentally reveals.
- **Transdisciplinary Synthesis:** Knowledge production is informed by the intersection of landscape, architecture, and coding, utilizing digital "pin-ups" (Miro) and research dossiers (Notion) to facilitate collaborative discovery.
- Academic Calendar description: <https://calendar.ucalgary.ca/courses/1656241>
- Course Hours: 3 Units

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

- Prerequisite(s): 72 units and admission to the Bachelor of Design in City Innovation program.
- Corequisite(s): none

Course Delivery: Online Delivery

This course is delivered in a **mandatory synchronous online format** via **Zoom**, supplemented by specific asynchronous remote elements to support the intensive research schedule. Our digital environment is designed to mirror the collaborative nature of a physical studio while leveraging the tools inherent to our investigation of proxy landscapes.

- **Primary Platforms:** All formal course communications, lectures, and grades are managed through **Desire2Learn (D2L)** and **Zoom**.
- **Interactive Visual Studio (Miro):** We will utilize **Miro** as our primary "pin-up" space for real-time visual collaboration, peer review, and the collective tracking of research trajectories.
- **Asynchronous Content:** To maximize our 3-hour sessions for dialogue and making, the course may include **asynchronous video content**, such as pre-recorded technical tutorials on digital extraction and guest artist presentations.
- **Engagement Requirements:** Students are required to participate in all modes of delivery regardless of method and are subject to the same **participation and professional conduct requirements** as an in-person class. Webcams are expected to be on during synchronous sessions to maintain a present and engaged studio culture.
- **Final Submissions:** While the course culminates in a public-facing digital atlas, all final graded portfolios and research monographs must be delivered asynchronously via the **D2L portal**.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. **Analyze (Forensics):** Critically observe and understand digital distortions (blur fields, stitch seams) as evidentiary site data.
2. **Image (Multimodal):** Engage in digital extraction and hybrid research production using tools like Rhino/Grasshopper or Machine Learning.
3. **Elaborate (Generative):** Capture generative modes of inquiry to reconstruct space from partial digital evidence.
4. **Resolve (Ethics & Representation):** Articulate how mediated representation constructs reality and respond with precise, ethical design interventions.

Learning Resources:

- Required readings, textbooks, and learning materials:
 - Required readings are to be assigned on a student project basis, as discussed in class, and provided via D2L Portal. For further clarity or depth, students may seek out the following suggested readings:

Spiller, Neil. AD Drawing Architecture

Spiller, Neil. Radical Architectural Drawing

Cook, Peter. Drawing the Motive Force of Architecture

Young, Michael. Reality Modelled After Images

Dorrian, Mark. Drawing Architecture: Conversations on Contemporary Practice

Shaikh Hamza. Drawing Attention

Chard, Nat. Kulper, Perry. Pamphlet Architecture 34: Fathoming the Unfathomable

Cantley, Bryan. Speculative Coolness
- 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](#)
- Rhinoceros 8 c/w Grasshopper or equivalent
- Adobe Creative Suite
- Access to Collaborative tools: Miro, Notion, Are.na
- ArcGIS, Twinmotion or any 'visual' software
- Maker + Assembly Space Training Requirement:
 - If a course requires the use of the BDCI Makerspace, 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.

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.
- **Guidelines for Zoom Sessions in Online Classes:**
Students are expected to participate actively in all Zoom sessions and to turn on their webcam. Please join our class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in the Zoom sessions. Students must behave in a professional manner during the session. Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment.

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.

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
Phase 1: Encounter	Forensic Plate Set (annotated digital artifacts)	25%	1 and 2
Phase 2: Projection	Interpretive Instrument (reconstructed model/drawing)	30%	2 and 3
Phase 3: Disclosure	Primary Output (2D Hybrid, Interactive or Spatial Proxy)	30%	1, 2 and 3
Project Portfolio	Project Portfolio & Critical Reflection	15%	2, 3 and 4

▪ 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), late assignments *with a valid excuse* may be considered for grading without penalty at the discretion of the Instructor and upon review of the student's class participation and attendance record. Otherwise, the course's standard grade penalties (indicated below) will apply.
- 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 synchronous (Zoom) 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: “Lastname-Firstname_assignment-title” (e.g., Smith-Alex_Plan-Drawings).
- **Late Assignments:** Please see above for the course’s policy on late assignments/assessments.

- Final Examinations:

- This course has no final examination. **Final Presentation held June 17th.**

- 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>

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

Grade	Grade Point Value	4-Point Range	Percent	Description
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:

*Please note that dates and phasing of course materials are subject to change as discussed in class.

Course Schedule Date	Phase	Topic	Output	Submission
May 4 & 7	Encounter & Selection	The Found Image as Site; environments as invisible forces	Initial Site Reading	
May 11 & 14	Forensics/Unmasking	Reading the Distortion; drawing as forensic instrument	Preliminary Drawing Plates and "Distortion Taxonomy"	Phase 1: Encounter DUE: EOD May 14
May 18, Monday Victoria Day, University closed				
May 21	Projection/Reconstruction	Drawing What Cannot be Seen; Projection Logic	Reconstructed drawing/model using only digital evidence	
May 25 & 28	Interference/Re-Authoring	The designer as Editor; Image corruption and temporal layering	Hybrid Artifact (Collage, animation, coded output, etc)	Phase 2: Projection DUE: EOD May 28
June 1 & 4	Assembly/Narrative	From Object to System; Architecture as Media		
June 8 & 11	Publication/Exhibition	Final Atlas Assembly & Refinement	Draft Final Composition and peer review on Miro	Phase 3: Disclosure DUE: EOD June 18
June 15	Last Day of Class			
June 17	Start of Exams			Final Presentation via Zoom

Course Schedule Date	Phase	Topic	Output	Submission
June 22	Project Portfolio Due		Assembly of All Course one into one project document	Digital Submission via D2L

Scheduled Out-of-Class Activities:

Final Presentation via Zoom scheduled for 2-5pm MST, June 15th.

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 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 must be accountable for their submissions.
 - AI-generated content must be submitted as an appendix with the prompt used.
 - Reflections on AI tool usage should be included in assignments.
 - 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