

PREMISE

Economics, social forces, attitudes about density, ideas about sustainability, and incentives to encourage good design are all forces that affect contemporary urban form. A city's plans illustrate a response to these forces and together, can define a vision for its future. To bracket the study of these ideas, the class primarily focuses on the urban design of Charlotte.



https://catalystcharlotte.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/catalystcharlotte_walking-in-uptown-charlotte.gif

CONTENT

This is a class about how cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas change. It is an introductory course for advanced undergraduates and graduates that examines both the evolving structure of the American metropolis and the way that it can be designed and developed. We will survey the ideas of a wide range of people who have addressed urban problems and acted to alter cities, suburbs, and regions through modern city design and planning. We will analyze the values implicit in each of their proposals, stressing the connections between ideas and design. We will focus on sustainable practices and principles in the design of cities. Attempts to control growth and suburban sprawl will also be covered. Topics will include urban infrastructure especially as it relates to patterns of growth, gentrification, open space, social capital, healthy communities, urban vitality and urban ecology. There will also be a special focus on bike infrastructure and its equitable access in Charlotte.

METHOD

Students will become familiar with urban form through films, readings, class discussions, case studies, local field trips, and research project. **The ability to ride a bike or scotter is a plus** as we will use them to get around uptown Charlotte for local field trips. To allow for in situ learning, there will be a handful of extended class days per the class calendar.

EVALUATION & GRADING

Evaluation will be based on the following:

Quizzes	30%
Case Study Research & Distribution	20%
Case Study Presentation	10%
Bike Design	40%

Students should be active, self-directed, involved and questioning. They should be responsible for their own learning through reading, writing, listening, thinking, discussion, introspection and analysis. Consequently, the class participation grade is not based on attentive attendance but rather vocal participation.

Grades will conform to the university grading scale for graduate and undergraduate students and will be based on the analysis of content; development of ideas; and, presentation and craft. The following grading scales will apply:

Undergraduate/ 5th Year Grading Scale and Values

A Outstanding—exceeds stated requirements of the course; exhibits significant improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the course of the term; exhibits research efforts from which both the instructor and students may learn; all work turned in on time and presented in a professional manner.

B Good—meets the stated requirements of the course; exhibits good improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the course of the term; exhibits a good measure for student emulation; and all work is turned in on time and well presented.

C Average—meets most requirements of the course; exhibits limited improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the course of the term and all work is turned in on time and neatly presented.

D Marginal—fails to meet requirements of the course (the work is incomplete to a significant degree) ; exhibits little or no improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the course of the term.

F Failing—fails to meet the requirements of the course (the work is incomplete or of a caliber unacceptable at the university level)

Graduate Grading Scale & Values

These grades are determined according to the following criteria:

A Excellent / Commendable: Meets or exceeds stated requirements of the course; exhibits significant improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the course of the term; exhibits research efforts from which both the instructor and students may learn; all work turned in on time and presented in a professional manner.

B Good / Satisfactory: Meets the stated requirements of the course; exhibits good improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the semester; provides a measure for student emulation; and all work is turned in on time and well presented.

C Marginal: Fails to meet most requirements of the course (the work is incomplete to a significant degree); exhibits little or no improvement, development, and/or intellectual growth over the semester; and/or work is of a caliber only marginally acceptable at the graduate level.

U Unsatisfactory: Fails to meet the requirements of the course; and/or the work is incomplete or of a caliber unacceptable at the graduate level. A grade of U will affect eligibility for continued enrollment and will not apply towards degree requirements.

Attendance in class is required. **More than two unexcused absences may result in failure of the course. Extended class days cannot be missed as they will not be repeated.** In order not to receive a "0" for missed class material resulting from an absence, students must turn in a reading, film and class note summary by the following in-class meeting. Unless the absence is excused (per University policy), this and all other late work will be lowered one full letter grade for each week it is late.

The College of Arts and Architecture fully supports the UNC Charlotte's Code of Academic Integrity. All examinations, tests, projects, presentations, homework, and other academic tasks are considered to be each student's individual work unless otherwise specified. It is expected that each student will be aware of the UNC Charlotte Code of Integrity and will comply with both the intent and specifics of that Code. Violation of the code in any manner will result in failure of the course.

CLASS RULES

- You must check your UNCC email every 24 hours and respond to any correspondence from classmates, your instructor or the class's teaching assistant within that same time period.
- You must arrive to class on time. Every 15 minutes of tardiness equals a quarter of an unexcused absence. **PLAN AHEAD FOR TRAFFIC CONGESTION.** You are welcome to bring food and drink.
- You must submit all assignments via the class Moodle site before 11:00am on the day they are due. Assignments that are turned in after the start of class, even if on the due date, will be considered late.

CLASS TEXT

- There is no textbook for the course. Links to films and readings are all on the Moodle site. Please let me know if a link is broken as soon as you discover it.

CLASS CULTURE:

Presence: Students are expected to be fully present intellectually and emotionally for the duration of class time, and are urged to make the most of this time each session. Pro-active participation: All students should be actively involved in all discussions as well as meet deadlines, schedules and targeted project completion. *You need to take risks and be responsible for your project. The work is yours.* Visible progress is expected of students between each class session, and forms the basis for availability of individual critique. No work = no feedback.

Respectful Interaction: All perspectives and opinions are welcomed in class, as long as they are presented in manner that is respectful. Students should be mindful of their conduct when engaged in discourses of their experiences, especially with those who differ in appearance, race, ethnicity, beliefs, gender, sexuality, style, politics or intellectual position. If students feel personally uncomfortable or alienated, or that diversity is in any way stifled in class, please let the instructor know so that the situation can be remedied.

Students are required to abide by the spirit and the specifics of the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy, which can be found online at: [http:// www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-61.html](http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-61.html).

Electronics & Equipment: During class time, cell phones should be switched off and computer usage should be limited to class work. All students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte policy on Responsible Use of University Computing and Electronic Communication Resources, which can be found online at: <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-66.html>. Remember that harassment, as defined in the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy, is prohibited, even when carried out through computers or other electronic communications systems, including course-based chat rooms or message boards.

Contact: Outside of class time, faculty maintain a myriad of other commitments, so the best means for facilitating contact with the instructor outside of class is via e-mail, whether it is a question, an announcement, or a request for a meeting. Instructors will endeavor to respond to students' emails as quickly as possible.

Similarly, whenever it is necessary for the instructor to communicate with students outside of class-time, whether collectively or individually, it will be via UNCC email. These notices might be regarding schedule changes, additional readings, information pertinent to student assignments, etc. As per University policy, the instructor will only use the students' UNCC email addresses, and all mail should be acknowledged within 24 hours of it being sent.

Occupying the Center City Building (CCB) : The MUD program and the 5th Year Architecture Studios share a presence on the 10th floor, and it is the students' responsibility to maintain the common areas to a high professional standard. The hallway and lobby will be personalized with artwork and projects from both programs, so that visitors will sense they are entering a highly creative environment the moment they step off the elevator. There are frequent visitors to the studios so all spaces should maintain the ambiance of a creative design "office."

The CCB sits in an evolving urban environment. While uptown Charlotte is statistically safer than the university area, care should always be taken when leaving the building after dark. There is one security guard on duty at all times, with a second security person from 2pm till 10pm. In addition, a CMPD officer will be stationed in his/her car in the parking lot each evening from 6pm till 10pm ready to escort students to their own vehicles if needed. If students are leaving the building after this time, please do so in the company of a classmate. The MUD program faculty do not recommend that sole individuals remain in the building in the late evening / early morning hours.

COURSE CALENDAR

The evolving course calendar will be kept on the class Canvas site. But initially, students should plan on the following dates for extended classes:

No class: August 31, September 3, October 5 - 12

Extended Class from 11:00am - 1:00pm: September 28, October 1

Extended Class from 11:00am - 2:00pm: September 21, October 22

Extended class from 11:00am - 5:00pm: September 14, November 19 (tentative rain date)

