URBS 431/ 531
Urban Design
Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:45
MSU Edina, 7700 France
Fall 2009

Dr. Beth Wielde Heidelberg
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Instructor Michelle Wood
Michelle Wood
612-327-2616
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Dr. Wielde-Heidelberg’s Office Hours:
Tuesday:
8:00 – 9:30
11:00 – 12:30

Wednesday:
3:00 – 6:00*
*Via e-mail or by appointment on Edina campus

Thursdays:
8:00 – 9:30
11:00 – 12:30

Instructor Wood’s Office Hours: Wednesdays, after class or by appt.

Course Description
Urban design is the theory and practice of creating aesthetically pleasing and functionally diverse places in cities. Urban design creates an experience, and often creates a trademark for a city; it can be a vibrant focal point for a city or a discouraging, frightening experience. It depends on the effort of public servants, public officials, and the citizens who become involved in the design process. Urban spaces are, in fact, “people places,” and thus design efforts are an important part of the public/political process.

Urban Studies 431/ 531 will teach students the basics of urban design and the process from the local government standpoint. The course will begin by developing a standard vocabulary of design, to allow the student to analyze the built environment and ‘read’ designs proposed to them by consultants or designers. Students will consider the existing built environment and consider new theories of design for residential, commercial, parks, and other spaces. In the second portion of the class, students will explore design from a public policy standpoint, including getting a design project through the public process and presenting it to the City Council. They will also examine existing design policies and talk to professionals in the design realm to begin building a professional network.

D2L Use
D2L will be used heavily for the course. It will be the main communication tool between me and students; i.e. announcements, class cancellations, test scores, assignment scores, etc. Please check D2L regularly.
Course Text

Cameras
You will need a camera in this course. It doesn’t matter if it is digital or film, professional grade or disposable. Just make sure you have at least 24 exposures available for each assignment. If you use film, please scan or past the picture into your documents (loose photos/photos in an envelope will not be accepted). Contact the Academic Computing Center for assistance.

Course Grades
Grades will be comprised of your course assignments and participation in the in-class activities. There are 210 points available for undergrads, 270 available for graduate students. There is no extra credit available in the class.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>A+ 97 - 100%</th>
<th>A 94 - 96%</th>
<th>A- 90 - 93%</th>
<th>B+ 87 - 89</th>
<th>B 84 - 86%</th>
<th>B- 80 - 83%</th>
<th>C+ 77 - 79%</th>
<th>C 74 - 76%</th>
<th>C- 70 - 73%</th>
<th>D+ 67 - 69%</th>
<th>D 64 - 66%</th>
<th>D- 60 - 63%</th>
<th>F 59% ↓</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Course Assignments
Project sheets with complete descriptions will be distributed in class and available on D2L.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECT</th>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>Instructor In Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Geography</td>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Analysis</td>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Analysis</td>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precedent Analysis</td>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conceptual Design</td>
<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schematic Design</td>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigating Your Policies</td>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class VPS</td>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPS Presentation (GRAD ONLY)</td>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPS Analysis (D2L Dropbox)</td>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practitioner Interview</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grad VPS Analysis Due (GRAD ONLY)</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Heidelberg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All project/activity outputs are due on the due date. Late submissions will be docked points, per conditions of the assignment sheet.
Supplies
You are responsible for acquiring supplies to complete your assignments. Most supplies can be “scrounged
up” for free or purchased inexpensively at any discount store. You will need:

- Pens
- Pencils
- Eraser
- Markers and/or colored pencils
- Masking tape
- Ruler
- Glue
- Knife
- Blades
- Cutting surface
- Paper
- Bumwad or trace paper*
- Cardboard, chipboard, and/or foam core

*Available at art supply stores such as
Utrecht 1601 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis
Penco 718 Washington Avenue N, Minneapolis

Attendance
Class attendance is crucial. The class is held only once a week, and missing one means missing a significant
amount of material. Activity points can not be made up. You are responsible for procuring notes from
another student. If you want to discuss the notes with me to clarify the material, I am happy to sit down
with you –But you must bring notes along with you. This is to avoid “starting from scratch,” basically
making me give a lecture.

Class Participation
In upper level undergraduate and graduate level courses, it is expected that students will participate in class
discussions.

Enrollment
You must be enrolled in the course during the semester to earn a grade. I will not “hold over” a grade,
allowing you to take the class one semester and officially enroll in another.

Students with Disabilities
MSU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodation to participate in educational programs,
activities, or services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodation to participation in class activities
or meet course requirements should first register with the Office of Disability Services, located in 0132
Memorial Library, telephone 507/ 389-2825, TDD 711, and then contact me as soon as possible.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Other Academic Fraud
Simply put, don’t do it. The worst original work is better than the most perfectly plagiarized. It’s okay to
insert other people’s ideas, just make sure you cite them; after all, you would want credit for an idea you
had, right? And remember, I’ve read and seen a lot of stuff; they actually pay me to do it, so do you want
to take the odds that it’s a paper I’ve used for my dissertation research?

Cheating is not tolerated in any case. If you are caught cheating (and both the T.A. and I are watching!),
you will receive an automatic ‘F’ for the class and your case will be handled according to University policy.

Program Fulfillment
This course fulfills the following requirements:
- Undergraduate Core (old (pre 2007) curriculum)
- Undergraduate Elective (new curriculum)
- Graduate Elective

This course does not fulfill an undergraduate General Education category.
Be sure you have not previously taken this course. Dr. Heidelberg will not be responsible for checking past rosters to see if you were on there – if you accidentally repeat this course, it will not be counted toward your progress toward graduation.

GRADUATES: If you took this course as an undergraduate at MSU, you may NOT repeat it as a graduate for graduate credit. If you are uncertain if you had this course before, please check your transcripts. Dr. Heidelberg is NOT responsible for ‘accidental repeats’ or checking old rosters to see if you were on there.
# URBS 431/ 531: Urban Design

**Topic List and Important Dates (subject to change)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>Syllabus Review/ Introduction Wood &amp; Heidelberg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>Understanding Urban Design/ Site Analysis</td>
<td>Porterfield Chapter 1, Chapter 4 (pg 56-59)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Program Analysis/ Universal Design</td>
<td>Site Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 16</td>
<td>Precedent Analysis</td>
<td>Porterfield, Chapter 5 Program Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 23</td>
<td>Conceptual Design/ Representation</td>
<td>Precedent Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>Schematic Design/ Case Studies</td>
<td>Porterfield Chapter 7 &amp; 8 Conceptual Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>Schematic Design/ Case Studies</td>
<td>Porterfield Chapter 6 Schematic Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Beginning the Public Process</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>Gathering Public Input</td>
<td>Participate - In-class VPS (10 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 28</td>
<td>Moving Design Through the Public Process</td>
<td>Porterfield Ch 3 Investigating Your Policies Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>Responsibility of Design*</td>
<td>Porterfield Ch 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Graduate VPS</td>
<td>Graduate VPS Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Complete and turn in VPS Analysis via D2L Dropbox (no class session)</td>
<td>VPS Analysis Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>Private Sector Design*</td>
<td>Practitioner Interview Due Graduate VPS Analysis Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**"Responsibility of Design" and "Private Sector Design" may have to swap days depending on availability of panel.**