CP 700 - Urban Design and Land Use Planning Studio  
Spring 2012  
SYLLABUS

Professor  Hector A. Reyes, AIA  
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Office Hours  Tuesdays 2:00 to 4:00 (or by appointment)

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the theories, processes, analyses and criteria followed in the preparation of physical plans, at various scales, from both technical and political points-of-view.

The class will follow two parallel tracks.

The first track (Practice) will be dedicated to skill development and application and it will move from learning basis tools such as scales and reading slope maps to an overlay analysis of environmental constraints; Identification of different building typologies and their design standards, recognition of community character and its contextual influences; Development of 3D modeling computer skills as design tools for urban mass, context and building articulation.

The second track will consider the theories and culture of Smart Growth and New Urbanism within the disciplines of regional planning, urban design and site planning. Students will research and present on techniques such as traffic calming or theories such as the transect to enrich both tracks.

Learning in both areas - or from both tracks - will then be applied a studio project that, from the preparation of an existing conditions analysis will then lead to the synthesis phase, the preparation of a land use plan and a site/urban design plan.

This process will be divided, roughly, into phases (see attached flow-chart and course schedule). Learning in a studio class is primarily based on the interaction amongst the students, and between the teacher and the students. Class time will be divided accordingly, with the first part dedicated to the discussion of the readings and class presentations and the second to studio activities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

1. Discussion of readings. It is extremely important that you come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. You should prepare notes of the most important points of the readings assigned for that class. Contributions to class discussion based on other sources would be greatly appreciated. A good source of information about current planning/ smart-growth issues is Planetizen (planetizen.com/forms/enewsletter.php).

Reading the San Diego Union-Tribune for current local planning/governance related issues is also strongly recommended. I may call on students not participating in class discussion with questions relating to the readings. If you are not prepared for discussion, you should let me know before class. Class participation includes also contribution to the activities of your group, help in other class related activities and completion of class exercises. Participation in class discussion will be monitored and graded. On two occasions I will let you know how you are doing. If you have serious problems participating come and see me (25%).

2. Slope map analysis (5%)

3. Student class presentations (10%)
4. Existing conditions presentation and Report - due April (15%)

5. Presentation of Draft Plan (10%)

6. Jury presentation and Report (35%)

THE STUDIO PROJECT

The sites for the studio projects will be taken from the potential smart growth locations identified by planning professionals from all jurisdictions in the county as part of SANDAG’s regional planning process. Students will prepare a Master Plan for the site and then a detailed site plan for a portion of the site designated for housing/mixed use. With this class, then, we will move from the regional to site specific design on the basis of smart growth and new urbanism approaches. The concept of TRANSECT will also be utilized.

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Students are required to research a particular topic (see attached list) and present the subject material in class on a specific date.

CLASS POLICIES

It is extremely important that all projects be turned in on the day indicated on the syllabus. Two points will be taken off your grade for each day your assignment is overdue.

FIELD TRIPS

This course requires students to participate in field trips, research or studies that include course work that will be performed off-campus. Participation in such activities may result in accidents or personal injury. Students participating in the class are aware of these risks, and agree to hold harmless San Diego State University, against all claims, demands, suits, judgments, expenses and costs of any kind on account of their participation in the activities. Students using their own vehicles to transport other students to such activities should have current automobile insurance. There will be two-four field trips on two-four separate weekends with dates to be decided with the class.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- SANDAG (2009), *Designing for Smart Growth: Creating Great Places in the San Diego Region*.

PUBLICATION:

It is the intent of this class to publish at the end of the semester a thesis book with your studio projects as the focus point. It is strongly advised that all of your material be documented and scanned in order to facilitate the publication. This is about your project a great opportunity to showcase a project in a portfolio format for your future endeavors. This is about your discovery and design process the journey; the project research; its presentation format which can tell the story and prove the vision. Review Monograms for Architects (OMA), designers (PRADA), see how books are presented for various topics which may pertain to your idea (i.e. environmental LEED project = landscape and nature publications).
RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

- Emily Talen (2009), *Urban Design Reclaimed*, Planners Press
- Daniel Tal (2009), *SketchUp for Site Design*; Wiley Press
- Cooper Marcus, Claire & Wendy Sarkissian (1986), *Housing As If People Mattered*, UC Press
- A collection of readings is available for purchase at cost, from Cal Copy (5131 College Avenue). Additional readings will be provided in class.