Course Title: Urban Design: Theories and Methods  
Course Prefix and Number: URP 4851  
Credits: 3  
Term: Fall Semester, 2013  
Class room: TBA  
Instructor: Kasama Polakit, PhD  
Office: HEC Building, Fort Lauderdale  
Tel. 954-762-5652  
Email: kpolakit@fau.edu,  

Course description  
Urban Design: Theories and Methods provides fundamental knowledge in terms of urban design theories, basic methods of analysis, and modes of graphic representations in Urban Design. Graphic communication and presentation skills necessary to be used in Urban Design projects will be emphasized.

Course Overview  
This course is designed for urban design major students as well as other students who are interested in contemporary theories, modes of critique relating to the design of the urban environment, and basic research methods and analysis in urban design. The course explores economic, political, social, cultural, aesthetic and natural factors that have influenced urban physical form, typologies, and city development. It also encompasses diverse western and non-western attitudes towards the way in which the world is viewed and experienced, from the macro-scale of urban planning and design, to the micro-scale of the human body, social relations and self-organization.

Educational Objectives  
- To understand the basic theoretical and methodological scope of research in urban design within dynamic urban development process. 
- To understand and acquire the urban design vocabulary, typologies, and models present in cities. 
- To understand and recognize the interaction among various forces for change influencing the shaping and reshaping of the built environment in a broader urban context. 
- To develop basic observation, analytical, and critical thinking skills across multiple scales utilized for design process in urban design projects. 
- To develop basic research skills in urban design analysis and urban design field work. 
- To develop image-based research skills, including graphic representation. 
- To develop communication skills including graphic communication, writing, and oral presentation.

PAB Requirements  
Even though the program is currently not accredited; however, the PAB requirements are very useful. Based on curriculum components matrix: knowledge, skills and values of the Planning Accreditation
Board (PAB) requirements, Urban design: Theories and Methods at SURP, FAU, addresses these followings:
- Design Arts under Human Settlement;
- Methods and Tools under History and Contemporary Planning Practice; and
- Research Skills, Written, Oral and Graphic Communication Skills.

Assignments
There are three assignments in this course.

Assignment #1 Weekly assigned reading of selected articles. (15%)
Each week students will prepare a power point presentation of the assigned reading for class discussion. Groups (or individual depending on the number of enrollment) will be asked to present findings in a 20-minutes oral presentation to the class. Critical analysis by the class of the presentation content will follow. Reading lists will be posted in Bb prior the beginning of the class.

Assignment #2 Key thinkers in Urban Design: ideologies, concepts, and methods. (30%)
Students will conduct research on urban design thinkers (theorists and/or authors) to review their work in regard to underlying values, criteria, objectives and normative models of city design and urban form. The structure of the report and oral presentation will be given. The list of suggested urban design thinkers will be posted on Blackboard. Students can also select their own urban design thinkers with the instructor's approval. This assignment can be individual or teamwork depending on the number of enrollment. The result will be counted as midterm exam.
Format for assignments and all papers should be MSWord, double-space, 12pts, Times New Roman font. Use the Chicago Manual of Style for in-text citations and reference entries. This can be found at http:www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.

Assignment #3. Urban Diary Portfolio: Urban design documentation and analysis. (40%)
This exercise will allow the student to develop graphic communication skills necessary for urban designers. The students will be exposed to a series of exercise regarding graphic representation of space and place by documenting a selected neighborhood or parts of a city and its physical context from regional scale to human scale. Each student will submit a portfolio of visual composition book, 11"x17" in size. More detailed information can be found in the assignment handout.
Require textbooks for this assignment:

Materials
Students should anticipate expenditures for course materials (printing of course readings), equipment, supplies, photo/digital reductions, and reproductions.

Prerequisites
None
Attendance
ON-TIME attendance is mandatory. Students appearing more than 20 minutes late will be considered absent from class without exception. Please note that attendance is not limited to showing up on time, it also includes staying until the end. Attendance and participation will be factored into final grades. Absence does not absolve the student from homework, assignments, or work progress due on the day of absence and the work due the following class. It is the students' sole responsibility to contact their classmates to get information on the material covered and assignments given. Absence more than THREE classes (80%) without serious reasons (medical or otherwise) given in writing in advance of the class will have one full grade deduction from the earned grade. Students, who absent for five classes and more without serious reasons (medical or otherwise) given in writing in advance of the class, will not be eligible to submit the final assignment. Students absent from a required presentation, assignment, or examination will receive, without exception, an F, (0 points), for that presentation, assignment, or examination.

Participation
Students are responsible for completing all assigned readings prior to class and are expected to participate in related discussions. Students are expected to participate vigorously in formal and informal discussions and reviews. Active participation will count towards the student's final grade.

Course Assignments and Grading Percentages
Assignment #1: 15%
Assignment #2: 30%
Assignment #3: 40%
Active Participation: 15%
100%

Grading
The basic grade, a “C”, shall depend directly upon demonstration of the minimum standard of learning expected from this course. After the minimum criteria have been met, the final grade will be determined by evaluating the quality of generative research and exploration from commencement through completion of the course. Competency in the course shall be evaluated using 1) weekly oral presentation of assigned readings, 2) one written midterm report, 3) a final graphic communication portfolio and 4) participation.

Letter grades for projects and term papers are defined as follows:
An “A to A-” grade is awarded when the student knows and understands exceptionally well the material presented in the class and brings some other understanding, both academic and critical to the subject theme demonstrating the ability to investigate deeply into the argument.
A “B+ to B-” grade is awarded when the student demonstrates a good understanding of the material presented in class.
A "C+ to C" grade is awarded for average work, meeting all of the requirements and exhibiting a consistent effort in research, process and communication.
A “C-” grade is given to marginal work, meeting less than the minimum requirements while exhibiting inconsistency in research, process, and lacking in clarity.
An “F” grade represents failing work, meeting less than the minimum requirements.
Grading Scale in %

- 100 - 95  A
- 94 – 90  A-
- 89 – 87  B+
- 86 – 84  B
- 83 – 80  B-
- 79 – 77  C+
- 76 – 74  C
- 73 – 70  C-
- 69 – 0  F

All exercises must be handed in at the due dates. Work submitted late will have one full grade level deducted from the earned grade – that is, if your work earns a B, you will receive a grade of C. In order to be considered for a passing grade (C-) in a course a student must complete and submit all assignments.

Professional and Ethical Conduct

The College for Design and Social Inquiry expects students to communicate their ideas effectively and professionally. This includes legible text with proper spelling, punctuation, and grammar, as well as reference citations that meet the standards of your discipline for research and scholarly writing. Once documented in writing or all forms of graphic representations including drawings, maps, images, photographs, those pieces are the intellectual property of the author. When presenting anything that is not your own, citation of the original source is needed. To do otherwise is plagiarism, which constitutes cheating.

Using the ideas, moving images, writings, or any form of graphic representations including drawings, maps, images, photographs of other and attempting to pass them off as yours is plagiarism. Examples of plagiarism include, (but are not limited to): lifting material verbatim (or with minimal changes) directly from someone else’s work without citing the original author, as well as submitting work prepared by someone else as your own.

Plagiarism is a very serious offense, as is submitting a product which was not originally prepared for this course, or one which is used to fulfill the requirements of more than one course. In any such case, the student will receive no credit for the work, and/or a failing grade for the course. Moreover, depending on the severity of the offense and any previous violations, additional penalties may be assessed by the university, (which can include academic probation or expulsion from the university). A grade of “F” received for academic misconduct cannot be removed from your transcript through the university’s forgiveness policy. For more information, see: http://wise.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Outside Employment

While the University is sensitive to the financial and professional needs of our students, outside employment is not considered an extenuating circumstance in cases of poor performance, excessive absences or failure to submit assigned work on schedule.
Student Work
The School of Urban and Regional Planning reserves the right to retain any and all student work for the purpose of record, exhibition, and instruction. All students are encouraged to reproduce all work for their own records prior to submission of originals to the instructor. In the event of publication the author or the work will be recognized and receive full attribution.

General
Information concerning academic regulations, student rights and responsibilities may be found in the current Florida Atlantic University Catalog and Student Handbook. The College for Design and Social Inquiry prohibits audio or video recording of instructional activities in classrooms, laboratories, and studios without the expressed written consent of the instructor. This does not apply to students receiving services from the Office with Student Disabilities. When the instructor’s consent is given, the materials are for personal use only and are not for distribution or sale in any fashion.

Cell phones & Laptops
Personal communication devices (pagers and cell phones) MUST be disabled or set to “vibrate only” during class sessions. Laptops will be used solely for class activities.

Special Needs
Students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework are encouraged to register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). More information, including office locations and contact information, is available at the OSD website: http://www.osd.fau.edu/
Any student with disabilities or other special needs, who needs special accommodations in this course, is invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible. All work in this course must be completed in a manner consistent with the university policy.

Blackboard & FAU Email
A course website is available at FAU Blackboard (https://blackboard.fau.edu/). All students who are officially registered for the course are automatically enrolled in the Blackboard class website. All students are expected to use this resource on a regular basis for course materials, announcements, etc. All course updates will be added on Blackboard, which can be accessed from anywhere with an internet connection. Instructor will be tracking student use of the Blackboard class website. The instructor will use students’ FAU email address for communication. This is very important. Students are suggested to check FAU email daily and are responsible to read and respond to any email requests from the instructor in a timely manner.

Note on teamwork: For fieldwork the students will be required to work in team. There may be some students put more effort than others. The students will have the option of evaluate their team members. The team evaluation document is posted in Bb. The results will play a part in determining the final grades at the end of the semester.
Selected References (categorized by themes)

Introduction and fundamental knowledge

Methods and techniques


Websites

www./urbanform.org/ (the site has a vast series of the study of urban form around the world)
### Tentative class schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Class activities</th>
<th>Expected outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overview of the course objectives and expected outcomes.</td>
<td>1. Students will understand the course objectives, assessment criteria and expected outcomes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion on two assignments and assessment criteria.</td>
<td>2. Students will understand the discipline of urban design and design of the built environment in the US as well as worldwide.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture: Introduction to Urban Design</td>
<td>3. Students will understand the roles and status of the present-day urban designers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- What is Urban Design?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Definition and debate Historical background of the field</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Who design the cities?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Urban Design Process &amp; Products</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Urban Design today: the roles of urban designers in the increasingly globalized world.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Class activities</th>
<th>Expected outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morphological dimension</td>
<td>1. Students will understand the evolution of urban form.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Evolution of urban form,</td>
<td>2. Student will understand the use of visual and graphic communication to represent the evolution of urban form, urban spaces and urban environment.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Urban generations and urban impositions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Vernacular urban patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Urban space typologies, elements and spatial systems</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Traditional, Modernist, and Post-modernist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Western &amp; non-western</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Planned vs Spontaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Network, web/blocks, solid/void, openness/enclosed, dynamic/static, part/whole</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Kits of part &amp; sets of rules</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bernett, J 2011, City Design: Modernist,</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Week 3 | Functional dimension  | 1. Students will understand the content of functional and temporal dimensions of cities.  
 | - Land use patterns  
 | - Human activities  
 | Temporal dimension  | 2. Student will understand the use of visual and graphic communication to represent functional and temporal dimensions of urban environment.  
 | - Linear & Cyclical  
 | - Urban Rhythms  
 | - Urban Dynamism  
 | - 20-minutes of oral presentation of an assigned reading.  
 | Chapter 8 Functional Dimension, pp. 165-192.  
 |  
| Week 4 | Economic and political dimension  | 1. Students will understand the content of economic and political dimensions of cities.  
 | - Urban development process  
 | - Political economy in Urban Design  
 | - Project typologies  
 | - 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.  
 | Chapter 2, Urban design processes and procedures, pp. 24-41.  
 |  
| Week 5 | Ecological dimension  | 1. Students will understand the content of the ecological dimensions of cities.  
 | - Ecological design  
 | - Integral urbanism  
 | - Landscape urbanism  
 | - Sustainable urban design  
 | - 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.  
 | Brenda, S.2011, *Metropolitan Form and*  
 |  

Prepared by Kasama Polakit, PhD
| Week 6 | Midterm presentation: Study on Key thinkers in Urban Design: Ideologies, Concepts, and Methods | Development of Research skill
Oral Presentation skill
Graphic communication skill |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Report submission</td>
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</table>
| Week 7 | Social, cultural and aesthetic dimension | 1. Students will understand the content of social, cultural and aesthetic dimensions of cities.
2. Student will understand the use of visual and graphic communication to represent social, cultural and aesthetic dimensions |
- Neighborhood and community life
- Public space and public life
- Human behavior and the uses of space
  - Experiential aspects
  - Psychological aspects
  - Meaning and symbolic aspects
- 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.
| Week 8 | Methods in Urban Design 1: Understanding scale | 1. Student will understand graphic representation of urban systems and urban phenomena at various scale ranging from regional, city, community, neighborhood, and buildings to body scales.
2. Students will be able to map urban environment at various scale. |
Scale of observation
Scale of analysis
Scale of action
Interlink between regional, city, community, neighborhood, buildings, and body scales.
- 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading
| Week 9 | Methods in Urban Design 2: Four dimensions of urban analysis | 1. Students will understand basic methods of urban analysis in urban design. |
- Form: physical settings, land use patterns |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th><strong>Methods in Urban Design 3:</strong> Fieldwork methods Learning from the field</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mapping techniques and graphic communication</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- the power of map</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Basic element: dot, line, plane</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Students will understand basic methods of urban design fieldwork.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Students will be able to document urban design context through the use of graphic communication.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th><strong>Methods in Urban design 4:</strong> Typo-morphological study</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morphological mapping</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morphological analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.</td>
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<td>Students will be able to prepare urban design documentation through the use of graphic communication.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th><strong>Constructing and/or preserving a sense of place</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place identity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Place-making</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Place &amp; placelessness: character, images, and virtual reality</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1. Students will understand urban conservation in urban design.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Students will be able to use visual and graphic representation for urban preservation.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Week 13 | **Emergent Urbanism**  
- Emergence vs evolution  
- Complexity and self-organizing  
- Actor-network theory  
- Self-adaptive system  
- 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.  
Chapter 6 Emergence and Evolution, pp. 149-176. | Students will understand upcoming issues in Architecture and Urban Design. |
| Week 14 | **Looking forward**  
- Seeing the world outside the box  
- Interdisciplinary approach in Urban Design  
- 20-minutes of oral presentation of the assigned reading.  
| Week 15 | **Wrap-up**  
**Urban Diary Portfolio submission**  
Urban Design documentation and graphic analysis. | Development of Urban Design Research skill in Visual representation and Graphic communication skill |