



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

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	Times by appt.
	Email: keenan@ucalgary.ca		Phone: [REDACTED]
Class Dates	January 12-April 14, 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 the 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.

Course Hours: 3 units (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 and Learning Resources

This course is completely online and asynchronous, with no face-to-face meetings or Zoom sessions. Each week, *usually* on Wednesday, a new topic's material will be released, consisting of at least one video lecture, related readings, and an assignment. The assignments are to be completed and placed in the appropriate D2L Dropbox by the due date, as shown on the course outline.

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

All required learning resources are provided on D2L.

However, students are strongly encouraged to do additional research and to cite it properly in APA Style (7th ed.)

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

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.

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 Components			
Assessment Method	Description	Weight	Aligned Course Learning Outcome
Twelve Assignments each worth 7.5%	Submitted to the appropriate Dropbox by the due date. Possible lateness penalty of up to one grade (e.g. A to B) depending on circumstances.	90%	All
Class participation	Evaluated by the quality and quantity of discussion board postings. At least one good, non-trivial post for each topic is required for full marks.	10%	All

Special Budgetary Requirements
None

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

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 ***very highly recommended*** that you keep up with the weekly rhythm of the course, submit assignments by the due date specified and make discussion posts during the week you are studying the material. That way you will avoid losing marks for late penalties and learn the material most effectively. Attempting to do all the assignments at the end of the course is a proven recipe for disaster. Trust me on this, and please do not take this as a challenge!
- **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. A minimum final course grade of 45% (D) is required to pass this class. However, **a minimum final course grade of 55% (C-) is required to use this class as a prerequisite.**
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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.

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

Scheduled Out of Class Activities
None

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.

Topic Areas & Detailed Class Schedule

In general, a new topic will be opened up each Wednesday, and the corresponding assignment will be due the following Wednesday at 2359. See below for details/exceptions.

Material Released	Topic & Profs	Assignments/Due Dates
January 12 (early release)	Topic 1 Intro to Course and to Architecture (Brown & Monteyne)	Asst 1 Jan 21 @2359
January 21	Topic 2 E-visit to an Architecture Firm (Boutin)	Asst 2 Jan 28 @2359
January 28	Topic 3 Critical Residential Practice (Brown)	Asst 3 Feb 4 @2359
February 4	Topic 4 Landscape Architecture (Pollock-Ellwand, de Salvatierra)	Asst 4 Feb 11 @2359
February 11 (Feb 15-21 term break)	Topic 5 Smart Communities (Keenan)	Asst 5 Feb 25 @2359
February 25	Topic 6 Sustainable Cities (Keough, Soto-Rubio)	Asst 6 Mar 4 @2359
March 4	Topic 7 Urban Design (Sandalack, Harker)	Asst 7 Mar 11 @2359
March 11	Topic 8 Industrial Design (Gadbois)	Asst 8 Mar 18 @2359
March 18	Topic 9 Technology (Wylant, Taron)	Asst 9 Mar 25 @2359
March 25	Topic 10 Visualization (Levy)	Asst 10 Apr 1 @2359
April 1	Topic 11 Environmental Science (Quinn, Galpern, Tyler)	Asst 11 Apr 8 @2359
April 8	Topic 12 Lifecycle Assessment (Assefa)	Asst 12 Apr 15 @2359
April 15		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>.

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 restrict their use unnecessarily. 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.

AI Policy for this Course:

Restricted Use: You are allowed to use tools, including ChatGPT, Microsoft CoPilot, Wikipedia, Gemini, 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 written by you.** Many of the assignments are designed to lead you in this direction, e.g., asking you to find good and bad urban design features in your own neighborhood and to take photos of them and discuss them.

One way to understand this is to consider the distinction described by Austin Wright in a thoughtful article on The Humanist website <https://thehumanist.com/commentary/gps-stole-our-sense-of-direction-ai-is-coming-for-our-sense-of-self/>

Wright talks about how we use navigational aids and explains that humans using a paper map still retain some spatial awareness and could probably tell you which way is North. Those relying on a GPS may have turned over all responsibility and thinking to the device. Simply copying and pasting, or paraphrasing an AI-generated response moves you into the GPS domain.

There is an interesting question about the situation where you get a new idea from your AI research that you want to use. Since you are not allowed to just copy and paste (or paraphrase) it, you should cite the AI source as a reference. The APA blog gives you information on how to do this here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

If you are citing ChatGPT (where the author is the company OpenAI), it might look like this: OpenAI.(2023).*ChatGPT* (Mar 14 version) [Large language model]. <https://chat.openai.com/chat>

The inappropriate or undocumented use of generative 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 Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

In summary:

- AI tools can be used for learning course material but not for completing assignments.
- Students must not copy or paraphrase from AI applications for assignments or discussion posts.
- The inappropriate use of AI tools for assignments may be considered an academic offense.

If you are in doubt as to the use of generative AI tools in this course, please discuss your situation with the course instructor or teaching assistant.

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