

Winter 2009

UP 518 – Physical Planning and Urban Design Studio

Urban and Regional Planning Program
University of Michigan

Instructor:

Larissa Larsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning

Assistant Professor of Natural Resources and Environment

Contact Information

Office Number 1248 C (SE corner of the Architecture building)

Office Hours: Monday afternoons 1:30 to 3:30 pm or by appointment (larissal@umich.edu)

734-936-0234 (office), 734-276-9038 (cell), 734-997-7621 (home – not after 9 pm)

Credits: 4 credit hours

Time and Place:

LEC T/TH 12:30 – 4 pm

Room by the MUP Cage

(additional optional computer workshops may be scheduled on Fridays)

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this studio is to help students develop their spatial thinking skills, sharpen their visual representation abilities, and apply ideas from urban design theory to actual places. Future planners need to understand how design guidelines and zoning ordinances will shape the look and feel of different urban and suburban landscapes. The objective of this course is to help graduate students--especially those without a design background--in the Master of Urban Planning program develop these tools in order to become *context-sensitive* and *visually-proficient* planners. Whenever possible, we will discuss green development alternatives to traditional approaches. The class will involve a field-trip to Chicago on Friday, January 16 and return Sunday, January 18. Course fees do not pay for the field trip.

Content:

There are two components to this course:

- (a) basic hand and computer skills learning (i.e. drawing lines, graphic symbols, photoshop, in-design, sketch-up);
- (b) studio practice (i.e. a hands-on approach of **learning by doing** physical layout and communicating the character of a place);

Texts:

I would suggest getting a small binder for readings and handouts that will be distributed in class.

Grading

Deadlines will be enforced and late submissions will be penalized by one grade per day.

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|------------------------------------------|-----|
| Small Assignments | 20% |
| Site Vignettes (physical layout) | 35% |
| Identifying Neighborhood Characteristics | 15% |
| Composing Design Guidelines | 10% |
| Final Site Planning and Design (group) | 25% |

Materials

Sketch pad: 8-1/2" x 11" or 9" x 12", minimum 24 sheets thick*
Medium Sharpie Marker
Several drawing pencils (B, H, 2H, 2B)
Pencil Sharpener
Ruler (steel with cork backing)
Blue-Line Pencil (optional)
Tacks/Stick Pins
Exacto Knife (No. 11)
Calculator
Masking Tape or Drafting Dots
12" Engineering Scale
High quality pencil eraser (Staedtler or similar)*
A set of 12 high-quality color pencils (e.g. Berol Prismacolor or similar)
A set of 6 disposable drafting pens with different line thicknesses (e.g. Sakura Micron Pigma Pen Set, or similar)

Class 1 – Thursday, January 8

Review the Syllabus and Material List
Drafting Conventions, Line, Line Hierarchy, Lettering

Class 2 and 3 - Tuesday, January 13 and Thursday, January 15

Review Lettering Assignment
Symbols and Map Making
Taking Urban Field Notes and Field Measurement
William Whyte's Recommendations for Urban Spaces
City of Chicago Overview and Field Trip Assignment

FIELD TRIP To Chicago

Friday, January 16 – Leave for Chicago
Sunday, January 18 – Return from Chicago

Tuesday, January 20 – No class

Class 4 – Thursday, January 22

Pin-up Chicago Assignment
Sections, Elevations, Vertical Space
Hand Drawing
Vignette Assigned

Class 5 – Tuesday, January 27

Vignette Review
Hand Drawing
Scales, Measurement Conversions, Physical Space Requirements
Understanding Urban Character
Assignment: Identifying Neighborhood Characteristics

Class 6 – Thursday, January 29

Digital Images, Formats, Sizing, Splicing, Layers, History, Editing (Adobe Photoshop)
Digital Image Assignment

Class 7 – Tuesday, February 3
Digital Image Manipulation Continued

Class 8 – Thursday, February 5
Site Planning Basics
Parking Layout
Working with Color – Color Assignment
Vignette Assigned

Class 9 – Tuesday, February 10
Vignette Review
Identifying Neighborhood Characteristics – Presentations
Introduction to Design Guidelines
Design Guidelines Assignment

Class 10 – Thursday, February 12
Color Assignment Due
Design Guidelines
Form Based Coding
The ‘Transect’
Vignette Assigned

Class 11 – Tuesday, February 17
Vignette Review
Figure/Ground Analyses
Sanborn Maps
Bring in an attractive magazine layout for next class

Class 12 - Thursday, February 19
Layout Basics
In-Design Workshop 1
Layout Assignment

No Class – Tuesday, February 24
No Class – Thursday, February 26

Class 13 – Tuesday, March 3
In-Design Workshop 2
Design Guidelines Assignment Due

Class 14 – Thursday, March 5
Mounting Posters and Cutting Foamcore
Final Assignment
TOD design

Class 15 – Tuesday, March 10
Layout Assignment Due
Visualizing Density
Inventory and Analysis Basics

Class 16 – Thursday, March 12

Presentation: Fort Worth, Texas and Santa Barbara, California
Sketch-Up Session 1

Class 17 – Tuesday, March 17

Sketch-Up Session 2
Sketch-Up Assignment

Class 18 – Thursday, March 19

Site Inventory and Analysis Presentations

Class 19 – Tuesday, March 24

Sketch-Up Assignment Due
In-class work

Class 20 – Thursday, March 26

In-class work

Class 21 – Tuesday, March 31

In-class work

Class 22 – Thursday, April 2

Informal presentation of work in progress

Class 23 – Tuesday, April 7

In-class work

Class 24 – Thursday, April 9

In-class work

Class 25 – Tuesday, April 14

In-class work

Class 26 – Thursday, April 16

Final Project Due

Class 27 – Tuesday, April 21

Wrap-Up

We are staying at:
Hostelling International Chicago
24 E. Congress Parkway, Chicago IL 60605
Phone: 1-312-360-0300

My cell phone number is 734-276-9038

Friday Afternoon – The Loop (Assignment Time)
First National Bank Plaza – at Madison and Dearborn
Chicago Federal Center – Dearborn between Adam and Jackson
Harold Washington Library – Congress
State of Illinois Center – 100 Randolph St.
The Chicago Art Institute
Marshall Field's (State Street)

Friday Evening – Taylor Street Area (Little Italy)
Southeast of the Loop
Blue Line from Jackson to Racine
Eating at Tufanos Vernon Park Tap (312-733-3393)
1073 W. Vernon Park Place
Chicago

Saturday Morning – 9 am meet at the Chicago Architecture Foundation
Santa Fe Building at 224 South Michigan Ave
Tour returns before 1 pm

Saturday afternoon
Millennium Park
Lincoln Park - Caldwell's Lily Pool, Nature Museum, Zoo
Dinner at Penny's Noodle Shop in Lincoln Park
950 W. Diversey Pkwy
773-281-8448
Take Brown Line to Diversey