

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. - noon, and by appointment (arrange by email)

CLASS TIME & PLACE

Thursday, 3:30-6:00 p.m., 208 Music Hall

CONTEXT

UW-Madison's Department of Urban and Regional Planning was part of a local consortium awarded a \$2 million "Sustainable Communities Regional Planning" grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This grant has helped the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission and other stakeholders advance sustainability within Dane County (www.capitalregionscrpg.org/). The work of the Capital Region Sustainability Initiative (CRSC) continues, and this class will contribute to this regional initiative.

LEARNING GOALS

Exploring the spatial relationships between buildings, transportation infrastructure, and green spaces within the built environment, this course focuses on urban design theory and contemporary urban design practice. This course is designed to help you develop some of the knowledge and skills needed to assess the structure and function of the built environment, and to communicate this information concisely and effectively. It also will familiarize you with many of the concepts and principles covered in the "advanced specialty in urban design" certification exam administered by the American Institute for Certified Planners (AICP).

Questions that we will consider this semester include:

- What makes a *great* neighborhood? A great public outdoor space?
- How does the built environment's 3D design affect public health, safety, and welfare?
- What are some of the metrics that urban designers use to assessing the structure and function of (existing and proposed) built environments?
- How could changes in public policy make communities healthier and more sustainable places to live, work, and play?

FORMAT

Typically, each class will begin with a lecture and discussion of the assigned readings. The remainder of the class will be devoted to student presentations, work sessions, or in-class critiques. The course is intended for graduate students and senior undergraduates interested in the structure and function of the built environment, and planning and policy interventions to create more livable, sustainable cities. Design and/or graphic communication experience is helpful, but not required.

COURSE WEBSITE

The syllabus, lecture slides, and all assigned readings are available on the course website: <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reflections on a “great place”

An essay on your personal experiences with a memorable, “great” outdoor place in the built environment (see: <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/>). Reflect on what made the place satisfying and memorable for you (e.g., architecture, public art, vegetation, water, weather, people, food, etc. – in other words, your 3D environment perceived by all five senses). Deliverable: PDF of 2-page (max.) carefully edited essay (single space, skip a line between paragraphs, use headings and sub-headings to organize, include a title, your name, and date). Upload to Learn@UW course “dropbox” by noon on the due date.

2. Comparative analysis of two assigned readings

Compare and contrast any two of the readings assigned for weeks 1-12. This analysis and synthesis is an opportunity to reflect on (and, potentially, disagree with) the opinions expressed in the selected readings. Deliverable: PDF of one 2-page (maximum) commentary. Upload to Learn@UW course “dropbox” no later than noon on the due date.

3. Sustainability indicators fact sheets

In collaboration with the Capital Region Sustainability Initiative (CRSC), the class will work in teams to prepare education and outreach materials that document and explain the importance of five priority (bellwether) indicators. Deliverables: PDF of 2-page illustrated fact sheets that include photos, key facts and figures, references to authoritative reports, papers, or websites, and policy and design recommendations for improving these regional indicator outcomes over time.

4. Urban policy brief

Many public policies directly or indirectly affect the structure and function of the built environment, often with unintended consequences. Negative impacts include reduced walkability, air and water pollution, crime and disparities in access to economic opportunities. For this project, you will be asked to develop an argument – with supporting evidence – that explains why a specific policy change is needed at either the local, regional, state, and/or federal levels. Deliverables: PDF of a 5 page (max.) policy brief + PDF of a 10 slide (max.) summary presentation to the class.

GRADING

Final course grades will be based on the following:

Participation in class discussions	10%
Reflections on place	10%
Comparative analysis of two readings	10%
Sustainability indicator fact sheets	30%
Policy brief + presentation	40%

Grading scale: A (94.0-100%), AB (88.0-93.9%), B (82.0-87.9%), BC (76.0-81.9%), C (70.0-75.9%), D (64.0-69.9%), F (63.9% or below)

ASSIGNED READING

All of the assigned readings are posted on the Learn@UW course website. Please read each week's assigned readings prior to that week's class.

Urban Structure & Function

- Alexander, C., S. Ishikawa, and M. Silverstein. 1977. *A Pattern Language*. New York: Oxford University Press. [preface; #14 - Identifiable Neighborhood; #21 – Four-Story Limit; #22 – Nine Percent Parking; #25 – Access to Water; #26 – Lifecycle; 95 – Building Complex; 96 – Number of Stories; 99 – Main Building; 102 – Family of Entrances; 105 – South Facing Outdoors; 106 – Positive Outdoor Space; 108 – Connected Buildings; 114 – Hierarchy of Open Space; 115 – Courtyards Which Live; 118 – Roof Garden; 165 – Opening to the Street; 167 – Six Feet Balcony]
- Cortright, J. 2010. *Driven Apart: How Sprawl is lengthening our Commutes and Why Misleading Mobility Measures are Making Things Worse*. CEOs for Cities. 20 pp.
- Jackson, R., A. Dannenberg and H. Frumkin. 2013. Health and the built environment: 10 years after. *American Journal of Public Health*, 103(9): 1542-1544.
- Jackson, R. and C. Kochtitzky. 2010. *Creating A Healthy Environment: The Impact of the Built Environment on Public Health*. Washington, D.C.: Sprawl Watch Clearinghouse. 19 pp.
- Koohsari, M., H. Badland, and B. Giles-Corti. 2013. (Re)Designing the built environment to support physical activity: Bringing public health back into urban design and planning. *Cities*, 35: 294-298.
- Main, B. and G. Hannah. 2009. The role of furniture in outdoor spaces, pp.1-23. *In: Site Furnishings: A Complete Guide to the Planning, Selection and Use of Landscape Furniture*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
- Rofe, Y. 1995. Space and Community – The Spatial Foundations of Urban Neighborhoods: An Evaluation of Three Theories of Urban Form and Social Structure and Their Relevance to the Issue of Neighborhoods. *Berkeley Planning Journal*, 10: 107-125.

Urban Design Practice

- American Institute of Architects (AIA). 2005. *What Makes a Community Livable? Livability 101*. 58 pp.
- American Planning Association (APA). 2011. *Multigenerational Planning: Using Smart Growth and Universal Design to Link the Needs of Children and the Aging Population*. Family-Friendly Communities Briefing Papers 02. Chicago, IL: American Planning Association. 14 pp.
- American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) et al. 2012. *Banking on Green: A Look at How Green Infrastructure Can Save Municipalities Money and Provide Economic Benefits Community-Wide*. 44 pp.
- LaGro, J. 2014. *Pathways to Regional Sustainability: Best Practices for Wisconsin's Capital Region*. Madison: Department of Urban & Regional Planning. 30 pp.
- Leinberger, C. and S. Kavage. 2007. *Barriers to Developing Walkable Urbanism and Possible Solutions*. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program. 12 pp.
- Parolek, D., K. Parolek, and P. Crawford. 2008. Why form-based codes? pp. 3-14. *In: Form-Based Codes: A Guide for Planners, Urban Designers, Municipalities, and Developers*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
- Slone, D., D. Goldstein, and A. Gowder. 2008. To suburbia and back: how urbanist law is different, pp. 1-27. *In: A Legal Guide to Urban and Sustainable Development for Planners, Developers and Architects*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons. pp. 1-27.

WEBSITES

Planetizen: Urban Planning, Design and Development Network - www.planetizen.com

Mayors Institute on City Design - <http://www.micd.org/>

Healthy Communities by Design - <http://www.healthycommunitiesbydesign.org/>

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics	Reading	Activities
1	9/4	skills & interests survey; introductions & overview	Jackson, Dannenberg & Frumkin (2013) – Health and the built environment: 10 years after View on your own: Mayors Institute on City Design - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ7Krw46iqI&feature=player_embedded	Introductions & course overview <u>Lecture</u> : A brief introduction to contemporary urban design Reflections on “place” essay assigned
2	9/11	Geography of opportunity / CRSC regional sustainability initiative	LaGro (2014) – Pathways to Regional Sustainability Jackson and Kochtitzky (2010) – Creating a Healthy Environment	Guest speaker: Steve Steinhoff, CARPC (opportunity mapping) Reflections on “place” essay due Comparative analysis of readings assigned
3	9/18	Urban <u>structure</u>	Alexander et al. (1977) – A Pattern Language (ix-xxxiv, #14, 21, 26) Rofe (1995) – Space and community: the foundation of urban neighborhoods	<u>Lecture</u> : Urban form (structure): density & other metrics (FAR, block size, intersection density, improved/land value) Sustainability indicator project assigned
4	9/25	Urban <u>structure</u>	Koohsari et al. (2013) – (Re)Designing the built environment to support physical activity	Guest speaker: Bill Fruhling, City of Madison DPCED (invited) <i>In-class work session</i>
5	10/2	Urban <u>function</u> (e.g., mobility, property value, health)	American Planning Association (2011) – Multigenerational planning View on your own: “Planning and Designing Communities that Promote Healthier Lives” (CDC) - http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/healthy_comm_design.htm	<u>Lecture</u> : Urban function: how form affects function (e.g., mobility, health, location efficiency, property value) <i>In-class review/work session</i>
6	10/9	Urban design practice (principles)	AIA (2005) – What Makes a Community Livable? Livability 101 (p. 1-58)	Guest speakers (4:30-6:00 pm): Judith Ruetsche (Swiss planning firm) & Ray Isaacs (UW-Milwaukee Planning Program)

7	10/16	Urban design practice (transportation systems)	Alexander et al. (1977) – A Pattern Language (#22, 165) Cortright (2010) – Driven Apart... Main & Hannah (2009) – The Role of Furniture in Outdoor Spaces	<u>Lecture:</u> Transportation/land use linkages (location efficiency) + furnishing the public realm <i>In-class review/work session</i>
8	10/23	Urban design practice (buildings)	Alexander et al. (1977) – A Pattern Language (#95, 96, 99, 102, 108, 167)	<u>Lecture:</u> Buildings: massing, articulation & style; building ensembles
9	10/30	Urban design practice (open space systems)	Alexander et al. (1977) – A Pattern Language (#25, 105, 106, 114, 115, 118)	<u>Lecture:</u> Open space typology / hierarchy Indicator project due – presentation to CARPC staff
10	11/6	Urban design best practices (green infrastructure)	ASLA et al. (2012) – Banking on Green: A Look at How Green Infrastructure Can Save Municipalities Money and Provide Economic Benefits Community-Wide	<u>Lecture:</u> Multiple-purpose green infrastructure Policy brief assigned <i>In-class work session</i>
11	11/13	Policy & institutional challenges	Leinberger & Kavage (2007) – Barriers to Developing Walkable Urbanism & Possible Solutions	<u>Lecture:</u> Policy analysis & advocacy; local-government self-assessment tools <i>In-class work session</i>
12	11/20	Policy & institutional challenges	Parolek et al. (2008) – Why form-based codes? Slone et al. (2008) – To suburbia and back: how urbanist law is different	<u>Workshop:</u> Creating effective Powerpoint presentations Comparative analysis of readings due
13	11/27	Thanksgiving Recess		No class
14	12/4	Policy advocacy		Policy brief – presentation PDFs due Policy brief presentations (part 1)
15	12/11	Policy advocacy		Policy brief presentations (part 2)
Monday	12/15			Policy brief PDF due