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## University of Washington, College of Built Environments URBDP 505/405: The Urban Form

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**Meeting time:** MW 10:-30 ~11:50pm

**Meeting place:** Gould 114   **Credits:** 3

**Course Website:** <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1226186>

***Instructor:***

Manish Chalana, Ph.D.  
448B Gould Hall  
chalana@uw.edu  
Office hours: by appointment

***Teaching Assistant:***

Mia Ho  
402 Gould Hall  
[mho2015@uw.edu](mailto:mho2015@uw.edu)  
Office hours: Mon: 1 - 2pm  
and Wed: 12pm -1pm

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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, urban design and planning professionals must also develop an understanding of common building practices and the roles 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 physical fabric.

### **OBJECTIVES**

*How are cities built? How they evolve and transform?* 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 geographical and cultural settings.
- To be able to apply the theoretical knowledge to real world cases in class assignments and project

## **SOFTWARE**

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. Therefore, knowledge of ArcGIS may be useful for completing certain projects in the course. Students not enrolled in URBDP 504 might consider downloading and installing a 1-year educational version of ArcGIS 10.2 from: <http://www.esri.com/industries/apps/education/offers/promo/index.cfm>

Urban designers and planners also use a variety of 3D modeling software for massing studies to articulate buildings, spaces and neighborhoods. So additionally, knowledge of such programs may be useful for projects in this course. Considered the most intuitive program of this kind, SketchUp is available on CBE desktops and a 1-year student license can be downloaded from: <http://www.sketchup.com/download>

Note that lack of familiarity with the software would not impede your ability to successfully complete the course assignments.

## **STRUCTURE**

The course consists of lectures, guest lectures, field explorations, readings, discussions and writing. In-class activities and 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

Three assignments, two quizzes and one project focusing on assigned study areas will form the core of the course. The assignments and project are group effort and will be discussed in class and posted on the class website. The completion of the project will involve additional fieldwork and research, including review of relevant literature.

## READINGS

COURSE READINGS: The course readings are available through the Canvas site. In addition to the course readings, students are expected to read the following book:

1. Warner, Sam Bass and Whittlemore, Andrew H. *American Urban Form: A Representative History*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012 (available as an e-book through the UW library)

**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 and online discussion board activities and field trip. Participation grades will be based on each student's level of engagement for in-class and online discussion board activities.

**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 Transect Reflection Piece & Pecha Kucha	10%
A2 Book Chapter Summary & Discussion	10%
A3 Mapping	20%
Final Project: Urban Form Neighborhood Study	30%
Quizzes (2)	20%
Participation in class and on discussion board	10%

**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 Canvas site 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 through the course website. It is expected that you check the course website regularly for updates and announcements.

**Questions/Clarifications:** If you have any questions/comments about assignments/fieldwork, etc. post them on the discussion board accessible through the canvas site. The boards will be reviewed every other day and a reply will be posted as soon as possible. You are encouraged to review the boards periodically and respond to postings, as well. This ensures that all students are informed of updates and clarifications. *Avoid sending direct emails to the instructor or TA with questions about assignments.*

**Deliverables:** Submit digital (pdf) versions of assignments to the designated dropbox on the canvas site titled as such: LAST NAME\_ASSIGNMENT NUMBER.

**Hard copies of assignments/final project:** printed color copies of the assignments and/or original hand graphics of overlay maps needs to be submitted in class on the day they are due or placed in the 405/505 Urban Form mailbox in Gould Hall Room 410. *Note that the office door locks at 4:30pm.*

**Collaboration:** You are encouraged to work in teams for the assignments and final project. While expectations will be outlined in each assignment handout in terms of team composition, deliverables and process, each participant is expected to contribute equitably throughout the process for each assignment.

**Other policies:** This class is governed by the University of Washington's student code of conduct, including policies 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>

**Device-related distractions:** Please be courteous and refrain from personal technological activity during class time. Laptop use is not allowed without prior approval from the instructor.

**Disability Services:** To request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Disabled Student Services, 448 Schmitz, (206) 543-8924 (V/TTY). Students who have a letter from Disabled Student Services indicating a disability that requires academic accommodations should present this letter to the instructor.

## SCHEDULE of MODULE 1 (Week 1 ~ 5):

<i>Week</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>In-class activities and topics</i>	<i>Readings and deadlines</i>
Week 1	Wed 26-Sep	Introduction to course: participants, content, structure	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>1. Lefebvre, Henri. (1970). <i>The Urban Revolution</i>, Ch. 6 (Urban Form): pp. 115-133.</p> <p><b>- Post Reading Responses for Lefebvre's reading on the discussion board by Sep. 30<sup>th</sup> (Sun) 5pm.</b></p>
Week 2	Mon 1-Oct	<p>Lecture and Discussion: The Urban Explosion / Patterns of Urbanization in the US</p> <p><b>Distribute A1</b></p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>2. Philips, Barbara. (2009). <i>City Lights</i> (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.), Ch. 4 (From Urban Specks to Global Cities): pp. 106-143.</p> <p><i>Additional Readings:</i></p> <p>a. Abu-Lughod, J. Changing Cities, Ch. 2 (Origin &amp; Development of Cities) &amp; Ch.3 (Urbanization of the World): pp. 19-76.</p> <p>b. Shlomo, Angel et al. (2012). <i>Atlas of Urban Expansion</i>. (online)</p> <p><b>- Post Reading Responses for Oct 3 readings (select one from required and another from additional reading list) on the discussion board by Oct 2<sup>th</sup> (Tue) 5pm.</b></p>
	Wed 3-Oct	<p><b>Walking Tour:</b> Self-guided tours of U District (meet in class for discussion on methods and instructions)</p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>3. Talen, Emily. (2002). Help for Urban Planning: The Transect Strategy. <i>Journal of Urban Design</i>, 7(3): pp. 293-312.3.</p> <p>4. Jacobs, Allan B. (1985). <i>Looking at Cities</i>, (Starting to Look, Looking back) pp. 1-13, 133-141.</p>

			<p><i>Additional Reading:</i></p> <p>c. Clay, Grady. (1974). Close-Up: How to Read the American City, Ch. 4 (Epitome Districts): pp. 38-65.</p> <p>d. de Certeau, Michel. (1984). <i>The Practice of Everyday Life</i>, Ch. 7 (Walking in the City): pp. 91-110.</p>
Week 3	Mon 8-Oct	<p>Lecture and Discussion: Seattle and the Puget Sound region, from urban to regional form</p> <p><b><i>Distribute A2</i></b></p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>5. Artibise et al. (1997). "Cascadia: An Emerging Regional Model" in Geddes' (ed.) <i>Cities in Our Future</i>: pp. 149-173.</p> <p>6. Moudon, Anne V. and LeRoy A. Heckman. (2000). "Seattle and the central Puget Sound" in <i>Simmonds and Hack's (eds.) Global City-Regions</i>: pp. 120-134.</p>
	Wed 10-Oct	<p>Lecture and Discussion: Seattle Urban Form: Topography</p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>7. Klinge, M. (2005). "Fluid Dynamics: Water, Power, and the Reengineering of Seattle's Duwamish River." <i>Jow</i>, Summer 2005, Vol. 44, No. 3</p> <p>8. Thrush, C. (2006). "City of the Changers." <i>Pacific Historical Review</i>, 75(1), 89-117.</p> <p><b>- A1: Due on Oct. 14th (Sun) 5pm</b></p>

Week 4	Mon 15-Oct	<b><u>A1 - Presentations</u></b>	
	Wed 17-Oct	Seattle Urban Form: Morphology and Sociology: Capitol Hill – Pike/Pine  <b><i>Distribute A3</i></b>	<i>Required Readings:</i>  9. Chalana, Manish. (2016). Balancing History and Development in Seattle's Pike/Pine Neighborhood Conservation District. <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> , 82(2): 182-184.  10. Powe, M., J. Mabry, E. Talen, & D. Mahmoudi. (2016). Jane Jacobs and the Value of Older, Smaller Buildings. <i>Journal of the American Planning Association</i> , 82(2): 167-180  <b>- A2: Due on Oct. 21st (Sun) 5pm</b>
Week 5	Mon 22-Oct	<b><u>A2 - Discussion/Presentation</u></b>	
	Wed 24-Oct	Seattle Urban Form: Suburbs  <b><i>In-class Quiz</i></b>	<i>Required Readings:</i>  11. Moudon, Anne V. and P.M. Hess. (2000). Suburban Clusters: The nucleation of multifamily housing in suburban areas of the central Puget Sound. <i>JAPA</i> 66 (3): PP. 243-264

**Note: MODULE 2 (Week 6-11) will be handed out later.**

## SCHEDULE of MODULE 2 (Week 6 ~ 11):

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>In-class activities and topics</b>	<b>Readings and deadlines</b>
Week 6	Mon 29-Oct	Lecture and Discussion: Sharing and Owning Land (General Principle 1)	<i>Required Readings:</i>  12. Vance, James. (1991). "Urban Morphogenesis," in <i>The Continuing City</i> : pp. 4-39. 13. Conzen, M.P. (2001). "The Study of Urban Form in the United States," <i>Urban Morphology</i> 5(1): pp. 3-14.
	Wed 31-Oct	Lecture and Discussion: Networks (General Principle 2)	<i>Required Readings:</i>  14. Blumenfeld, Hans. (1972). "Form and Function in Urban Communities" and "Theory of City Form, Past and Present," in <i>The Modern Metropolis</i> : pp. 3-37.
Week 7	Mon 5-Nov	Lecture and Discussion: Scales in Space and Time (General Principle 3)	<i>Required Readings:</i>  15. Blumenfeld, Hans. (1972). "Universal Dilettante," "Scale in Civic Design," "Scale in the Metropolis," and "Continuity and Change of Urban Form," in <i>The Modern Metropolis</i> : pp. 213-241, 246-269.  <b>A3: Mapping Due on Nov. 6 (Tue) at 5 pm</b>
	Wed 7-Nov	<b>Review and discussion of Mapping projects;</b>  <b>Distribute Final Project:</b> Discussion and group formation	
Week 8	Mon 12-Nov	<b>Veterans Day --- No Class</b>	
	Wed 14-Nov	Guest Lecture and Discussion: <i>Urban Mobility in Bogotá</i> (Rachel Berney)	<i>Required Readings:</i>  16. Berney, Rachel. (2011). "Pedagogical Urbanism: Creating Citizen Space in Bogotá," <i>Planning Theory</i> 10(1): pp. 16-34. 17. Castro, L. and A. Echeverri. (2011). "Bogotá and Medellín," <i>Architectural Design</i> 81(3): pp. 96- 103.

			<p><i>Additional Reading:</i> e. Cruz, Teddy. (2011). "Latin American Meander," <i>AD</i> 81(3): pp. 110-118.</p>
Week 9	Mon 19-Nov	<p>Guest Lecture and Discussion: <i>Land Control and Urban Form - Perspectives from China (Dan Abramson)</i></p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>18. Abramson, D. B. (2008). "Haussmann and Le Corbusier in China: land control and the design of streets in urban redevelopment." <i>Journal of Urban Design</i>, 13(2), 231-256.</p> <p>19. Kan, H. Y., Forsyth, A., &amp; Rowe, P. (2017). "Redesigning China's superblock neighbourhoods: policies, opportunities and challenges." <i>Journal of Urban Design</i>, 22(6), 757-777.</p>
	Wed 21-Nov	<p><b><i>In-class meetings between final project groups and instructors</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Final Project: Outline and Scope of Work, Due on Nov. 21 (Wed) at 10 am.</i></b> Should Include Topic description, Table of Contents; List of Graphics and Sources.</p>
Week 10	Mon 26-Nov	<p>Lecture and Discussion: Street-block and Lots (Basic Element 1)</p>	<p><i>Required Readings :</i></p> <p>20. Siksna, Arnis. (1998). "City Centre Blocks and their Evolution," <i>Journal of Urban Design</i> 3(3); pp. 253-283.</p> <p>21. Vernez Moudon, A. (1992). "The Evolution of Twentieth Century Residential Forms," in <i>International Perspective on the Urban Landscape</i>: pp.170-206.</p> <p><i>See also:</i> Urban Layers website <a href="http://io.morphocode.com/urban-layers">http://io.morphocode.com/urban-layers</a></p>
	Wed 28-Nov	<p>Lecture and Discussion: Building Types (Basic Element 2)</p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>22. Blumenfeld, Hans. (1972). "Residential Densities," in <i>The Modern Metropolis</i>: pp. 171-175.</p> <p>23. Larco, Nico. (2009). "Untapped density: site design and the proliferation of suburban multifamily housing," <i>Journal of Urbanism</i> 2(2): pp. 167-186.</p>

<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Mon 3-Dec</p>	<p>Lecture and Discussion: Mixing Land Uses, Neighborhood and City (Basic Element 3)</p> <p><b><i>In-Class Quiz 2</i></b></p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>24. Talen et al. (2015). "What is a 'great neighborhood'? An analysis of APA's top-rated places," <i>JAPA</i> 81(2): pp. 121-141.</p> <p>25. Chaskin, Robert J. (1995). <i>Defining Neighborhood: History, Theory, and Practice.</i></p>
	<p>Wed 5-Dec</p>	<p>Urban Informality in the Global South</p>	<p><i>Required Readings:</i></p> <p>26. Chalana, M. and S. Rishi. (2015). "Making Sense of the Order in the Disorder in Delhi's Kathputli Colony," in <i>Messy Urbanism</i>: pp. 154-174.</p> <p>27. Dovey, K. and King, R. (2011). "Forms of Informality: Morphology and Visibility of Informal Settlements," in <i>Built Environment</i> Vol. 37, No. 1: pp. 11-29.</p> <p>28. Chalana, M. (2010). "Slumdogs vs. millionaires: balancing urban informality and global modernity in Mumbai, India." <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i>, 63(2), 25-37.</p> <p>See also these websites: <a href="http://www.kathputlicolonydda.com/">http://www.kathputlicolonydda.com/</a> <a href="http://www.twdfilm.com/take-action/">http://www.twdfilm.com/take-action/</a></p>

**Week 12 : Final Project due Dec. 10th (Mon) by noon.**