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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
College of Architecture and Urban Planning  
**URBDP 503: Communication and Analysis**

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**Meeting time:** TTh 12:30-2:20

**Meeting place:** Community Design Building (Room CDB)

**Instructor:** Katherine Idziorek, AICP, LEED AP ND  
kidzi@uw.edu  
Office hours – Th 2:20-3:20 (CDB) or by appointment

**Teaching Ass't:** Katie O'Lone  
katieo5@u.washington.edu  
Office hours – Th 2:20-3:20 (CDB)

*The instructors reserve the right to make changes to the content of this syllabus at any time; all changes will be distributed to the class and posted to the course Canvas site.*

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*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.*

—Marcel Proust

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

*The primary objectives of this course are:*

- To spatially understand built environments. This “spatial perception” is important for seeing the world with the eyes of a design or planning professional.
- To develop competency in graphic communication. You will learn to read maps and aerial photographs as well as develop plan, section, elevation, and axonometric drawings. You will learn to communicate ideas graphically in the form of diagrams, sketches, and photographs. You will also be introduced to the basic computer programs related to urban design and planning. In effect, you will learn the tools to give shape and form to your ideas.
- To enhance public presentation skills. This includes oral presentation skills as well as the presentation of both quantitative and qualitative data in written and graphic media.
- To obtain familiarity with common planning processes. These include site analysis, zoning, and public involvement processes.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

**Studio:** The bulk of class time will be spent working at your desk on class assignments and projects. Studio is individual in-class work time during which the instructors (faculty and TA) are available to critique your work as needed. Much of the studio time will be spent on desk “crits” (short for critiques) and group crits. A desk crit is a one-on-one dialogue between a student and the instructor about the student’s project and process. A group crit is a discussion among faculty and any number of students on issues pertaining to a design project. There will also be some opportunities for pin-up review and discussion in which student projects will be critiqued by other faculty, professionals and/or student peers.

**Assignments:** Smaller, multi-part assignments will form the core of the first part of the quarter. These are listed in the course schedule and will be described in more detail as the quarter progresses. We will work on the assignments during our in-class studio time, but they will also require additional fieldwork and studio time outside of class.

**Final Project:** The final third of the course will focus on a larger, multi-part team project. This will provide an opportunity to explore the many stages of a real-world urban design and planning project. The project will involve sites around, and possibly beyond, the City of Seattle, and will therefore require some travel. It will be up to the students to choose their work partners and divide responsibilities appropriately. A formal presentation of the project and a final presentation report will be required at the end of the quarter.

**Seminars:** There are four seminar sessions interspersed between assignments and projects. You are expected to complete the seminar readings beforehand and participate in the discussions in a thoughtful manner. Readings will be available on the course Canvas site - login at [canvas.uw.edu](https://canvas.uw.edu) - and in the BE library. You will also hand in a two-page synopsis (typed/11 pt/1.5 space) of the readings before the beginning of the seminars that succinctly distills and discusses the main points presented, providing critique when appropriate. As part of this response paper, you will also prepare and include 2 - 3 relevant questions for the class seminar discussion. The seminar dates are listed in the course schedule.

**Public Involvement Process:** During the course of the quarter, each student will be required to attend a public meeting of their choice relating to a planning project in Seattle or other nearby community. You are to observe and participate in the meeting, make a visit to the site under review, and report your observations in a two-page write-up. More information on meeting times and venues is provided in this syllabus and can also be obtained online.

**Sketchbooks:** You are asked to maintain a sketchbook during the course of the quarter. In your sketchbook, you will record field observations and measurements as well as notes and sketches generated throughout the quarter in the course of working on your assignments and projects. You will be asked to complete a small sketchbook exercise on a weekly basis in order to develop your spatial perception and drawing skills. Choose your sketchbook wisely and carry it with you at all times.

## READINGS

**Required readings** will be provided to you during the course of the quarter via the course Canvas site.

*The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research. If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of fair use that user may be liable for copyright infringement. **By downloading class readings you are agreeing to these conditions.***

**Reference readings** – these items are on reserve in the Built Environments library:

- Bentley, Ian. Responsive Environments: a Manual for Designers. (Architectural Press, London). 1985.
- Ching, Francis and Juroszek, Steven. Design Drawing. (VNR, New York) 2010.
- Ching, Francis and Winkel, Steven. Building Codes Illustrated. (John Wiley, Hoboken) 2012. (e-book)
- Ching, Francis. Architectural Graphics. (John Wiley, New York) 2003.
- Ching, Francis. Architecture, Form, Space and Order. (VNR, New York) 2007.
- Ching, Francis. Drawing, a creative process. (VNR, New York) 1990.
- Corner, James and Alison Bick Hirsch, eds. The Landscape Imagination: Collected essays of James Corner 1990 -2010. (Princeton Architectural Press, New York) 2014.
- Edwards, Betty. The New Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain. (Harper Collins, London) 2008.
- Gehl, Jan. Life between buildings: using public space. (VNR, New York) 1987.
- Kasprisin, Ronald. Urban Design: The composition of complexity. (Routledge, New York) 2011. (e-book)
- Kasprisin, Ronald and James Pettinari. Visual thinking for architects and designers. (VNR, New York) 1995.
- LaGro, James. Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design. (John Wiley and Sons, New Jersey) 2013. Third edition. (Available in both hard copy or ebook format.)
- Lynch, Kevin. The Image of the City. (Technology Press, Cambridge) 1960.
- Lynch, Kevin. Good City Form. (MIT Press, Cambridge) 1984.
- McHarg, Ian. Design with Nature. (Doubleday, New York) 1971.
- Trancik, Roger. Finding Lost Space. (VNR, New York) 1986.
- Tufte, Edward. The Cognitive Style of PowerPoint. (Graphics Press, Cheshire CT) 2006.
- Tufte, Edward. Visual Explanations. (Graphics Press, Cheshire CT) 1997.
- Tufte, Edward. The Visual Display of Quantitative Information. (Graphics Press, Cheshire CT) 1983.
- White, Edward T. Site Analysis: Diagramming Information for Architectural Design. (Architectural Media Ltd., Tallahassee) 1983.

## **POLICIES**

**Expenses:** There will be expenses in addition to the supplies and materials (see list) needed for the class. These will primarily consist of printing, binding, and perhaps transportation. You should expect to spend approximately \$20/person on these added expenses. Keep track of group work expenditures so that they are shared equally.

**Private property:** Assignments and projects in this class will require you to travel to sites off-campus. Most sites are ordinarily open to public, so you will not need special permission to access them. You are responsible for obtaining permission to access private properties if necessary. Neither the instructor nor the University has obtained permission for you to access properties that are not open to the public.

**Evaluation:** Your final grade will be calculated based on the following:

- 20% Seminars (participation and reading synopsis)
- 10% Public meeting assignment
- 40% Assignments and sketchbook
- 30% Final project

**Deadlines:** Late submissions cannot be accepted for assignments that have a pin-up review. Other late submissions will accrue a penalty of 10% per day, and no assignment will be accepted more than one week late. Standard exceptions for major medical situations apply; such situations should be discussed with the instructor.

**Studio:** For those of you who are new to the studio environment, please note that it can be a relatively unstructured work period. Studio time should be used only for working on your assignments and for exchanging work-related ideas among students and instructors.

**Work space:** Each student will be given their own work space in the CDB. You may store your belongings in a locker or other secure location. We will be sharing the CDB with another course this quarter and want to ensure that everyone has equitable access to this great work space. Please respect the work of the other students as you expect them to respect your work. Common spaces and the large tables may be used during class time if they are not occupied by others' work but should be cleaned up before the end of class.

**Collaboration:** Given the nature of the field of urban planning, much of the work in this class is collaborative. Each member of a group is expected to contribute equitably through the process and generation of the final product. Students at the graduate level are expected to be capable of negotiating these issues independently, although the instructors are available if questions arise.

**Canvas site:** The course syllabus, schedule, assignments and readings will be made available on the URBDP 503 Canvas site. Seminar response papers and the public meeting assignment will be submitted electronically via the Canvas site. Please use the Canvas discussion forum (and not the instructor's or TA's email) to ask questions about the course or assignments - others in the class likely have the same question or may know the answer. The instructor will check the Canvas site on a daily basis to respond to questions that arise.

**Other policies:** This class is of course governed by all of the University's student policies, including those regarding plagiarism and multiple submissions. It is your responsibility to be familiar with and adhere to these policies.

**Cell Phones and other distractions:** Please be courteous.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

*Some equipment can be shared, but please make sure you have adequate access to all of the tools you need in order to complete assignments on time.*

- Sketchbook
- Tape measure (can share)
- T-square or parallel rule
- Adjustable triangle or 45 and 30/60 triangles
- 12” engineers’ scale (10 increments/inch), NOT an architects’ scale (16 increments/inch)
- 18x24” drawing paper: Strathmore drawing (not sketching) paper or equivalent (can share a large pad)
- Drafting dots
- Tracing paper: 18”-wide roll (yellow or white)
- Mechanical pencils: .3mm; .5mm, .7mm and extra leads (HB or softer), or a lead holder if you prefer
- Soft graphite pencils (B or softer)
- Erasers and erasing shield
- Permanent felt-tip drafting pens: .005mm, .1mm, .3 mm, .5mm (Staedtler Mars Graphic Pigment Liner, Alvin Tech-liner, Micron Pigma, Niji Stylist)
- Sharpie ultra fine point permanent marker
- Clipboard
- Push pins
- Prismacolor colored pencils and/or colored markers (e.g. Pantone, Prismacolor)
- Access to camera (digital/phone camera is fine)
- 100% rag tracing paper (‘drafting vellum’), no grid, 11x17”
- A hardboard drawing panel at least 18x24” and some means of securing the drawing board to your desk (adjustable “C” clamps and/or gator clips)

### *Optional items:*

- X-acto knife (No.1) and extra blades (no. 11)
- Cutting mat
- Metal cutting edge

## COURSE SCHEDULE

*The instructors reserve the right to adjust the schedule at any time and will notify the class if any changes are made.*

	<b>In-class</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
<b>WEEK 1</b> T 06-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to course, objectives, requirements and expectations.</li> <li>• Introduction to Assignment 1A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy supplies</li> <li>• Set up your work space</li> </ul>
Th 08-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 2</b> T 13-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Assignment 1B</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 1B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 1A due</li> <li>• Public meeting selection due</li> </ul>
Th 15-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 1B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 3</b> T 20-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seminar 1</b></li> <li>• Introduction to Assignment 2A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 1B due</li> <li>• Seminar 1 response paper and questions</li> </ul>
Th 22-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on Assignment 2A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 4</b> T 27-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seminar 2</b></li> <li>• Introduction to Assignment 2B</li> <li>• Work on Assignment 2A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar 2 response paper and questions</li> </ul>
Th 29-Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-class presentation of Assignment 2A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 2A due</li> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 5</b> T 03-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Diagramming Workshop</b></li> <li>• Work on Assignment 2B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft of Assignment 2B for desk crits</li> </ul>
Th 05-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Assignment 2C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 2B due</li> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 6</b> T 10-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Seminar 3</b></li> <li>• Work on Assignment 2C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar 3 response paper and questions</li> <li>• Draft of Assignment 2C for desk crits</li> </ul>
Th 12-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft poster board design charrette</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment 2C due</li> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 7</b> T 17-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on midterm presentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft presentation layout</li> </ul>
Th 19-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm presentation of Assignment 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Midterm presentation of Assignment 2 A-B-C</li> </ul>

	<b>In-class</b>	<b>Deadlines</b>
<b>WEEK 8</b> T 24-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to final project</li> <li>• Select project site - discuss with instructor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site reconnaissance</li> </ul>
Th 26-Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 9</b> T 03-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project</li> </ul>	
Th 05-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public meeting assignment due</li> <li>• Internal pin-up review</li> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 10</b> T 10-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize project</li> </ul>	
Th 12-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sketchbook exercise due</li> </ul>
<b>FINAL</b> Th 19-Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final presentation</li> </ul>	

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Katherine Idziorek W15

**Public Meeting Assignment**

Due: 05-Mar (select your meeting by Tuesday, January 13)

**A Selection of Public Design and Planning Meetings in Seattle occurring this quarter:**

Below are some suggestions for meetings to attend as part of the course. Additional meetings can be found by exploring online, reading bulletin boards around Gould Hall, or asking professors and students in the Department. Always call ahead of time to determine that the meeting will be held at its scheduled time and place, that it remains open to the public, and that the agenda will include topics of interest.

**1. Seattle Design Commission - Design Reviews**

To find upcoming Design Review Meetings, see the SDC meetings and events calendar at:  
<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cityplanning/designcommission/>  
Meetings are held first and third Thursdays; agendas are typically posted two weeks prior to a scheduled meeting.

**2. Seattle City Council - Planning, Land Use and Sustainability (PLUS) Committee**

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 2:00pm  
City Council Chambers, 600 4th Avenue  
<http://www.seattle.gov/council/committees/LandUse/default.htm>

**3. Seattle Planning Commission**

Meets 2nd Thursdays, 3-5:30pm; 4th Thursdays, 7:30-9:00am  
City Hall L280, Boards and Commissions Room  
<http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission/when-we-meet/meeting-and-event-calendar>

**4. Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board - Architectural Review Committee (ARC)**

Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays at 8:30am  
Room 4070, (40th floor), Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue  
<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/agendas.htm>

**5. King County Landmarks Commission - Design Review Committee**

Meets 2nd Thursdays at 10:00am  
Room 8-D on the 8th floor of King Street Center, 201 S. Jackson Street, Suite 700  
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/property/historic-preservation/landmarks-commission.aspx>

Observe and participate in the meeting, and make a visit to the site under review. Report your observations in a two-page writeup. Your writeup should include a brief synopsis of the project under review as well as the meeting objective, participants and attendees/audience. Provide a thoughtful critique of the various communication methods and tools (graphic, oral, etc.) used in the course of the meeting and include other observations and discussion as appropriate.