UNSW SYDNEY | Australia's Global University

Built Environment

PLAN7143
Urban Design

Gethin Davison

3+ Abbreviated Course Outline – T3

Disclaimer
This abbreviated course outline is indicative of the outcomes, delivery and assessment. While Course Learning Outcomes will remain constant, other details may be subject to change. The full and most accurate course outline will be available in Moodle.

1. COURSE STAFF

Course Convenor	Gethin Davison
Email	g.davison@unsw.edu.au

2. COURSE DETAILS

Credit Points: 6 UoC

Learning Activity	Hours per week
Lecture	2
Tutorial	0
Studio	4
Computer Lab	2
Online learning activity	0

Description
Urban design as a field of activity is concerned with the four-dimensional form and functioning of the public realm. It is both a process and a product and is often regarded as the integrative force that straddles and connects the more traditional built environment disciplines: urban design aims to reunite the partnership between planning and design to help improve the quality and sustainability of the built environment. This course provides an introduction to urban design concepts and methodologies in relation to current planning practice. Starting from an appreciation of the fundamentals of design, topics include site investigations, defining urban structure, enhancing the public realm, understanding building typologies, and controlling built form. Specific aims of the course include developing an awareness of the scope of urban design projects, an appreciation of the physical structure of places, an understanding of shaping built form, a familiarity with a range of building typologies, and an appreciation of current urban design issues and debates. Particular skills to be reviewed include site analysis methodology, establishing robust planning and design principles, mapping and spatial understanding, design review criteria and mechanisms of development control.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)
1. Apply critical thinking skills and synthesise complex information in order to address multi-scalar challenges and perspectives shaping space and place
2. Demonstrate application of systematic and specialised knowledge and analytical skills to reach appropriate evidence-based decisions to inform planning issues and actions
3. Develop innovative, multidisciplinary and integrative plans to facilitate and influence appropriate social, economic and environmental outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) with Alignment to PLOs and Assessment

CLO #	CLO Statement	PLO #	Related Assessment
CLO 1	Create diagrams that clearly and accurately convey urban design information	2,3	Assessment Tasks 1 & 2
CLO 2	Think critically about the urban design of our cities and appreciate the ways in which the urban design of a place can influence our experiences and perceptions of it	1	Assessment Tasks 1 & 2
CLO 3	Understand the importance of facilitating good urban design outcomes in planning activity	1	Assessment Tasks 1 & 2
CLO 4	Prepare and propose justifiable urban design visions	3	Assessment Task 2
CLO 5	Develop applied skills in the use of computer-based urban design packages	1,2,3	Assessment Tasks 1 & 2
CLO 6	Work collaboratively in addressing real-world planning / urban design problems	1,2,3	Assessment Task 2

3. ASSESSMENT

Assessment Task	Weight	Course Learning Outcomes assessed	Due Date
2. Urban Design Portfolio	55%	1,2,3,5	Weeks 1-6
3. Urban Design Studio	45%	1,2,3,4,6	Week 10

4. WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Activity	Related CLO
Week 1	Introduction to Urban Design; Urban Morphology	Lecture & critical reflection Computer labs exercises – Adobe Illustrator	1,2,3,5
Week 2	Urban Design for Protection	Lecture & critical reflection Computer labs exercises – SketchUp	1,2,3,5
Week 3	Urban Design for Comfort	Lecture + critical reflection Computer labs exercises – AutoCAD	1,2,3,5
Week 4	Urban Design for Enjoyment	Lecture Computer labs exercises – catch up	2,3
Week 5	Contexts for Urban Design	Lecture Computer labs exercises – Adobe InDesign	1,2,3,4

Week 6	Site visit	Site visit & context analysis	1,2,4,6
Week 7	Urban Design Studio	Desk crits	1,2,4,6
Week 8	Urban Design Studio	Preliminary presentations	1,2,4,6
Week 9	Urban Design Studio	Desk crits	1,2,4,6
Week 10	Urban Design Studio	Panel presentations	4,6