

Community Planning & Site Design

PLAN 31486 | Section 1 | Spring 2020
Tuesdays, 5:00-7:45pm | Robinson 311
Geography, Planning, and Sustainability
Rowan University

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Office: Robinson 315C

Office hours: T & Th 3:30-4:30 pm
& by appointment

Introduction

This course focuses on the design, arrangement, appearance, and functionality of building sites and neighborhoods, as well as the shaping and uses of safe public spaces. It introduces sustainable design principles, techniques, and practices related to urban design. It provides an overview of factors involved in community design process and the tools available to planners and urban designers to effectuate the implementation of community vision. Students examine the many elements that contribute to the aesthetic and human quality of urban communities by analyzing the nature of buildings, materials, public spaces, streetscapes, landscapes, foodscapes, water, time, light, scale, and other factors related to the urban environment. Students explore design elements at both the macro and micro scales that make up both the public and private realms of the built environments of sustainable communities and learn to express those elements in workable urban design plans and implementation tools such as Zoning and Form Based Codes. The course is both theoretical as well as applied providing experience in developing plans and designs in a studio setting.

Objectives

The primary course objectives are:

- To develop students' awareness of the importance of the many elements that make up the spatial and visual experiences of community life
- To sensitize students to the functional and aesthetic potential of sustainable built environment
- To strengthen students' understanding of sustainable/ecological design and its application to the urban environment at both the macro and micro scales
- To learn basic level digital and free-hand drawing techniques and participate in real-world physical/spatial planning and urban design projects, visual design analyses, and presentations
- To increase students' analytical, design, and visualization skills

Prerequisite: PLAN 31280 – Foundation of Community and Environmental Planning

Textbook and Other Resources

- There is no required text for this course. All required and recommended readings, tutorials, and references will be provided in digital format via Blackboard. These include book chapters and articles from academic journals, magazines, web sites, and blogs.
- SktechUp Make 2017 (free version) is installed on computers in our classroom—Robinson Hall 311.
- Students will complete an online course on SketchUp software using LinkedIn Learning (<https://irt.rowan.edu/services/training/linkedinlearning.html>). Detailed instructions will be provided in class.

Blackboard

Students are required to use Blackboard (<http://rowan.blackboard.com>) for submitting assignments and accessing resources and announcements, including possible syllabus or calendar changes.

Course Requirements

- Class participation: This course is being offered as a part-lecture, part-studio; it is therefore essential that everyone is fully invested in creating a meaningful and effective learning community. Class participation will be evaluated based on an individual's record of attendance, team playing, demonstrated knowledge of assigned readings through leading and participating in class discussions,

and meaningful participation in class activities—inside or outside of the classroom. Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded within the first five minutes of each session. Each week students will receive points for attendance and participation. If a student is disinterested, distracted, or disruptive, the lack of participation will result in a weekly grade reduction. Students must notify the instructor in advance if they will have to miss a class, appear late, or leave early due to any critical reasons. Two late attendances will count as one absence. Three absences will result in a "zero" grade in class participation. An absence will be excused if arrangements are made with the instructor in advance for University recognized reasons that are accompanied by documentation. University recognized reasons for excused absences include: Official university activities, documented illness, death of a family member or loved one, inclement weather, and religious observance.

- SketchUp lab and quizzes: Students will complete a self-paced tutorial on SketchUp and earn a certificate. In addition, they will take two quizzes based on pre-assigned readings. Details will be provided in class or on Blackboard.
- Reports: Students will write and submit four reports that will be directly connected to the project. Details will be provided in class or on Blackboard.
- Journal: Students will submit two journals based on their self reflection on the final project — one due at middle of the semester and the other toward the end. Details will be provided in class or on Blackboard.
- Project: Students—partially alone and partially in small groups—will work on a major Project throughout the semester. There may be submissions related to this project in each week. Detailed instructions will be provided in class or on Blackboard.
- Presentations: Students will do a graphical presentation before spring break and a group oral presentation on the last day of class. Detailed instructions will be provided in class or on Blackboard.

Evaluation

This final grade in this course will include a number of assignments, projects, and activities. I will provide specific details and grading policies related to each assignment/project through handouts, distributed via Blackboard. Your grades will be updated regularly on Blackboard. The class is scored out of 381 total points. Nothing will be weighted. You can keep track of your progress in the class using Blackboard.

Class participation (1 pt for full attendance [or 2.75 hrs] per class + 2 pts for participation)	36 pts
Sketch Up online certificate	20 pts
Quizzes (2 quizzes, 5 points each)	10 pts
Individual reports (4 reports, 20 points each)	80 pts
Journals (2 journals, 5 point each)	10 pts
Final project (based on activities throughout the semester + final report)	150 pts
Midterm graphical presentations (individual)	30 pts
Final presentation (group)	25 pts
Peer evaluation (group work performance)	20 pts
Total	381 pts

Expected Responsibilities and Attitude

- **Field observation**: Students will need to arrange time for field observations for a few assignments.
- **Group work**: Group work will be required for some assignments. Students need to make arrangements to work in groups outside of regular class hours.
- **Time allocation**: Students are expected to spend 4-7 hours (est.) per week for this course outside of regular class sessions.
- **Communication**: For course-related correspondences, you must use your Rowan email accounts. You are expected to check email every day and visit the Blackboard course page on a regular basis. In addition, Rowan emails will be used for conveying urgent or emergency notices (such as class cancellation due to inclement weather). In-person meeting requests with the instructor should be arranged via emails. Email is the preferred form of communication for any course or topic questions,

or any issues that arise during the semester. You may expect to receive a response within one business day (<24 hours during the work week, longer on the weekend or other announced period). To ensure clear and professional communication, please ensure your emails include the following four components:

- A greeting
- The course info in the title or text of the email (e.g. Env-Sust Planning);
- A detailed question; and
- Closing with your full name.

▪ ***Technology use:***

Cell phones, tablets, and other electronic devices should be off/silent, unused, and out of sight during class, unless otherwise specified. The use of such devices will negate credits for attendance and participation. Using computers or laptops to do homework for other courses or browse to non-course websites is not permitted. Students should not create an unnecessary distraction in class. Audio and video recording are not permitted without prior instructor permission.

▪ ***Submission and grading policies:***

All Blackboard submissions must include student name, date, and assignment name or number. Files must follow the following naming convention:

<StudentLastName>_<AssignmentNameNumber>_<MonthDateYear>. Example:

Meenar_ServiceProjectEssay_04232018. Not following this rule will result in a subtraction of 10% of the grade.

Unless otherwise noted, assignments must be uploaded in Blackboard before class starts (or printed and submitted in class, if instructed). The instructor will accept only one late submission (up to 1 week late). You will not earn credit for any subsequent late submissions, as the instructor will review them for feedback only.

▪ ***What to bring:***

- Students should bring reading or discussion materials, if instructed prior to class. Students may need to follow video tutorials in some sessions, so they should bring headphones.
- The instructor will provide drawing materials, tracing papers, and poster papers as needed in some sessions. Students need to buy drawing supplies and bring in class. Supplies may include (but not limited to) pencils, colored pencils, markers, erasers, sharpeners, play-dough, box-cutters, and tapes.

- ***Academic integrity:*** Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another individual's ideas, words, labor, or assistance. All coursework submitted by a student, including papers, examinations, laboratory reports, and oral presentations, is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. When it is not, that assistance must be reported to the faculty. If the work involves the consultation of other resources such as journals, books, or other media, those resources must be cited in the appropriate style. All other borrowed material, such as suggestions for organization, ideas, or actual language, must also be cited. Failure to cite any borrowed material, including information from the Internet, constitutes plagiarism. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated. According to Rowan University policy, students committing any act of academic dishonesty may fail the course, be suspended from the university, or both. You will find Rowan University's policy on academic integrity here:

<https://confluence.rowan.edu/display/POLICY/Academic+Integrity+Policy>

Never (1) turn in an assignment that you did not write yourself—fully or partially, (2) turn in an assignment for this class that you previously submitted in another class, (3) use others' ideas or work without citation, (4) cheat on an exam or quiz, or (5) sign someone else in on an attendance sheet.

Grading Distribution

Letter Grade	Score	Letter Grade	Score
A	95-100	C	73.3-76.5
A-	90-94.9	C-	70-73.2
B+	86.6-89.9	D+	66.6-69.9
B	83.3-86.5	D	63.3-66.5
B-	80-83.2	D-	60-63.2
C+	76.6-79.9	F	59.9 or lower

Tentative Schedule

Note: Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this schedule is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice. All readings—required or additional—will be posted on **Blackboard** one week prior to each class.

Week	Dates	Lecture/Discussions /Activities	Due
1	01/21	Course overview Participate in an intro survey (required) Aptitude test: site design impromptu exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey Site design impromptu exercise Mapping impromptu exercise
2	01/28	Drawing/design concepts Activity: Freehand drawing + SketchUp lab Project launch (informal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quiz 1 Freehand drawing (in class)
3	02/04	<i>No class meeting — individual work session</i> Online SketchUp tutorial + Document and data review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft questions for stakeholder interviews
4	02/11	Sustainable design & development principles Healthy food access literature Questions for interviews + list of people to be interviewed + strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SketchUp certificate + memo Quiz 2 Finalize interview questions (in class)
5	02/18	Existing condition analysis Strategy for collecting community input using web site and social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 1 (individual) — Literature review
6	02/25	Needs assessment + community input (web site/social media) + stakeholder interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 2 (individual) — Summary of existing studies OR GIS maps
7	03/03	Site analysis (virtual analysis using Google Earth/Map/Street View)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 3 (individual) — Analysis of interview transcript + community input
8	03/10	Individual presentations (graphical + verbal) Midterm course evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual poster — Existing condition analysis (graphical)
9	03/17	No class - Spring Break	
10	03/24	Site analysis (physical) — trip to Camden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journal (self reflection essay) 1
11	03/31	Group formation Design charrette or workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft site design (individual) Report 4 (individual) — Existing condition analysis
12	04/07	3D Model making workshop Project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final site design Final maps Methodology
13	04/14	Discussion with instructor 5:00 — 5:30 Group work session 5:30 — 7:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3D rendering Executive summary + introduction + implementation strategies + conclusion
14	04/21	Review + group work session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete draft reports
15	04/28	Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final project presentations Journal (self reflection essay) 2
Exam	05/05	Final project reports due	

Resources

Writing Center

The writing center, located in the Campbell Library, 1st floor, can assist you with your writing assignments for any class. The center tutors offer 30 to 60 minute sessions, including face-to-face appointments, online tutoring. It is a free resource for students, faculty, and staff. For appointments: 856-256-4367. To learn more visit: <http://www.rowanwritingcenter.com>.

Tutoring service

Tutoring Services offers academic support in a variety of subjects in order to improve educational achievement. Tutoring is available free of charge to all Rowan University undergraduate students. Small-group or drop-in tutoring is available in most subject areas. To learn more visit: <http://www.rowan.edu/home/advising/current-students/tutoring-services>.

Academic Coaching provides students in the EOF/MAP program with an academic coach for one-on-one weekly meetings to support students in the acquisition of academic skills such as note-taking, time management, organization, and studying and test-taking strategies. If interested, contact successcenter@rowan.edu.

Special needs and accommodations

Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4234. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations. Any student who has a need for accommodation due to documented disability should contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students seeking support around these issues can find more information and resources at <http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/asc/disabilityresources>.

Students who anticipate an absence due to a scheduled religious observance should contact the faculty personally to make arrangements.

If a major life event of any kind is impacting your schoolwork beyond 1 week in the form of absences, tardiness, difficulty focusing in-class or completing coursework please contact the Office of Student Life/Dean of Students. Their office is equipped to assist students undergoing difficult life events, including communicating with your professors if temporary accommodations are needed to help you through a difficult period. To request a meeting with the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, please e-mail Martha Aderinto at williamsm@rowan.edu or 856.256.4283.

Counseling and psychological services

The Wellness Center at Winans Hall provides physical and mental health services for students, such as time management, test anxiety, relationship issues, career assessment tools, and crisis situations. You can make an appointment during business hours at 856-256-4333. After hours call 856-256-4922 to speak with a counselor on call. If you are in crisis call 856-256-4911. <http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>.

Stress and anxiety student support

College, while fun and fulfilling, can be a very stressful time. Everyone can agree dealing with academics, work and relationships on a daily basis is a lot to handle. If you're looking for someone to talk to and a way to de-stress, check out Healthy Campus Initiatives Stress and Anxiety Student Support Group. This peer-led non-clinical is a great way for students to meet one another, learn about stress and how to cope with it. The group meets every Monday at 2:00 p.m. in the Wellness Center Training Room starting on September 10th. No appointment needed. Contact Allie Pearce (pearce@rowan.edu) for more information.

STARFISH

The Rowan Success Network powered by Starfish® is designed to make it easier for you to connect with the resources you need to be successful at Rowan. Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. Utilize the scheduling tools to make

appointments at your convenience (i.e. Tutoring, Advising, Financial Aid, etc.). Additional information about RSN may be found at www.rowan.edu/rsn.

Emergency information

During an emergency situation, please check the Rowan website for updates on campus closing. Also check your Temple emails around 5 pm for announcement specific to this class. If I cannot make it to campus due to inclement weather, other emergencies, or illness, I will send an email and post an announcement to Blackboard.

Rowan University's Statement on Diversity

Rowan University promotes a diverse community that begins with students, faculty, staff and administration who respect each other and value each other's dignity. By identifying and removing barriers and fostering individual potential, Rowan will cultivate a community where all members can learn and grow. The Rowan University community is committed to a safe environment that encourages intellectual, academic, and social interaction and engagement across multiple intersections of identities. At Rowan University, creating and maintaining a caring community that embraces diversity in its broadest sense is among the highest priorities.

Rowan University Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Reporting, and Title IX

Rowan University and its faculty and staff are committed to assuring a safe and productive educational environment for all students. Title IX makes it clear that sexual misconduct and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct or harassment, to the University's Title IX Coordinator so that the appropriate resources and support options are provided. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct and harassment that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct or harassment, Rowan encourages you to reach out to these resources:

Confidential Resources:

The Wellness Center, Winans Hall, 856-256-4333, www.rowan.edu/wellness

Non-Confidential Resources:

Office of Student Equity and Compliance (OSEC), Savitz Hall 203, 856-256-5830

Public Safety, Bole Annex, 856-256-4911

Other reporting information is available here: go.rowan.edu/titleix

Conflicts in examination periods during finals week

<http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/documents/ConflictsinExaminationPeriodsDuringFinalsWeek.pdf>



Class activities from 2019