

Course website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1012396>

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## COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

URBDP 424 introduces students to site planning as both a design activity and also as a nexus of principles and issues that are central to the profession of urban planning. The course is informed by the working definition of site planning phrased by Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack (whose book *Site Planning* is a required text for this course): the practical, moral and aesthetic “art of arranging structures on the land and shaping the spaces between” (p.1). Course lectures, readings, and discussion address the basic techniques and norms of good physical design as well as critical issues, regulations and policy, and their place in the historical evolution of approaches to site layout, from the early days of the industrial revolution through the advent of the automobile, the rise of “New” Urbanism, and the current renewed concern for ecological performance. The assignments familiarize students with key tasks of site planning: site observation and analysis; basic topographical and hydrological analysis and manipulation; property subdivision; residential, mixed-use and shopping center layout; laying out roadways, parking, and pedestrian circulation; site furnishing, lighting and planting. Lectures and readings will also include enough historical background and cases of innovative practice to enable students to think critically about current conventions and the application of technique.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Course assignments follow the sequence of key tasks outlined above. All assignments are individual except as noted. Each assignment is worth a certain portion of the course's total number of points (100), as listed below. At the end of the quarter, the points will be totaled and converted to a grade on the standard UW 4.0 scale -- i.e. each assignment point is worth 0.04 points towards a final grade of 4.0. (Note that, where some assignments specify extra credit to be given for certain work, it is possible to receive more than the stated number of points for that assignment below.)

**Participation** in class discussion and in-class exercises: 5 points

**Assignment #1.** Site Analysis (team project): 15 points

**Assignment #2.** Grading Plan: 5 points

**Assignment #3/Quiz.** Subdivision Revision/Markup: 10 points

**Assignment #4.** Site and Housing Typology Study (individual/team project): 10 points

**Assignment #5.** Residential Cluster Plan: 15 points

**Assignment #6.** Commercial Site Layout: 15 points

**Final Assignment:** 25 points. Undergraduates (400-level students) are required to revise an earlier assignment according to the instructor's comments. They may choose to revise either Assignment #1, #5 or #6. Graduates (500-level students) must both revise and add further detail to one of the earlier *design* exercises (Assignment #5 or #6), e.g. revise it according to the instructor's comments as well as design a grading and drainage layer, or include detailed site furnishings, lighting and landscape for a portion of it.

\* If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that makes it difficult for you to carry out the coursework as outlined and/or requires accommodations, such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments and exams, please contact me, or Disabled Student Services, within the first week of the quarter. DSS is available at 685-1511, or at [http://www.washington.edu/students/gencaf/front/Disabled\\_Student.html](http://www.washington.edu/students/gencaf/front/Disabled_Student.html), and will be able to provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation.

## FORMAT

Class sessions will be based on a series of lectures, with some time given to presentation and discussion of the readings and assignments. Most assignments will be take-home and will require students to visit off-campus sites on their own time, but some amount of class time will also be put aside for students to work together on assignments, with coaching from the instructor. One or two class field trips involving extra time outside of the normal class time may also be scheduled.

**Materials needed:** sketch/notebook; camera; engineering scale ruler showing 1"=20', 1"=40', 1"=100', etc.; protractor; drawing pens and pencils (of your choice, but a fine and a medium felt-tip black marker, and a small selection of colored pencils is recommended); tracing paper (either 11"x17" sheets from a tablet, or cut neatly from an 11" roll of tracing paper). Tracing paper is available from the University Bookstore. Also, students are expected to obtain base maps, GIS data and aerial photographs normally available through online databases and the map library.

*Use of laptops and handhelds is not permitted in class sessions.* Students are expected to use and develop hand sketching and note-taking ability, both in-class and for field observation. Use of digital modeling and presentation tools (ArcMap, SketchUp, etc.) is encouraged but not necessary for the assignments. These tools may not be used at the expense of the basic clarity of line drawing (e.g. as afforded by the use of variable line weights, etc.).

**Readings** are listed below, and are also indicated next to each topic in the Syllabus to which they relate. The readings are offered as a resource for you to read selectively, as an aid and reference to doing the assignments and understanding the related issues. Students should read those readings marked with an asterisk (\*) *before* the class session for which they are listed, in order to best participate in class discussion and in class-time exercises. Other readings are mainly for reference use in doing assignments outside of class-time.

The prime required text for this course is available at the University Bookstore:

- Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack, *Site Planning*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984). This book, along with the course reader and other books listed in the readings, is also available on reserve in the Built Environments Library in Gould Hall. Most of the course reader contents are also available electronically on the course website. Some further suggested readings may also be placed on reserve or distributed in class.

In addition to the chapters from Lynch & Hack listed next to each topic in the Schedule of classes, Lynch & Hack, Appendix L, lists quantitative standards that are very useful for the assignments. Also, for useful technical definitions, see Appendix A in James LaGro's *Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design* (2013), available as an e-book through UW Libraries.

Finally, two other classic (i.e. "old") but extremely useful design references edited by Joseph De Chiara, *Time-Saver Standards for Housing and Residential Development* and *Time-Saver Standards for Site Planning*, are in the Built Environments Library reference section. For more up-to-date standards, note that a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Russ's *Site Planning and Design Handbook* (2009) is now available in the library's reference section (does not leave the library). The course reader and reserves (both on the shelf and electronic) include chapters from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (2002), which is

similar enough for all but the most technical of purposes. An older and less complete (but still very useful) book by De Chiara, *Site Planning Standards* (1978 and 1984), is under the reserve readings for this course. Students are expected to refer to these books for help in completing the assignments for the course.

## **RESOURCES**

**Materials on reserve in the Built Environments Library, Gould Hall** (not including materials in Course Reader, which is also on reserve, see next page)

- Alexander, Christopher et al. *A pattern language: towns, buildings, construction* (New York : Oxford University Press, 1977). HT166.A6147
- Alexander, Ernest R. and K. D. Reed. *Density measures and their relation to urban form*. HT110 .A54 1988
- Alternative Development Standards for Sustainable Communities: Design Workbook*. AURES PC
- Arendt, Randall G. *Conservation design for subdivisions: a practical guide to creating open space networks* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1996). HD1390.2.A73 1996
- Balmori, Diana, and Gaboury Benoit. *Land and Natural Development (LAND) Code: Guidelines for Sustainable Land Development* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2007). HD255 .B34 2007
- Bookout, Lloyd W. *Value by design: landscape, site planning, and amenities* (Washington, D.C. : Urban Land Institute, 1994). SB472.45.B66 1994
- Burden, Dan. *Street design guidelines for healthy neighborhoods* (Sacramento, CA: Center for Livable Communities, [1999]). TE279.B87 1999
- Campoli, Julie and Alex MacLean. *Visualizing Density* (Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2007). HB1965 .C25 2007 (book and disc).
- Davis, Sam, ed. *The Form of housing* (New York : Van Nostrand Reinhold, [1977]). HD7293.F63
- De Chiara, Joseph. *Site planning standards* (New York : McGraw-Hill, 1978; 1984). NA2540.D4
- Fader, Steven. *Density by design: new directions in residential development* (Washington, D.C.: ULI, Urban Land Institute, 2000). NA7205.D44 2000
- Girling, Cynthia and Ronald Kellet. *Skinny Streets and Green Neighborhoods: Design for Environment and Community* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2005). HT167.G57 2005
- Jarvis, Frederick D. *Site planning and community design for great neighborhoods*. HD259.J37 1993
- Kulash, Walter M. *Residential streets* (Washington, D.C.: ULI, the Urban Land Institute, 2001). TE279.K85 2001
- LaGro, James A. *Site Analysis: Informing Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Site Planning and Design*. Hoboken: Wiley, 2013). UW Libraries e-book.
- Listokin, David and Carole Walker. *The subdivision and site plan handbook* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, Ctr. for Urban Policy Research, 1989). KF5698.L57 1989
- Lynch, Kevin and Gary Hack, *Site Planning*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984). NA9030.L9 1984
- Marcus, Clare Cooper and Wendy Sarkissian. *Housing as if people mattered: site design guidelines for medium-density family housing* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1986). NA7115.M27 1986
- Marshall, Stephen. *Streets & Patterns* (London; New York: Spon Press, 2005). NA 9053.S7.M37.2005.

- NAHB. *Land development* (Washington, D.C.: National Assoc. of Home Builders, 1987).  
TD163.L36 1987
- Newman, Oscar. *Community of Interest*. 1st ed. (Garden City, N.Y.: Anchor Press/Doubleday, 1980). HN90.C6 N49
- Pyatok, M. *Designing for density: ideas for more compact housing and communities*.  
NA9051.4.D48 1992
- Rubenstein, Harvey M. *A guide to site planning and landscape construction* (New York: John Wiley, 1996). NA2540.5.R83 1996
- Schueler, T. R. *Site planning for urban stream protection* (Wash., DC: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments; Silver Spring, MD: Center for Watershed Protection, 1995).  
TD365.S34 1995
- Schwanke, Dean et al. *Remaking the Shopping Center*. HF5430.3.S32 1994
- Southworth, Michael and Eran Ben-Joseph. *Streets and the shaping of towns and cities* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1997). TE279.S58 1997
- Untermann, Richard K. *Principles and practices of grading, drainage, and road alignment: an ecologic approach* (Reston, Va.: Reston Pub. Co., 1978). TE145.U62
- Untermann, Richard K. and Robert Small. *Site Planning for Cluster Housing* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1977). NA9051.4.U57
- White, Edward T. *Site analysis: diagramming information for architectural design* (Tucson, Arizona: Architectural Media, 1983). NA2540.5.W55 1983

**Course Reader Contents** (in the order provided in the copied set) (items that are also available on reserve separately have call numbers)

- Russ, Thomas. H. *Site planning and design handbook* (New York, McGraw-Hill, 2002), Chapters 6, 8 and 9, “Infrastructure,” “Site Layout,” and “Vegetation in the Site Plan.” [NA2540.5 .R87 2002](#)
- Untermann, Richard K. *Grade easy; an introductory course in the principles and practices of grading and drainage* ([McLean, Va.] American Society of Landscape Architects Foundation [1973]) [SB476 .U57](#)
- Moudon, Anne Vernez. “The Evolution of Twentieth-Century Residential Forms: An American Case Study,” in Whitehand and Larkham, eds., *Urban Landscapes: International Perspectives* (London; New York: Routledge, 1992), pp. 170-206. [NA9095 .U74 1992](#)
- Rowe, Peter G. *Making a Middle Landscape* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1991), pp. 197-213. [HT352.U6 R68 1991](#)
- Calthorpe, Peter. “Pedestrian Pockets” in *Whole Earth Review*, Spring 1988, pp.118-123.
- Lennertz, William & Laurence Qamar. *Principles of a Balanced Transportation Network: Implementing the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule* (“funded through a contract with the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development”, c.1998) AURES PC
- Newman, Oscar. *Design Guidelines for Creating Defensible Space* (1975)  
*Greenwood Avenue Cottages* and permitting materials, and *Cottage Housing Ordinance Preliminary Proposal* (2 April 2002)
- Gladwell, Malcolm. “The Terrazzo Jungle.” *The New Yorker* (March 15, 2004), pp. 120-127.
- Clausen, Meredith L., “Northgate Regional Shopping Center – Paradigm From the Provinces,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* Vol. 18 No. 2 (May 1984), pp. 144-161.
- Valente, James R. and Leslie A. Oringer, “Retail’s Evolving Footprint,” *Urban Land*, July 1998, pp. 30-35, and other articles from that issue of *Urban Land* on trends in shopping center

development. See especially, Lassar, Terry J. "Shopping in Seattle," pp. 42-45, 84, on University Village.  
"Reviving Dead Malls," *New Urban News* (January-February 2000).  
"Integration of a Neighborhood Mall," *Canadian Architect* (July 1985), pp. 32-33.  
Walker Parking Consultants, Urban Land Institute, and International Council of Shopping Centers. *Parking Requirements for Shopping Centers: Summary Recommendations and Research Study Report*. 2nd ed. (Washington, DC: ULI, 1999), Chapters 1-9, various appendices. [HE336.P37 P37 1999](#)  
Urban Land Institute, and National Parking Association. *The Dimensions of Parking*. 4th ed. (Washington, DC: ULI; National Parking Association, 2000), Chapters 3-5, 7-9. [HE336.P37 D55 2000](#)  
Chrest, Anthony P. *Parking structures: planning, design, construction, maintenance, and repair* (Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001). [TL175 .C48 2001](#)  
Robinette, Gary O. *Parking lot landscape development* (Plano, TX.: Agora Communications, 1993). [TL175.R6 1993](#)  
Smith, Mary S. *Shared Parking* (Washington, D.C.: ULI, 2005). [HE336.P37 S52 2005](#)  
Miscellaneous outdoor lighting specifications samples.

**Also, online:**

Lincoln Institute project on density: <http://www.lincolninst.edu/subcenters/visualizing-ccdensity/>

New Urbanist approaches to mall redevelopment: <http://www.cnu.org/malls/> and <http://www.doverkohl.com/> (see "Downtown Kendall" and "Eastgate Town Center" in the Retrofitting Suburbia section of their Portfolio)

Housing diversification: <http://www.psrc.org/about/pubs#housing>

*Low Impact Development: Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound*  
[http://www.psp.wa.gov/LID\\_manual.php](http://www.psp.wa.gov/LID_manual.php) (news on update)

**SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>References</b>
1	Th 10/1	INTRODUCTION - instructor and student interests and background - overview of course and syllabus - handout and discuss Assignment #1	
2	T 10/6	SITE ANALYSIS AND MAPPING - site inventory and evaluation - range and process of different types of site development and design - relation of program to design - importance of slope - learn to read a topographical map and relate it to natural systems	*Lynch & Hack, chaps.1,2,3 *LaGro, Section 1.5, and all of Part II Listoken & Walker, pp.189-195 *Untermann (in reader), pp.2-12 Untermann & Small, pp.21-35, 183-200 NAHB, <i>Land...</i> , chap.2 White Rubenstein, chaps.2,6
	Th 10/8	Site planning tour of UW campus	
3	M 10/12	<b>Due 5:00pm:</b> Assignment #1a - Site Analysis (Part I)	
	T 10/13	SITE ANALYSIS CONTINUED - on-site reconnaissance and note-taking for site analysis	*Lynch & Hack, chaps.4,5,6
	Th 10/15	DRAINAGE AND GRADING - moving earth and water given different slopes, soil types and ground cover - strategies for minimizing runoff and preserving natural vegetation and habitat - handout and discuss Assignment #2, Grading Plan	*Lynch & Hack, chap.8, Appendix K Russ, Chap. 6 (in reader) *Untermann (in reader), p.13ff Jones, et al Rubenstein, chaps.7,8 Schueler Untermann, "Principles..."
4	M 10/19 6:30pm	<b>Out of Class:</b> Design Review Meeting for proposed project at 10715 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and 10720 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.	Venue: University Heights Community Center 5031 University Way NE Room 209
	T 10/20	<b>Due:</b> Assignment #1b - Site Analysis (Part II)  PROPERTY SUBDIVISION AND ACCESS: ROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE LAYOUT - learn the basics of conventional subdivision layout - focus on road intersection standards and horizontal and vertical alignment principles	*Lynch & Hack, chap.7 (pp.193-221), Appendix J Russ, Chap.8 *Listoken & Walker, pp.293-342 Rowe (in reader) Southworth & Ben-Joseph, chaps.1,2,3 Kulash, chaps.1,2,3,4 Rubenstein, chap.9
	Th 10/22	<i>NO CLASS; INSTRUCTOR AWAY AT A.C.S.P. CONFERENCE</i>	

Week	Day	Topic	References
5	T 10/27	<b>Due:</b> Assignment #2 – Grading plan	
		PROPERTY SUBDIVISION AND ACCESS: ECOLOGICAL AND PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY DESIGN - shared/controlled access - green infrastructure	Burden *Girling and Kellett Arendt * <a href="http://www.psp.wa.gov/LID_manual.php">http://www.psp.wa.gov/LID_manual.php</a> Alternative Development Standards
	Th 10/29	HOUSING, HOUSES AND COMMUNITIES: DENSITY AND DIVERSITY - residential area design, given increased diversity of housing types; enhanced pedestrian and transit access	*Lynch & Hack, chap.9, App. E Alexander & Reed Bookout, pp.3-25; case studies *Campoli & MacLean *Davis, chaps.1,2 Fader *Lennertz & Qamar (in reader) NAHB, <i>Land...</i> , chap.5 Moudon (in reader) Southworth & Ben-Joseph, chap.5 (pp.109-120) Online:www.psrc.org
6	T 11/3	<b>Quiz:</b> “Assignment” #3 – Subdivision Markup Handout and discuss Assignment #4, Site & Housing Typology Study	
		HOUSING, HOUSES AND COMMUNITIES: PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SPACES - residential area design, given increased public/collective responsibility for on-site environmental conservation and public amenities - sun angles and shadow studies	Corbett Greenwood Avenue Cottages (in reader) Jarvis Listoken & Walker, pp.200-205 *Newman (in reader) Newman (on reserve) Pyatok
	Th 11/5	HOUSING, HOUSES AND COMMUNITIES: THE “NEW” URBANISM - class discussion of recent trends in site planning from an historical perspective	*Calthorpe (in reader) *Southworth & Ben-Joseph, chap.5 (pp.97-109; 120-129), chap.6
7	T 11/10	<b>Due:</b> Assignment #4 – Site & housing typology study Handout and discuss Assignment #5, Residential Cluster Plan	
	Th 11/12	SITE VISIT: THE “ECOLOGICAL NEW URBANIST” NEIGHBORHOOD ( <i>exact time and location to be announced</i> ) To read in advance: <a href="http://www.svrdesign.com/high-point-redevelopment/">http://www.svrdesign.com/high-point-redevelopment/</a>	

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>References</b>
8	T 11/17	MIXED USE AND COMMERCIAL SITES: LAYOUT AND ACCESS - densification/diversification of suburban malls	*Lynch & Hack, chap.10 *Clausen; Gladwell; Valente & Oringer; and other articles on malls in the reader Schwanke Online: <a href="http://www.cnu.org/malls/">www.cnu.org/malls/</a>
	Th 11/19	Handout and discuss Assignment #6, Commercial Site Layout  Review Assignment #1 Site Analyses  MIXED USE AND COMMERCIAL SITES: PARKING DEMAND - access and parking	Barton-Aschman (in reader) Chrest (in reader) Robinette (in reader) *Urban Land Institute (in reader) Walker Parking Consultants (in reader)
9	T 11/24	<b>Due:</b> Assignment #5 - Residential cluster plan <b>IN-CLASS REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT #5</b>	
	Th 11/26	<i>NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</i>	
10	T 12/1	SITE DETAILS: MICROCLIMATE, PLANTING, FURNISHING AND LIGHTING	* Lynch & Hack, review Chaps.3, 6, 7 (pp.203-205), and 8 (pp.246-247) *Russ, Chap.9 (in reader) Listoken & Walker, pp.235-282 Marcus Miscellaneous outdoor lighting specifications samples
	Th 12/3	SITE VISIT: THE NEW URBANIST SHOPPING CENTER <i>(exact meeting time and location to be announced)</i>	
11	T 12/8	<b>Due:</b> Assignment #6 - Commercial site layout <b>IN-CLASS REVIEW OF ASSIGNMENT #6</b>	
		Handout and discuss Final Assignment	
	Th 12/10	In-class consultations/work session	
Finals Week	F 12/18	<b>Due 5:00pm:</b> Final Assignment	