

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

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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

Porterfield and Hall (1995) *A Concise Guide to Community Planning*. McGraw-Hill

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

Percentage

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

Course Assignments

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

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

All projects/ 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*)

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

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