**Florida Atlantic University**

**School of Urban and Regional Planning**

**URP 4920 Urban Design Studio I**

**Spring 2019**

Class Meetings

TBD

Room: Social Sciences Building, Room XXX, Boca Raton Campus

3 Credit Hours

Pre-Requisite: URP 3000

**Instructor: Dr. John L. Renne**

**Office Location: Building 44, Room 284**

**Office Hours: Appointments can be made at: https://johnrenne.youcanbook.me or by contacting Dr. Renne by email or telephone.**

**Contact Phone Nr: 561-297-4281 (office); 504-717-1744 (mobile)**

**Email:** [**jrenne@fau.edu**](mailto:jrenne@fau.edu)

**Course Description**

This studio presents design approaches to study complex small- and mid-scale projects and the network of agents in their transformation. Students learn basic principles of urban design, fundamental skills to integrate multi-scalar design strategies and experiment with various representation methods.

**Course Introduction and Structure of the Course**

This core studio introduces students to a series of design approaches to study complex small- and mid-scale projects and the network of agents in their transformation. Students will be introduced to the basic principles of urban design, develop fundamental skills to integrate multi-scalar design strategies and experiment with various representation methods, such as hand and digital graphic communication. Participants will engage in examining diverse territories and constituencies related to design projects based in Palm Beach County. We will do this by developing building blocks, which will be combined by the end of the semester in a neighborhood-scale design project. During the semester, participants will conduct site visits, site analysis, engage in site planning and interact with local practitioners and designers.

This is a sixteen-week, full-semester course. The course includes lectures, group discussions and exercises, individual projects, mandatory field trips and formal presentations. A lot of time will be devoted to in-class studio time and desk critiques. The objectives of this course are best met through a consistent and sustained commitment to practicing the techniques and exploring the ideas that are covered in class. By mastering the skills introduced in this studio, students develop the confidence to express complex ideas clearly and efficiently. Once students are able to explore and communicate design ideas quickly, they will be in a good position to become excellent designers.

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Conduct a thorough site analysis and understand SWOT analysis and site synthesis.
2. Have basic hand graphic communications skills
3. Understand the patterns of urban space and the principals of design in practice.
4. Understand basic tools of Adobe Photoshop and InDesign
5. Understand the fundamentals of effective presentations
6. Put urban design theory into practice

**Required Books**

1. Urban Design Associates (2013). The Urban Design Handbook: Techniques and Working Methods (2nd Edition). New York, N.Y.: W.W. Norton & Company
2. Cantrell, Bradley and Wes Michaels (2014). Digital Drawing for Landscape Architecture: Contemporary Techniques and Tools for Digital Representation in Site Design, 2nd Edition. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

**Readings**

TBA. Most readings will be made available through Canvas. Please ensure that you have access.

**Minimum Technical Skills Requirements**

The general and course-specific technical skills a student must have to succeed in the course include but are not limited to:

1. Accessing Internet
2. Using Canvas (including taking tests, attaching documents, etc.)
3. Using email with attachments
4. Creating and submitting files in commonly used word processing program formats such as Microsoft Office Tools
5. Copying and pasting functions
6. Downloading and installing software
7. Creating and posting to a Canvas Forum
8. Searching the FAU library and websites

**Course Assessments, Assignments, Grading Policy, and Course Policies**

**Assessments for this Course Includes:**Participation and Attendance, Assignments, Individual Projects and Presentations

**Grading:**

Class Attendance and Participation: 20%

Applied Exercises: points vary; 30% of total grade

Individual Projects: 100 points each; 50% of total grade

**File Format**

Most of our work this semester will be limited to just a few file types. These include PDF *(portable document format),* DOC or DOCX (word documents) and JPG *(image files)*. Unless otherwise noted, all image files are to be saved in JPG format at original image size and a maximum resolution of 200 dpi. All images must be rotated to correct orientation and labeled consistent with the protocol detailed above. All projects must be submitted digitally by the due date for each project and in a complaint format.

Each image must comply with the following labeling protocol:

***Last Name <underscore> First Initial <underscore> Project Name <underscore> Project Title***

Example

***Johnson\_J\_Draft Capstone Proposal\_Sleep Through The Static***

**Attendance:**

One hundred percent presence, participation, persistence, and production are essentialto your success in this studio. Attendance is mandatory and students are expected to be on time and anticipate desk crits to discuss progress on projects. Faculty will dropgrades for missed classes, unless cleared in advance or due to extenuatingcircumstances. Students should anticipate to work beyond studio hours, as demonstration ofprogress is expected at each new class. If meeting a requirement is not possible it is imperativethat the student notifies her/his professor as soon as possible to discuss the issue.Rubrics for major projects will be handed out; other projects may use checklists or other verbaland written evaluation methods.

**Late Work Policy:**

Assignments submitted late will result in a lower grade (1/2 letter grade per day – no exceptions outside the extenuating circumstances). Late work will only be accepted if you have made arrangements with the faculty in advance, otherwise the assignment will receive a failing grade. Plagiarism will also result in a failing grade and will be reported to the appropriate University authorities.

**Grade Scale:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total  Points | 100-  93 | 92-  90 | 89-  87 | 86-  83 | 82-  80 | 79-77 | 76-73 | 72-70 | 69-67 | 66-63 | 62-60 | <60 |
| Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

The University policy states that a student who is passing a course, but has not completed all work due to exceptional circumstances, may, with consent of the instructor, temporarily receive a grade of incomplete (“I”). The assignment of the “I” grade is at the discretion of the instructor, but is allowed only if the student is passing the course.

**Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf).

[Plagiarism](http://libguides.fau.edu/c.php?g=325629&p=2352760) is unacceptable in the University community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording, or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass off such work as one’s own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. This includes all Canvas Forum posts, journal entries, wikis, and other written and oral presentation assignments. If in doubt, cite your source!

**Classroom Etiquette/Disruptive Behavior Policy Statement**

Disruptive behavior is defined in the FAU Student Code of Conduct as *“... activities which interfere with the educational mission within classroom.”* Students who behave in the face-to-face and/or virtual classroom such that the educational experiences of other students and/or the instructor’s course objectives are disrupted are subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior impedes students’ ability to learn or an instructor’s ability to teach. Disruptive behavior may include, but is not limited to: non-approved use of electronic devices (including cellular telephones); cursing or shouting at others in such a way as to be disruptive; or, other violations of an instructor’s expectations for classroom conduct.

For more information, please see the FAU Office of Student Conduct <http://www.fau.edu/studentconduct/>

**Communication Policy**

**Expectations for Students**

* Announcements
  + You are responsible for reading all announcements posted by the instructor. Check the course announcements each time you log in.
* Email
* You are responsible for reading all of your course email and responding in a timely manner.

**Support Services and Online Resources**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Office of Information Technology Online Help Desk: | <https://helpdesk.fau.edu/TDClient/Home/> |
| FAU Libraries: | <http://www.fau.edu/library/> |
| Center for Learning and Student Success: | <http://www.fau.edu/class/> |
| University Center for Excellence in Writing: | <http://www.fau.edu/UCEW/> |
| Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry: | <http://www.fau.edu/ouri/> |
| Student Accessibility Services: | <http://www.fau.edu/sas/> |
| Office of International Programs and Study Abroad: | <http://www.fau.edu/goabroad/> |

**Faculty Rights and Responsibilities**

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative:

* To establish and implement academic standards.
* To establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.
* To refer disciplinary action to those students whose behavior may be judged to be disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct.

Instructor reserves the right to adjust this syllabus as necessary.

**Selected University and College Policies**

**Accessibility Policy Statement**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations to properly execute coursework due to a disability, must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) located in the Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter campuses and follow all SAS procedures. For additional information, please see: <http://www.fau.edu/sas/>

Questions relating to academic accommodations for students with disabilities are to be directed to Students Accessibility Services, Boca Raton campus, Room 133, (561) 297-3880, TDD (561) 297-0358.

**Grade Appeal Process**

A student may request a review of the final course grade when s/he believes that one of the following conditions apply:

* There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
* Non-academic criteria were applied in the grading process.
* There was a gross violation of the instructor’s own grading system.
* Procedures for a grade appeal may be found in [Chapter 4 of the University Regulations](http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/index.php).

**Religious Accommodation Policy Statement**

In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.  For further information, please see [Academic Policies and Regulations](http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/FAUcatalog/academics.php).

**University Approved Absence Policy Statement**

In accordance with rules of the Florida Atlantic University, students have the right to reasonable accommodations to participate in University approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor at least one week prior to missing any course assignment.

**Drops/Withdrawals**

Students are responsible for completing the process of dropping or withdrawing from a course. Please click on the following link for more information on dropping and/or withdrawing from a course. [Link to FAU Registrar Office](http://www.fau.edu/registrar/registration/faqs.php)

**Course Schedule**

**Unit 1 (Weeks 1-3): Introduction to the design process and principals of design communication.** Topics include: Figure ground, geometries, lines of force, nodes & connections, circulation. Focus will be on hand graphics.

**Unit 2 (Weeks 3-7): Site Analysis and Case Study Analysis.** This unit will include field trips to local urban spaces to examine the varied layers that make up the site. Students will select a site of their own to analyze for the rest of the unit. Topics include SWOT analysis, Site Analysis, Site Synthesis and program development. There will be additional readings assigned relating to each layer of analysis. Hand drafting techniques will be the focus and we will segue into computer graphics. This unit will culminate in the first major project presentation.

**Unit 3 (Weeks 8-11): Small-Scale Design Development.** Topics include program development and relationship analysis as students develop a block-scale site plan. In this unit, Photoshop will be introduced through several tutorials so that it may be utilized in the deliverables of the 2nd major project of the semester.

**Unit 4 (Weeks 8-16): Neighborhood-scale redevelopment.** The subject site will be a local redevelopment site and students will consult the land development codes in the course of the design development. The program of the project will allow the students to put principals of Transit-Oriented Development into practice as a part of their design solutions. More advanced Photoshop techniques will be introduced in order for the deliverables to be able include rendered section-elevations. InDesign will be introduced as a layout tool. Projects will be presented at the end of the term.