

Queen's University at Kingston
Department of Geography and Planning
School of Urban and Regional Planning
Fall 2021

SURP 848: Community Design

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COURSE LOCATION: Mac Corry Hall, Room E230
COURSE TIME Wednesdays 2:30-5:20

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Community (urban) design is not just big architecture: it is the physical manifestation of the planning policies you prepare. If you are to be effective planners, you need to understand what your policies will look like when translated into three-dimensional form, and when developed in real places, with real people using them. In other words, urban design is the way you test your plans.

You are being trained as planners: most urban design professionals are trained either as landscape architects or architects. That means that none of you, most likely, will become urban designers unless you acquire further design training. This course, therefore, can only scratch the surface of what an urban design professional does. However, it is nonetheless a vital part of your training because it is both an introduction to urban design as a field of practice and a chance to learn the basic tools for designing urban spaces. You will be a more intelligent and effective planner if you know something about urban design.

What will you need to succeed in this course? A curiosity about what makes great places is a pre-requisite. You will need a willingness to analyze places in terms of their physical form and the ways in which those forms function. You need to get out and experience places with all your senses, to understand how different people use places, and why. Finally, you will need to learn and apply basic skills in historical research, site analysis, socio-economic research, sketching, photography, and reporting, to the creation of viable designs for urban revitalization of an actual part of Kingston.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Show the relevance of urban design to planning
- Understand the scope of urban design issues within planning in Canada, with a focus on Ontario
- Demonstrate different approaches and techniques of urban design
- Develop a basic understanding of the concepts and tools available to translate planning objectives into good designs
- Demonstrate and test these concepts and tools using case studies within an existing part of downtown Kingston
- Become future planning professionals who are versed in urban design and able to be effective policy makers and project managers

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

The course meets once per week. Class meetings involve a combination of formal weekly lectures and in-class activities. Classes will be held in Mac Corry Hall, Room E230. Since many urban design concepts are best discussed using real examples, however, there will be many walking tours of parts of Kingston near the campus. All class sessions will follow the University's COVID protocols.

The course will have two key elements: research using a review of City of Kingston studies, augmented by the required course texts, and a design project using a local case study. Much of the course will involve working on the project in class, assisted by the course instructor. While we will monitor the COVID situation, we hope that the course will not have to move to remote learning. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to draw and be given drawing lessons, so bring a sketch notebook to class.

There will be minimal use of PowerPoint presentations so students will be expected to take notes during class and participate in class discussions. Course materials include two mandatory course texts as well as a notebook and sketchbook. Students will be expected to undertake in-class walking tours (wear comfortable footwear to each class) as well as field work outside of class time. Individual and group work will be required to cover deliverables for the assignments, details of which are found in Appendix A. Standard university regulations for academic study are found in Appendix B.

The course textbooks are "The Urban Design Reader" (Larice and Macdonald eds; 2013, second edition) and "Dynamic Urban Design (von Hausen, 2013). Both are required texts. Don't be put off by their publication date: their contents are still valid and underlie current best practices. They are available in paperback editions at the Campus Bookstore or via online book sellers. Each week I will lead an in-class discussion of the readings.

The coursework involves case studies in downtown Kingston that are part of an exciting project that is currently underway and projected to re-start next year. The North King's Town Secondary Plan is being prepared by a consulting team retained by the City (full disclosure: I am a member of that team). Documents relating to the North Kings Town Secondary Plan project area will be important for your work and include:

- [Reports on the City of Kingston North King's Town Secondary Plan website](https://www.cityofkingston.ca/NorthKingsTown)
<https://www.cityofkingston.ca/NorthKingsTown>
- <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/12431730/NKT+Comm.+Inv.+%26+Background+Report+%28FINAL+with+maps+and+appendices%29.pdf/4435709c-1b7c-4618-abfc-ece0502eac69>

The design guideline work within the course will be an opportunity to augment the material in the course texts by using the City of Kingston's urban design guidelines:

- <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/4360790/Design+Guidelines+-+Communities.pdf/0cbeef6f-5919-451a-9012-d5111a4449f4>
- <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/4360790/Design+Guidelines+-+Residential+Lots/f9bb2404-5262-4378-9974-d390e3b3faae>

COURSE EVALUATION

Details regarding specific assignments are attached as Appendix A.

Assignment	Due	Value
Assignment #1 – Favourite Street	Due September 22, 2021 In Class	10%
(Reading Week)	October 12-15 (no class)	
Assignment #2: Secondary Plan Studies Assessment	Due October 20, 2021 In Class	20%
Assignment #3: Sub-Area Design Guidelines and Design	November 3-November 24, 2021	55% (total)
<i>In class presentation</i>	<i>December 1, 2021</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Final report</i>	<i>By December 17, 2021</i>	<i>25%</i>
Participation	Ongoing	15%
TOTAL		100%

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Week	Week Begins	Topic (s)	Deliverable
1	September 8, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Introduction and overview • What are community design and urban design? • Why the course texts are useful • Understanding the context for practice • Introduction to site analysis • <i>Walking tour of Macdonald Park</i> 	Assignment 1 (<i>Your Favourite Street</i>) Due in Week 3 class (10%)
Readings for Week 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapters 5 and 6 • Moudon "A Catholic Approach to Organizing What Urban Designers Should Know" (pp. 235-257) • Oldenburg "The Problem of Place in America" (pp. 285-295) 			
2	September 15, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories of place • First principles of urban design • Introduction to the case study area (North King's Town) • Review of North King's Town Secondary Plan Background studies • Assignment of working groups • Introduction to Assignment 2 • <i>Walking tour of a New Urbanist Neighbourhood</i> 	Assignment #2: Secondary Plan Studies Assessment (due in Week 6 class: 20%)
Readings for Week 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 4 and Appendix A (sections 1-3) • J. Jacobs "Author's Introduction" and "The Use of Sidewalks" (pp. 139-151) • A. Jacobs and Appleyard "Toward an Urban Design Manifesto" (pp. 218-228) 			
3	September 22, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual tour of Secondary Plan sub-areas • Introduction to urban design methods • Sustainable urban design • <i>Walking tour of North King's Town</i> 	DUE: Assignment # 1 in class
Readings for Week 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 7 • Berman "The Family of Eyes" and "The Mire of the Macadam" (pp. 25-34) • Ellin "Themes of Postmodern Urbanism" (pp. 332-343) • Bentley "Profit and Place" (pp. 459-474) 			

4	September 29, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of North King's Town draft Secondary Plan • Discussion of urban design principles • Choice of case studies • <i>Walking tour of downtown Kingston</i> 	
Readings for Week 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapters 8 and 17 • Lynch "The Image of the Environment" and "The City Image and Its Elements" (pp. 125-138) • Cullen "Introduction to the Concise Townscape" (pp. 118-124) 			
5	October 6, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streets and blocks: pattern and grain • Opportunities and constraints in current street and block pattern • <i>Walking tour of Old Sydenham Heritage Conservation District</i> 	
Readings for Week 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 11 • Congress for the New Urbanism "Charter of the New Urbanism" (pp. 328-331) • Sorkin "The End(s) of Urban Design" (pp. 618-634) • Greenberg "A Third Way for Urban Design" (pp. 635-639) <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">October 13, 2021: Fall term break: do readings and work on Assignment #2</p>			
6	October 20, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streets and blocks: land use and density • Development criteria in draft Secondary Plan • Development criteria in readings • Application to Secondary Plan sub-areas • <i>Walking tour of early suburbs</i> 	Due: Assignment #2 in class
Readings for Week 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 13 • Kelbaugh "Critical Regionalism: An Architecture of Place" (pp. 183-193) 			

Second half of term

7	October 27, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built form: massing and design • Local precedents and local architectural vernacular • User requirements and design criteria • <i>Walking tour of Williamsville</i> 	
Readings for Week 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 10 • Jacobs "Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning" (pp. 214-217) 			

8	November 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public realm: streetscapes • Design criteria for great streets • Components of streetscapes • <i>In class work on Assignment #3</i> 	
Readings for Week 9:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 14 • Crawford "Introduction" "Preface: The Current State of Everyday Urbanism" and "Blurring the Boundaries: Public Space and Private Life" (pp. 344-357) 			
9	November 10, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public realm: parks, squares and urban farms • Design criteria • Components • <i>In class work on Assignment #3</i> 	
Readings for Week 10:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Chapter 16 • Punter "Design Guidelines in American Cities: Conclusions" (pp. 601-617) 			
10	November 17, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting it all together: urban design brief • Describing what you want • Components of an urban design plan • <i>In class work on Assignment #3</i> 	
Readings for Week 11:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Von Hausen: Appendix B • Beatley "Planning for Sustainability in European Cities: A Review of Practice in Leading Cities" (pp. 558-568) 			
11	November 24, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting it all together: feasibility testing • Implementing plans and designs • Development feasibility analysis • <i>In class review of urban design plans for the two sub-areas</i> • <i>Workshop planning for week 12</i> 	
No readings for Week 12			
12	December 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRESENTATION OF SUB-AREA URBAN DESIGN PLANS (workshop with invited critics from SURP, City staff, local residents and developers: in class, if feasible, otherwise, to be presented virtually) • Discussion led by each case study group of urban design plan • Summary discussion of development/design opportunities and constraints for each sub-area and the Secondary Plan Study area 	DUE: Assignment #3: In class presentation /final report due by December 17 (date to be confirmed)

APPENDIX 1

SURP 848: COMMUNITY DESIGN – Winter 2018

Assignment Descriptions and Requirements

As this is a graduate level course, it is expected that all students are performing at a first-class level. It is also expected that students will have completed any assigned readings and will be engaged in the in-class discussions. Students must demonstrate in both their writings and oral presentations their skills of academic research and critical thinking.

You will have a total of three assignments to submit for SURP 848. One will be an individual assignment and two will be group assignments. You also have a participation mark that reflects contributions in class. When combined with the various in-class activities, these assignments have been designed to help you develop a critical understanding of community design practice and theory. Remember: quality is more important than quantity within your assignments – a well written and argued short paper is better than a rushed long paper!

ASSIGNMENT #1

Individual (10%)

A Great Street

In a short essay (approx. 750 words), describe your favorite street. Explain why it is so successful functionally and aesthetically, what you like about it, and describe the specific elements of the place that make it your favorite. You can include photos and/or drawings of your street in your essay. Feel free to be creative in your description and to draw on both historical and contemporary references to your place (if available).

Late Penalty: 10% per day (weekend counts as 2 days)

ASSIGNMENT #2

Group (20%)

Secondary Plan Studies Assessment

In groups of 5 (ideally half first year, half second year), use Appendix B in the course text (Dynamic Urban Design) to help you prepare urban design guidelines for a sub-area within the character areas shown in the draft Secondary Plan (note: this will be the same sub-area for which you will prepare design guidelines and an urban design plan in Assignment #3). Choose smaller parts of areas with the most development potential (i.e. areas 2, 3, 4 and 5). The Background Report (see the link in the About section of the City's project website) provides information that underlies the draft Secondary Plan. For details of that Plan, and to find the map of the Character Areas, use the October 3, 2018 workshop presentation (see the link in the Public Engagement section of the City's project website), and review the proposed carbon footprint/access network, land uses, materials/waste/energy, water/food/natural habitat, and well-being/equity/culture, against the sustainability scorecard in Appendix B of your course text (Dynamic Urban Design).

Students will choose one category each and write a critical academic paper on it, preparing a SWOC analysis summarizing the key components that could implement, or restrict, the objectives in the checklist. There will be five students per group so split Category 1 in the scorecard into transport and land use, as shown above. Check with your classmates to ensure that there is no duplication.

Graphics and illustrations should be included where appropriate. The paper should be approximately 2000 words in length.

Late Penalty: 10% per day (weekend counts as 2 days)

ASSIGNMENT #3
Group (55%)
Sub-area Design Guidelines and Design

The focus here is on preparing a sustainable urban design plan for your chosen sub-area. The presentation and report will include an overall design brief summarizing planning and design principles, followed by an urban design plan. Use the information and evaluation scorecard you prepared in Assignment #2 to establish your design principles.

There are three expected products for this assignment.

- 1) ***In class work:*** As a group, for the majority of the term, within your group you will discuss each of the topic areas and explore design options using sketches in plan, elevation, and perspective.
- 2) ***In-class presentation:*** Each group will present their urban design plan for their sub-area in a 20-minute presentation based on their research and analysis. The other groups and the invited audience will have the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the presentation. It is strongly recommended that the groups have, at a minimum, a draft of their final report completed in time for this presentation. The presentation will be worth 30% of the 55% for the project; and,
- 3) ***Final report:*** Each group will prepare a finalized urban design plan for their sub-area, summarizing the in-class work and your presentation, and focusing specifically on the following aspects:
 - Context (historical, environmental, social, economic)
 - Natural environment
 - Public realm
 - Streets and block pattern
 - Land uses
 - Built form design principles (by land use type)
 - Site design and building orientation
 - Height and massing
 - Building features and detailing

The report, worth 25%, must include plans, illustrations of the proposed plan as well as mapping and photographs of the sub-area.

Late Penalty: 10% per day (weekend counts as 2 days)

In Class Participation (15%)
Throughout Term

Class participation is an important component of a graduate course. The assessment of a student's participation will be based not only on attendance, but also the quality of the contribution.

APPENDIX 2

SURP 848: COMMUNITY DESIGN – Fall 2021 Standard University Requirements for Academic Study

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see www.academicintegrity.org). These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University (see the Senate Report on Principles and Priorities <http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/senateandtrustees/principlespriorities.html>).

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1 <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academics/undergraduate/academic-integrity>), and from the instructor of this course. Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

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Students may not create audio recordings of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to beginning to record lectures. Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Wellness Services (SWS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the Student Wellness website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/>

Queen's is committed to an inclusive campus community with accessible goods, services, and facilities that respect the dignity and independence of persons with disabilities. The course outline is available in an accessible format or with appropriate communication supports upon request.

- In this course, some components will be graded using numerical percentage marks. Other components will receive letter grades, which for purposes of calculating your course average will be translated into numerical equivalents using the Faculty of Arts and Science approved scale:

- ***Arts & Science Letter Grade Input Scheme***

Assignment mark	Numerical value for calculation of final mark
A+	93
A	87
A-	82
B+	78
B	75
B-	72
C+	68
C	65
C-	62
D+	58
D	55
D-	52
F48 (F+)	48
F24 (F)	24
F0 (0)	0

- Your course average will then be converted to a final letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

- Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale**

Grade	Numerical Course Average (Range)
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

LATE POLICY

If you anticipate having difficulty completing your assignments, you must talk to your instructor as soon as possible. Extensions are not given without good reason. All requests for extensions must be made in person.

ACCOMMODATION: ACCESS + DISABILITY

Students requiring disability accommodation must notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are requested to provide the course instructor with official documentation from the Health, Counselling and Disability Services at Queen's ideally at the start of the semester so that accommodation arrangements can be made in an effective, sensitive, and timely manner. For more information on roles and responsibilities regarding accommodation please refer to: <http://www.queensu.ca/hc/ds/students/index.html>

Should you acquire a temporary disability due to injury or other circumstances, please approach the instructor and provide the documentation from Health Counselling and Disability Services at Queen's required for the provision of accommodation. However, if you cannot obtain documentation, with good reason, and have associated concerns please do not hesitate to contact the instructor. We are here to facilitate your learning. The instructor appreciates receiving as much advance notice as possible regarding the accommodation you require so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

LECTURE NOTES AND TUTORIAL MATERIALS ON onQ

Any Power Point slides will be made available to the students through onQ. It should be noted that the content of the slides will only provide basic information; class attendance is required to gain the full content of each lecture.
