
COURSE SYLLABUS

MaryAlice Torres-MacDonald, Associate Professor

mobile.: 806-470-6149

Email: [via website at : www.webct.ttu.edu](#); [click on email link](#)

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Urban Design Studio (6:0:12). Prerequisite: ARCH4381 or consent of instructor. Recommended as the penultimate design studio. Explores the interface between culture and architecture at the scale of the city in terms of theory and design.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This studio course focuses on urban design as it relates to architecture. The course is held in Dallas and allows the students participating in our practicum work program an opportunity to work and participate in studio. The course is also open to students not participating in the practicum work experience with approval of the associate dean for academics. This studio involves the student in the theory of city form by taking a particular project and focusing on the problem statement within the context of the urban environment. The interface between culture and architecture is critical in this studio. Reading and discussion on urban design issues is required. In addition to lectures by the professor, guest lectures may also be integrated into the learning environment. The studio learning environment is active and interactive. It involves participation in a team environment as well as individual work.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

WEDNESDAY: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM (via internet)

FRIDAY: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Wilson Architectural Group
5051 Westheimer, Suite 1800
Houston, TX 77056

Wednesday night class is from 6:00 – 9:00PM. The students have the opportunity to connect via the internet at any outside source, or to attend the studio located at the host firm for internet access. The professor will conduct studio via the internet with some class periods identified throughout the semester as in class crit time. Wednesday night class will typically be an opportunity to work individually and in groups on the studio project and are reserved for online posting of student work for review.

Friday class is from 9:00AM – 6:00PM. The students and professor will meet at the host firm. The course will involve a variety of site visits to enhance the students' awareness of the urban environment and to take advantage of the opportunities to learn within the urban context. Students will also have the opportunity to work on studio projects during studio hours throughout the semester.

PEDAGOGIC OBJECTIVES

- To become familiar with the range of attributes entailed in achieving high-quality architecture /urban design: built form, public space, path and place, access systems, social activity, socio-economic and cultural influences.
- To become familiar with instrumental professional process of architecture / urban design;
- To learn the nature, strength and relevance of these and to seek to relate behavioral and organizational outcomes to them;

- To build abilities for working in digital environments including the production of graphic and written evidence in a timely fashion, and in lucid and publishable form.
- To use free-hand sketching as a tool for communication in the realm of urban and architectural design.

NAAB CRITERIA

This course meets the following NAAB Criteria: (2,6,9,16,26)

- 2: Graphic Skills (ability)
- 6: Collaborative Skills (ability)
- 9: Use of Precedents (ability)
- 16: Formal Ordering Systems (understanding)
- 26: Building Economy, Cost Control (understanding)

From NAAB Guide to the Student Performance Criteria:

Understanding: Assimilation and comprehension of information. Students can correctly paraphrase or summarize information without necessarily being able to relate it to other material or see its full implications.

Ability: Skill in relating specific information to the accomplishment of tasks. Students can correctly select the information that is appropriate to the situation and apply it to the solution of specific problems.

ABSENCES

Attendance Policy: The College of Architecture follows the class attendance policy set out in the *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog, 2005-2006, page 48.* (<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/catalog/ViewCat.html>) Four absences are considered excessive and constitute cause for having the student drop the class or receive a grade of "F", or "I" when appropriate. NOTE: Since this studio conducts class on an alternate schedule from the typical studio course held in Lubbock, attendance on Fridays is considered two class periods. Therefore, the absence from one Friday class period will constitute two absences and the absence of two Friday class periods will constitute grounds for "F" in the course.

The Texas Tech University Catalog states that a student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. Discuss this with your professor prior and the professor will establish a reasonable deadline.

The Texas Tech University Catalog states that the person responsible for a student missing class due to a trip relating to an alternate course taken through TTU should notify the instructors of the departure and return schedule in advance of the trip. The student may not be penalized and is responsible for the missed material.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Requirements of the design projects are mandatory. Any deviations or omissions from the program will be reflected in the evaluation and grade. Requirements of the design program will be announced by the studio professor. Please see Grading Criteria section.

NOTE: WHERE APPLICABLE, THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE WILL BE USED FOR ALL PROJECTS.

GRADING CRITERIA

Graduate level work requires an expectation of an advanced level of inquiry. Key Criteria:

- Comprehensiveness:
 - Work Completion as required.
 - Solution Development.

- Social Benefit. Part of the mission statement of the college addresses the fact that we work to benefit society. Your solution should reflect this. The work you produce should not be focused on you, but on a solution that will enrich the life of the city.
- Presentation:
 - Quality and Professionalism.
 - Clarity.
 - Verbal presentation skills.
- Team Work:
 - Contribution.
 - Participation.
 - Development of Ideas.
 - Team Evaluation
- Participation: Students learn not only from their instructor, but from each other.
 - Student completes reading assignments by due date.
 - Student participates actively in discussions.
 - Student is an active listener and allows others to contribute to the discussion.
 - Student engages other students in discussions.
 - Student participates in the discussions of other students work during reviews and class time.
 - Student shows respect to other students by listening to presentations (both class lectures and student review presentations).

The grades are determined as follows:

A – Performs work beyond expectation and excels in all key areas of evaluation.

B – Performs work above average and excels in most key areas of evaluation.

C – Performs average level work and complies at an average level with key areas of evaluation.

D – Does not perform to basic standards. Student does not reach basic level in key areas of evaluation.

F – Student is producing unacceptable work that does not meet requirements of the course.

A grade of C or below is considered not passing at the graduate level.

GRADING BREAKDOWN:

The studio will be broken into three segments of grading as follows:

Introductory Period (10%) – Weeks 1-2

Preliminary Period (20%) – Weeks 3-7

Intermediate Period (25%)– Weeks 8-12

Final Grading Period (35%) – Weeks 13-16 including Final Project

Participation (10%)

NOTE: Attendance can alter the outcome of this grade structure as noted under “Attendance” section of syllabus.

READING REFERENCES AND REQUIRED TEXTS

REQUIRED TEXT:

“Public Place: Urban Space” by Matthew Carmona, Tim Heath, Taner Oc and Steve Tiesdel

You can find this book on amazon.com for about \$28. You may find it on other sites, but this is the least expensive pricing I’ve found for this book.

Additional reading for the semester will be through a series of articles taken from a number of books and internet resources. You will be given access to the readings as pdf’s through our website one week prior to discussion. You will be expected to participate in the discussion, as this will become a portion of your grade reflected in the participation section. If you are unable to download a reading or access a reading via the internet, it is your responsibility to get this reading from a classmate or from me via email. You must provide me with at least 48 hours notice prior to the start of class on the day in which the reading is due via email.

The following is a list of reading sources, but others will be added as the semester progresses. This is based on the needs of the studio as a whole, and I can better determine this as I get to know the students. The reading is intended to supplement your work in the studio in the area of urban design. While not all sources will be included in the readings, the list is intended to provide you with resources in the area of urban design

- Anderson, Stanford, editor. **On Streets**. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.
- Barnett, Jonathan. **In The Elusive City**. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1986.
- Bohl, Charles. **Placemaking: Developing Town Centers, Main Streets and Urban Villages**. Urban Land Institute, Washington D.C., 2002.
- Calthorpe, Peter and Fulton, William. **The Regional City**. Island Press, Washington, D.C., 2001.
- Cresswell, Tim. **Place: A short introduction**. Blackwell Publishing, Malden, MA., 2004.
- Hiss, Tony. **The Experience of Place: A new way of looking at and dealing with our radically changing cities and countryside**. Vintage Books, NY, NY, 1990.
- Jacobs, Jane. **The Death and Life of Great American Cities**. New York: Vintage Books, A Division of Random House, Inc., 1961.
- Leccese, Michael and McCormick, Kathleen, editors. **Charter of the New Urbanism**. McGraw Hill, NY, NY, 2000.
- Lynch, Kevin. **In A Theory of Good City Form**. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1984.
- Michelson, William. **Man and His Urban Environment: A Sociological Approach**. Addison Wesley Publishing Company, Reading, MA., 1976.
- Seamon, David and Mugerauer, Robert, editors. **Dwelling, Place and Environment: Towards a phenomenology of person and world**. New York, Oxford: Columbia University Press, 1985.
- Rykwert, Joseph. **The Seduction of Place: The History and Future of the City**. New York: Vintage Books, A Division of Random House, Inc., 2000.
- Urban Design Associates. **The Urban Design Handbook: Techniques and Working Methods**. WW Norton & Company, NY, NY, 2003.

PORTFOLIO DOCUMENTATION

Students should remember to document all work as needed for your professional portfolio. A portfolio is required of all scholarship applications as well. I will ask you to produce your work in an 11"x17" format for reviews, although you may consider 8 ½ x 11 inch format for posting to your folder as long as images are clear and easily read. You will be required to convert all files to pdf. This will allow for easy review and access to your work via the internet. All posting of work will be done in pdf format to the student's folder online.

NOTE: The only exception to this format will be when the student is displaying work on the walls and specific requirements are noted on the assignment.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY/STUDIO DATES

January 8 – Faculty on Duty

January 10, Monday – Classes Begin at University

January 11, Friday – FIRST STUDIO - NOON

January 15, Monday – MLK Day – University Holiday

January 31, Friday – Last Day to Drop on the Web. Last Day to Drop and receive refund.

March 10, Saturday - Noon – Spring Break Begins

March 19, Monday – Classes Resume

March 21, Wednesday – Last day to drop course.

April 2-17 – Summer and Fall advanced registration

April 9, Monday - University Holiday

April 18, Wednesday – Open Registration begins

May 1, Tuesday – Last Day of Classes

May 4, Friday – FINAL REVIEW
 May 3 - 8 – Finals
 May 11, Friday – Graduate School Commencement
 May 12, Saturday - Undergraduate Commencement

Complete Academic Calendar can be found at:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/officialpublications/calendar.html>

FINAL REVIEW:

FRIDAY, May 4, 2006 at Wilson Architectural Group, 5051 Westheimer, Ste 1800, Houston, TX.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Laptop with wireless capability

You will need the ability to:

- Convert your files to pdf format
- Store large drawing files on your laptop, a separate portable hard drive, or memory key
- Scan some images to be used in presentations and for design development work

Also needed:

- Trace Paper (Butter Paper or White Trace Paper). Initial design work is to be completed through sketching & diagramming.
- Model Supplies
You may be required to build a model during this semester, so materials for this are considered part of your studio requirement.
- Notebook / Sketchbook for notetaking and sketching – Students are required to keep a sketch book throughout the semester.
- A digital camera is useful, but not required. You may share images and you may use images you find through other sources, but you **MUST** cite the source and respect copyright laws.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a requirement of this course. They will always be held on a Friday so as not to interfere with your practicum job. The idea is to maximize your learning while away from Lubbock. In addition, there is a great deal of information that is accessible to you via the internet so you will benefit greatly from having easy access to it.

PROJECTS

While the semester will break down into smaller assignments, they ultimately will all be associated with one primary project. You will have readings that will relate to Urban Design. You will work as a team and individually. The introductory period will involve research of the city through a template analysis. It will allow investigate and experience the city as an urban 'object' before you dive into the details of the project.

YOU MUST BE IN CLASS TO GET ANY ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS PROVIDED ORALLY.

STUDIO BEHAVIOR

Student is expected to comply with the student handbook for 2006-07. For a complete copy, please see: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentaffairs/publications/SA_handbook_2006-2007.pdf

Studio Conduct:

1. Observe proper dress codes---casual and clean, no worn-out tee shirts, shoes- no flip-flops. Respect for the host firm's environment is required.
2. Do not loiter in employees work space –stay in your assigned area at all times.
3. Be punctual. If you are late call my cell phone. 20 minutes late constitutes a tardy. Three tardies

constitute one absence.

4. *Do not stay in the building beyond 9:00 PM (Wednesday) or 6:00 PM (Friday) unless you have prior authorization.*
5. *Keep the work-space clean at all times.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Texas Tech University Catalog states, "It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of complete honesty and high standard of integrity. The attempt of students to present as their own any work that they have not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offenders liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension." Texas Tech University has been and will continue to be strongly committed to high ethical standards for administration, faculty, staff and students.

As defined in the Student Affairs Handbook, Part IX, Section C, a plagiarism violation includes, but is not limited to:

1. The use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment:
2. The unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
3. Sources of information must be acknowledged in an appropriate manner. Plagiarizing work (design, drawings, etc.) or submitting work which is not your own will result in an "F" grade for the semester. See Part IX, Section E of the Student Affairs Handbook.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student who because of a disability may require special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary accommodations. Student should present appropriate verification from AccessTECH. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved university procedure.

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Office of the Ombudsman is available to assist students with any conflict or problem that has to do with being a student at Texas Tech University. You may visit the Ombudsman in 202 Student Union Building or call 806-742-4791.