**University of Washington, College of Built Environments**

**URBDP 479:**  **The Urban Form**

**Meeting time:**MW 9-10:20am

**Meeting place:** Gould 114

**Credits:**3

**Course Website:**[***https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/994070***](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/994070)

***Instructor:***

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Urban form derives from land patterning, land uses, buildings and open spaces. Its shaping is influenced by landform, natural features, population demographics (employment, housing, transportation, land values) and cultural as well as lifestyle preferences. All these are essential for design and planning professionals to understand, as their work expects them to shape new urban areas or reimagine existing ones to fit contemporary needs. In addition they must also develop an understanding of common building practices and the role of different actors (municipalities, builders, land owners, developers, bankers, policy makers, politicians and others), in city building. They must also be familiar with the products of their actions and how they collectively shape spaces at different times and locations within the city. In short, urban designers and planners need to know what social, economic, and institutional forces shape the city, and how these forces eventually manifest themselves in the reality of the physical city.

**OBJECTIVES**

How are cities built? What are they made of? The class will familiarize students with the elements that structure urban form and the principles that shape their development and contribute to the urbanization process. City building is an iterative process that unfolds both gradually and abruptly so creation of the urban form is an on-going process.

Thus the course will review common land patterning practices, and typical building forms from different times and places. The impact of natural settings and the relationship between built and unbuilt parts of the city will also be studied, using examples worldwide, but with a special focus on the Puget Sound Region and the city of Seattle particularly, where students will locate their assignments and projects.

The overarching goals of the course are:

* To develop a theoretical foundation to better understand urban form in historical, contemporary and different contextual settings.
* To be able to apply the theoretical knowledge to real world cases in class assignments and project

**SOFTWARE**

You are expected to have some knowledge of ArcGIS to be able to complete your project in the course. Students are strongly encouraged to enroll in UrbDP 598D (Intro to GIS; 3-credits; offered in fall; meeting times: M 3:30-4:20pm, WF 3:30-5:20pm; instructor: Matthew Patterson). Data on elements of urban form are now commonly available in GIS, which are transforming our ability to understand existing land patterns and uses, and evaluate impacts of changes to these patterns. Note also that UrbDP 598D is also an introduction to the vast amount of regional and local data in GIS available at the UW. You can download and install a 1-year educational version of ArcGIS 10.2 from: <http://www.esri.com/industries/apps/education/offers/promo/index.cfm>

Additionally if you have knowledge ofany 3D modeling software that designers and planners use in massing studies to articulate buildings, spaces and neighborhoods, you can also use that is in developing your project. SketchUp now provides a 1-year student license of SketchUp Pro 2015 for $49 from: <http://www.sketchup.com/download> . With the license, you can install the software on both your desktop and laptop computer.

**STRUCTURE**

The course consists of lectures, guest lectures, field explorations, readings and discussions, research and writing, assignments, project and in-class quizzes. Students are required to attend all class sessions. Discussion sessions are an important part of the course. Students are required to participate in class efforts, and encouraged to ask questions, to make suggestions, and generally to broaden or to specify the material treated.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Assignmentsand a project focusing on a study area will form the core of the course. The assignments and project will be discussed in class and posted on the class website. The completion of the assignments and project will involve additional fieldwork and research, including review of relevant literature.

**READINGS**

COURSE READER: The course reader is available for download from the course website. In addition to the material in the course reader students are expected to read the following book:

1. Warner, Sam Bass and Whittemore, Andrew H. American Urban Form: A Representative History. Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press 2012 (available as e-book)

List of reference books useful for course topics (available from online retailers and in the CBE Library’s course reserve section)

1. Ford, Larry R. **Cities and Buildings: Skyscrapers, Skid Rows, and Suburbs.** Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press, 1994
2. Hartshorn, Truman. Interpreting the City: An Urban Geography. New York: Wiley, 1992
3. Clay, Grady. Close Up: How to Read the American City. New York: Praeger, 1973
4. Jacobs, Allan B. Looking at Cities. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1965

**POLICIES**

**Participation:** Participation to all structured course segments is required.You are expected to show up for all class periods and participate in discussions/in-class activities and field trip.

**Expenses:** In addition to costs associated with printing the course reader and purchasing books, other costs include expenses incurred for color printing/binding your assignments and costs associated with fieldwork.

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

A1 Fieldtrip Reflection Piece & Discussion 15%

A2 Book Presentation & Discussion 15%

A3 Mapping 20%

Final Project 25%

Quizzes (3) 15%

Class Participation 10%

(based on participation/attendance/in-class activities)

**Deadlines:** Deadlines are VITAL. Standard exceptions for documented medical situations apply; such situations should be discussed with the instructor. Penalties for late submissions are listed below:

Up to 1 day late: -10%

2-7 days late: -25%

After 7 days: No credit

**Course Website:** The course website is the central portal for the class. You will find all assignments and project information posted on the website. You can also access the discussion board and assignment dropbox from there. Additional project-related materials will also be made available from the course website. It is recommended that you check the course website regularly for updates and announcements.

**Questions/Clarifications:** If you have any questions/comments about the assignments/fieldwork, etc. post them on the discussion board accessible from the course webpage. The boards will be reviewed once every day and a reply will be posted. You are encouraged to review the boards periodically and respond to postings as well. **Avoid sending direct emails to the instructor** with questions about the assignments/tutorials.

**Deliverables:**

***E-Submission of field report, assignments and project*:** pdf versions of the assignments and titled (LAST NAME\_ASSIGNMENT NUMBER) in the designated drop areas on the course webpage. The drop folder records the time of submission.

***Hard copy of assignments***: printed color copy of the assignments needs to be submitted in class on the day it is due or in the TA’s (Chungho Kim) mailbox in Gould 410. Please be aware that the office (Gould 410) closes at 5:00 p.m.

***Hard copy of project report***: color bound copy of the final report.

**Collaboration*:***

You are encouraged to do the field exploration and final project in teams. Each participant is expected to contribute equitably through the process. Recommended project team size: 5-7

**Other policies:**

This class is of course governed by all of the university’s student policies, including those on plagiarism and multiple submissions. It is your responsibility to be familiar with these. More information on this can be found at: <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

**Cell Phones and other Internet distractions:** Please be courteous and refrain from personal Internet activity during class time.

University of Washington, College of Built Environments

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**SCHEDULE** *(Updated Oct 28, 2015)*

# MODULE 1 (Weeks1-3)

Themes: Patterns of Urbanization; History of American Urban Form; Urban (and Regional) Forms in Puget Sound Region and Seattle

Deliverables: a) Assignment 1 and b) Quiz-1

**In-class Readings/Deadlines**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week**  **1** | **Wed**  **30-Sep** | Introduction to course (participants/content/structure)  Icebreaking activities and discussions |  |
| **Week**  **2** | **Mon**  **5-Oct** | Topic: Unfolding of Urbanization  Instructor led Discussion | ***Required Readings***  1. Philips, Barbara, Ch. 4: From Urban Specks to Global Cities  ***Additional Readings***   1. Abu-Lughod, Ch. 2: Origin and Development of Cities; Ch. 3: Urbanization of the World 2. Shlomo, Angel. Atlas of Urban Expansion   <http://www.lincolninst.edu/subcenters/atlas-urban-expansion/>  <https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/2072_1459_AUE_Web_Chapter.pdf> |
|  | **Wed**  **7-Oct** | Topic: Seattle and Puget Sound region, from urban to regional form  Interactive Lecture  **Quiz-1** | ***Required Readings***  2. Artibise et al., Cascadia and Puget Sound Urban to Regional Form  3. Moudon, Heckman, Seattle & Central Puget Sound |
| **Week**  **3** | **Mon**  **12-Oct** | Topic: Urban Form --UDistrict  Self-guided walking tour in groups of 3-4  Receive Fieldtrip Handout | ***Required Readings***  4. Clay, Grady: Epitome Districts |
|  | **Wed**  **14-Oct** | Topic: Urban Form --UDistrict | ***Required Readings***   1. Warner et al., American Urban Form     Due A1: Fieldwork Reflection Piece  and Discussion |

# MODULE 2 (Weeks4-5)

Themes: History of American Urban Form; Urban (and Regional) Forms in Puget Sound Region and Seattle

Deliverables: a) Assignment 2

**In-class Readings/Deadlines**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week**  **4** | **Mon**  **19-Oct** | History of American Urban Form  Book Discussion & Presentation of Book | ***Required Readings***   1. Warner et al., American Urban Form   Due A2: Book Presentation  Book Discussion on Discussion Board |
|  | **Wed**  **21-Oct** | History of American Urban Form  Book Discussion & Presentation of Book | ***Required Readings***   1. Warner et al., American Urban Form |
| **Week**  **5** | **Mon**  **26-Oct** | Seattle Urban Form  Guest Lecture & Discussion | ***Required Readings***  The Grid vs. the Curve  <http://crosscut.com/2012/08/seattle-needs-grid-olmsted-parks-boulevards/>  SLU Urban Design Framework  <http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cs/groups/pan/@pan/documents/web_informational/dpds021898.pdf>  Skim the entire document to familiarize with the range of urban form issues Seattle considers when putting together a UDF/public realm plan.  Read the following sections of the UDF in more detail:  Purpose/Background/Principles pp. 5-9  Street character pp. 12-13  Residential open space/Public space pp. 16-19  Urban form pp. 24-25 |
|  | **Wed**  **28-Oct** | From Urban to Region Forms: Seattle / Metro / Urban Area / Region  Lecture & Discussion | ***Required Readings*** (same as Week 2)  2. Artibise et al., Cascadia and Puget Sound Urban to Regional Form  3. Moudon, Heckman, Seattle & Central Puget Sound |

# MODULE 3 (Weeks6-11)

Themes: General Principles and Basic Elements of Urban Form and Cases

Deliverables: a) Quiz-2, b) Quiz-3, c) Assignment 3, and d) Final Project

**In-class Readings/Deadlines**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week**  **6** | **Mon**  **2-Nov** | "Urbanism Without Effort and the Organic Urban Form"  Guest Lecture & Discussion  **Quiz-2** | ***Required Readings***   1. Wolfe, Urbanism without Effort, 2013, Island Press. Skim; read Chapter 1 2. Wolfe, As Seattle changes, remember ghosts like the old Orpheum Theater, 2015, Crosscut |
|  | **Wed**  **4-Nov** | General Principle 1 : Sharing and Owning land | ***Required Readings***   1. Vance, Chapter 1 Urban Morphogenesis 2. Conzen, Study of Urban Form in US |
| **Week**  **7** | **Mon**  **9-Nov** | General Principle 2: Networks  **Receive Final Project** | ***Required Readings***   1. Blumenfeld, Chapter 1, Form and Function in Urban Communities, 2. Blumenfeld, Chapter 2, Theory of City Form, Past and Present   **DUE**: A3 - Mapping |
|  | **Wed**  **11-Nov** | **No Class: Veteran’s Day** |  |
| **Week**  **8** | **Mon**  **16-Nov** | Case Study: Delhi; Planned and Unplanned  Guest Lecture & Discussion | ***Required Readings***   1. Chalana and Rishi: Making Sense of the Order in the Disorder in Delhi’s Kathputli Colony 2. “New Delhi.” In: *Encyclopedia of Twentieth Century Architecture* 3. Ehlers and Kraff: The Imperial Islamic City: A Map of 19th Century Shahajahanbad   ***Additional Readings***   1. Chalana, Slumdogs vs. Millionaires: Balancing Urban Informality and Global Modernity in Mumbai, India |
|  | **Wed**  **18-Nov** | General Principle 3: Scales in space and time | ***Required Readings***   1. Blumenfeld, Chapter. 22 Universal Dilettante 2. Blumenfeld, Chapter 23 Scale in Civic Design 3. Blumenfeld, Chapter. 24 Scale in the Metropolis 4. Blumenfeld, Chapter. 26: Continuity and Change of Urban Form |
| **Week**  **9** | **Mon**  **23-Nov** | Learning from Bogotá: Shaping the City, Shaping Citizens  Guest Lecture & Discussion | ***Required Readings***   1. Pedagogical Urbanism:   Creating Citizen Space in  Bogota, Colombia   1. From urban to regional planning in Latin America, 1920–50 |
|  | **Wed**  **25-Nov** | Basic Element 1 Street-blocks and lots  **Take home Quiz-3** | ***Required Readings***     1. Siksna, City Centre Blocks and their Evolution 2. Siksna, The Effects of Block Size and Form 3. Southworth, Owens, Evolving Metropolis 4. Moudon, Evolution of 20th c. House Forms   **DUE**: Final Project Report Outline;  table of contents; list of images/maps;  bibliography (and Source). |
| **Week**  **10** | **Mon**  **30-Nov** | Basic Element 2 : Building types  Case Study: Berlin; Urban From  Guest Lecture & Discussion | ***Required Readings***   1. Blumenfeld, Chapter. 16 Residential Densities 2. Larco, Suburbia Shifted: Overlooked Trends and Opportunities in Suburban Multifamily Housing 3. Larco, Untapped Density: site design and the proliferation of suburban multifamily housing |
|  | **Wed**  **2-Dec** | Basic element 3, 4: Mixing land uses; Neighborhood | ***Required Readings***   1. Chaskin RJ. Defining Neighborhood: History, Theory, and Practice. Chicago, IL: The Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago; 199 2. Talen. What is a “Great Neighborhood”? An Analysis of APA's Top-Rated Places   Suggested Film: Road to the Future |
| **Week**  **11** | **Mon**  **7-Dec** | Final Student Presentations | **DUE**: Final Project  Groups 1-4 |
|  | **Wed**  **9-Dec** | Final Student Presentations | Groups 5-7  Course Evals |