

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**URBP 231 – URBAN DESIGN IN PLANNING**  
**URBP 151 – INTRODUCTION TO URBAN DESIGN**  
**FALL 2022**

**Instructor:** Gordon Douglas, PhD  
**Office location:** WSQ 218A / Zoom  
**Email:** [gordon.douglas@sjsu.edu](mailto:gordon.douglas@sjsu.edu)  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays 12:30pm - 2:30pm (by appointment please)  
**Class days/time:** Tuesdays 4:30 – 7:00 PM  
**Classroom:** WSQ 208  
**Prerequisites:** None for 231  
Upper division standing or instructor consent required for 151.  
**Units:** 4

**URBP 231**

URBP 231: Urban design as part of the planning process; contemporary and historic urban design thought and ways of improving design quality in the urban environment.

URBP 151 / DSIT 151: Principles, goals and methods of the urban design process. Urban design as the comprehensive treatment of the human-made environment. Prerequisite: Upper division standing or instructor consent.

**URBP 151**

**S**

This course provides a graduate-level introduction to the ideas that have shaped the design of cities and the principles informing the practice of urban design. We will explore significant components of theory and practice across the disciplines of architecture, urban planning, and landscape urbanism, and consider how they are intertwined with social, environmental, and cultural factors. The course is mainly organized around the different scales or sites at which urban designers think and work today, but focuses also on important moments of urban design in history, major theories, concepts and

We typically  
assignments  
other cities





#### 4. Neighborhood Re-design Proposal (Engagement Activity)

Choose an existing area of several city blocks (could be urban neighborhood, suburban town center, industrial district, random edge space...) that you think needs improvement from an urban design standpoint to become a more functional, appealing, sustainable, mixed-use neighborhood. (The site needn't be square – it could be a rectangular site surrounding a length of street you want to focus on, for instance). Visit and analyze the site: conduct a basic land-use survey and observe local activity. Think about what the people who live in, work in, or traverse this area need, want, or would benefit from. Propose a re-design of the area to promote a healthy, just, and sustainable “urban village,”

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## **Final**

This course is evaluated through multiple assignments and class participation. The final assignment, a hypothetical proposal for the redesign of a neighborhood site (see above), is due during the final class meeting, during which time students will briefly present their projects.

## **Grading**

The course grade consists of four main assignments. The first two assignments are each worth 15% of the grade (15 points each), the next is worth 20% (20 points) and the final project is worth 30% (30 points), with 2 points for each completed Reading Response memo and a final 10% allotted based on an evaluation of course participation.

For course letter grade: A+ (98 and above); A (93 to 97); A- (90 to 92); B+ (88 to 89); B (83 to 87); B- (80 to 82); C+ (78 to 79); C (73 to 77); C- (70 to 72); D+ (68 to 69); D (63 to 67); D- (60 to 62); F (below 60).

## **Class**

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit class, you can expect to spend a minimum of nine hours per week in addition to time spent in class and on scheduled tutorials or activities. Special projects or assignments may require additional work for the course. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to be successful in all of your courses. For this class, you will have to undertake additional activities outside the class hours such as completing the assigned reading, visiting your field site, and completing assignments (including preparing for the presentation)



severe cases, students may also fail the course or even be expelled from the university.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues beforehand in draft or final work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some common examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- Using a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote without identifying the language as a quote by putting the text in quote marks and referencing the source.
- Paraphrasing somebody else's theory or idea without referencing the source.
- Using a picture or table from a webpage or book without reference the source.
- Using data some other person or organization

**URBP 231 – URBAN DESIGN IN P**





Jan Gehl. **Life Between Buildings: How to Assemble or Disperse** (pp. 81-100) and “Soft Edges” (pp. 183-97). Available as an ebook via the library: <https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CAL5 ALMA51542846800002901>

NACTO. 2013. **Urban Street Design Guide** (online). Peruse the different sections and familiarize yourself with contemporary street design components. <https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/>

Justin Davidson. 2018. “What is a Street? And What Will it Become?” **New York Magazine** website. <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/01/what-is-a-city-street-and-what-will-it-become.html>

Kurt Kohlstedt. 2018. “On Verges: Exploring Roadside Landscape Strips Between Streets and Sidewalks,” **99 Percent Invisible**.

<https://99percentinvisible.org/article/on-the-verge-regional-names-uses-for-those-roadside-landscape-strips/>

7

10/8

### Parks, Gardens, and Nature in the City

Field  
Trip  
(Davis)

This day's content will be covered on a Saturday field trip to Davis. Attendance is highly encouraged. In exchange for your time, there will be no scheduled class on Tuesday the

*No  
Class  
on 10/4*

Whyte, William H. 1980. "3. Sun, Wind, Trees, and Water" (pp. 40-49). In **The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces**, DC: Conservation Foundation. (Purchase this book or see Canvas module.)

McHarg, Ian. 1992. "Nature in the Metropolis" (pp. 55-65) in **Design with Nature**. New York: Wiley. (Just skim if interested – it's a very influential text.) (See Canvas module.)

		<p>Tseng, Thomas, et al. 2006. Read pp. 1-6, 18-20, 21-32 in <b>Growing Urban Villages: Cultivating a New Paradigm for Growth and Development in California</b>. Malibu: Pepperdine University Davenport Institute.  <a href="https://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute/content/reports/urban-villages.pdf">https://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute/content/reports/urban-villages.pdf</a></p> <p>Check out latest version of Smart Code at <a href="http://www.smartcodecentral.org">www.smartcodecentral.org</a></p> <p><b>*Reading response for 3rd class discussion**</b></p>
9	10/18 In Person	<p><b>Designing for Local Character and Community Identity</b></p> <p>Reed, Christopher. 2003. "We're from Oz: Marking Ethnic and Sexual Identity in Chicago," <b>Environment and Planning D: Society and Space</b> 21(4): 525-40. (See Canvas Module.)</p> <p>City of Berkeley. 2002. Urban Design and Preservation Element of the General Plan.  <a href="https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_(new_site_map_walk-through)/Level_3_-_General/GPLiteUrban_Design_policies.pdf">https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Planning_(new_site_map_walk-through)/Level 3 - General/GPLiteUrban_Design_policies.pdf</a></p> <p>Rojas, James. 2010. "Latino Urbanism in Los Angeles" (pp. 36-45) in Jeffrey Hou's <b>Insurgent Public Space</b> available as an ebook via the library: <a href="https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/egdih2/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781136988028">https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/egdih2/TN_cdi_askewsholts_vlebooks_9781136988028</a></p> <p>Douglas, Gordon. 2010. "Rail Transit Identification and Neighborhood Identity: Exploring the Potential for 'Community-Supportive Transit,'" <b>Journal of Urban Design</b> 15(2): 175-93. <a href="https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/egdih2/TN_cdi_crossref_primary_10_1080_13574801003638020">https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/egdih2/TN_cdi_crossref_primary_10_1080_13574801003638020</a></p> <p>Easter, Makeda. 2019. "Destination Crenshaw art project aims to reclaim the neighborhood for black L.A." <b>Los Angeles Times</b> online, 30 Jan. <a href="https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-destination-crenshaw-20190130-story.html">https://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-destination-crenshaw-20190130-story.html</a></p>
10	10/28 In Person	<p><b>Adaptive ReUse and Retrofitting the Bay Area</b></p> <p>Dunham-Jones, Ellen &amp; June Williamson. 2011. "2011 Update" (pp. xiii-xxii) and "Ch. 4: Retrofitting Social Life Along Commercial Strips" (pp. 59-94) (please also take a look at the case study that follows it on pp. 95-107) and "Ch. 11: Suburban Office and Industrial Park Retrofits" (pp. 203-218), all in</p>



Noe, Rain. 2015. "The Original, Real

		<p><b>View in class</b> <b>Set the Normals: Adventures in Universal Design</b>  <a href="https://harford.libguides.com/accessibility/udl">https://harford.libguides.com/accessibility/udl</a></p>
14	11/22 On Zoom	<p><b>Urban Design and Crisis: Climate Change, Protest, Public Health</b></p> <p>Alex Bozikovic. 2017. "Urban Design in the Time of Climate Change: Making A Friend of Floods." <b>The Globe and Mail</b> online at <a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/home-and-garden/architecture/urban-design-in-the-time-of-climate-change-making-a-friend-offloods/article35601452/">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/home-and-garden/architecture/urban-design-in-the-time-of-climate-change-making-a-friend-offloods/article35601452/</a></p> <p>Winstead, Ed. 2017. "Climate Change as a Design Problem." <b>The New York Times</b> online <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/16/insider/climate-change-as-a-design-problem-architecture-rotterdam.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/16/insider/climate-change-as-a-design-problem-architecture-rotterdam.html</a></p> <p>Peter Schwartzstein. 2020. "Urban Design Can Make or Break Protests." <b>Smithsonian Magazine</b>.  <a href="https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/geography-protest-how-urban-design-can-make-or-break-people-power-180975189/">https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/geography-protest-how-urban-design-can-make-or-break-people-power-180975189/</a></p> <p>Alissa Walker. 2020. "Coronavirus is Not Fuel for Urbanist Fantasies." <b>Curbed</b> website. <a href="https://www.curbed.com/2020/5/20/21263319/coronavirus-future-city-urban-covid-19">https://www.curbed.com/2020/5/20/21263319/coronavirus-future-city-urban-covid-19</a></p>

