

Form and Formation of Cities – Spring 2021

Tuesdays, 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM – Remote via Zoom



College of Architecture and Planning
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

Instructor: Ken Schroepfel, AICP; Assistant Professor CTT – Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Office Hours: By appointment

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COURSE TOPICS:

This course investigates the origins and types of human settlements, the history of urbanization, urban form components and spatial attributes, the evolution of urban form, urban design principles, and the history of Denver's built environment.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The curriculum for this course has the following learning outcomes:

- Understand the types of human settlements and their initial purpose and formation
- Understand the different components of the urban fabric and how and why they came to be
- Understand the spatial patterns and dimensions of the urban fabric and how we measure and analyze them
- Understand the economic, cultural, and environmental forces that cause the urban fabric to change over time
- Understand the definition of urban design as the nexus of architecture, urban planning, and landscape architecture
- Understand the historical growth and development of Denver through urban morphological research

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

The books below will be used as resources for class lectures, and students will receive PDF copies of selected pages from these books as reading assignments. These texts provide excellent coverage of the topics we focus on in this course. Students may wish to obtain these books from the Auraria Library or purchase a few for their personal collection.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Changing Lanes</i> by Joseph DiMento and Cliff Ellis ▪ <i>The City Assembled</i> by Spiro Kostof ▪ <i>City</i> by William Whyte ▪ <i>City Rules</i> by Emily Talen ▪ <i>The City Shaped</i> by Spiro Kostof ▪ <i>The Code of the City</i> by Eran Ben-Joseph ▪ <i>The Continuing City</i> by James E. Vance, Jr. ▪ <i>Dead End: Suburban Sprawl and the Rebirth of American Urbanism</i> by Benjamin Ross ▪ <i>The Evolution of Urban Form</i> by Brenda Scheer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Good City Form</i> by Kevin Lynch ▪ <i>The Metropolitan Revolution</i> by Bruce Katz and Jennifer Bradley ▪ <i>A Pattern Language</i> by Christopher Alexander ▪ <i>Public Spaces Urban Places</i> by Matthew Carmona, et. al. ▪ <i>Regulating Place</i> by Eran Ben-Joseph and Terry Szold ▪ <i>Streets & Patterns</i> by Stephen Marshall ▪ <i>Streets and the Shaping of Towns and Cities</i> by Michael Southworth and Eran Ben-Joseph ▪ <i>Suburban Nation</i> by Andres Duany, et. al. ▪ <i>Urban Transformation</i> by Peter Bosselman |
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SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:

Class assignments may involve the use of any of the following software applications: Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, and PowerPoint); Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign); Esri ArcGIS; and Trimble SketchUp. Students are not expected to be experts in the use of these applications but having working knowledge of some of these applications will be helpful to fulfill the requirements of this course.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Class will be conducted via Zoom with links to the weekly Zoom meeting available through Canvas. You should use the desktop version of Zoom and log in with your university credentials. You will also want to take notes during class so having a second monitor would be a handy set-up if possible.

ATTENDANCE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION:

Attendance and active participation in class is a vital part of this course. If you are not present for class each week, you cannot actively engage in class discussions. Even though this class will be conducted using Zoom, it will emulate an in-person class as closely as possible. Therefore, attendance each week is expected. However, if you need to miss class for a personal emergency, religious holiday, or some other situation, please let Ken know in advance. Active participation in class means:

- Responding to questions and requests for comments in a manner that demonstrates you were prepared for class
- Voluntarily asking questions and offering your observations about the topics being discussed
- Cooperatively engaging with other students in group exercises, team assignments, and other class activities

All students are expected to adhere to the university's [Student Code of Conduct](#) and to present themselves in class in a professional manner. Out of the 1,000 possible points for the class, 100 points are reserved for Professional Conduct. Every student will begin the semester with all 100 points, and points will be deducted only when violations of professional conduct occur. For each unexcused absence, 10 points will be deducted.

ZOOM PROTOCOLS:

Students are asked to please use their webcam during class. It is difficult for the presenter to speak to a bunch of faceless boxes, and students report that collaborating and engaging with fellow students who are represented by faceless boxes is discouraging. Therefore, please do your best to put yourself in a quiet physical environment each week where you can participate in class with your webcam on and where you have a good internet connection. Doing so will increase your engagement in class and enrich the experience for everyone. However, we understand the challenges of balancing school and other aspects of life, and that it may be necessary at times to turn your camera off for privacy or other reasons.

You are also encouraged to consider using earbuds or a headset for the audio during our Zoom class sessions to reduce the chance of feedback from external microphones and speakers and to limit the impact of background ambient noise. It is a good practice to keep your Zoom microphone on mute during class time except for when you are speaking; however, because we want to encourage a lot of good class discussion and Q&A, we hope you will unmute yourself on multiple occasions during class. A PDF of each presentation given in class will be made available after class on Canvas, so if you have to miss a class or if you want to go back and review a presentation, you'll be able to do so.

ASSIGNMENTS:

This course uses CU Denver's Canvas system for disseminating course documents, uploading submitted assignments, sending group messages, and other class functions. An assignment must be uploaded to Canvas by **8:00 AM** (90 minutes before class begins) on the date it is due, based on the Canvas system's time-stamp, in order for the assignment to receive 100% of the points earned. An assignment submitted after the deadline but within one week of the due date/time will receive 95% of the points earned. An assignment submitted more than one week late will receive 90% of the points earned.

In the event you experience technical difficulties in uploading a file to Canvas, you may send me an email with the assignment file attached and I will consider the assignment as being submitted on-time, as long as the email is sent before the due date and time, based on the University's email system time-stamp.

PRINT TO PDF:

Students are required to submit assignments in PDF format. A file containing many images or large graphics can easily become too large in file size to be emailed or uploaded to Canvas if "save to PDF" is used within the original application. Using "save to PDF" or "export to PDF" often results in huge file sizes—PDF files that are too large for Canvas or email. However, using the "print to PDF" option will result in small PDF file sizes without any loss in resolution quality. In order to "print to PDF" you first must have Adobe Acrobat DC installed on your computer (available as part of the Adobe Creative Cloud suite). When installing Adobe Acrobat DC, the software automatically adds "PDF" to the list of available printers on your computer. For Windows users, simply select File > Print and choose "Adobe PDF" from the Printer drop-down box. For Mac users, select File > Print, click on "PDF" from the small drop-down box at the bottom, and then select "Save as PDF." All computers in the CAP computer labs have Adobe Acrobat DC installed if you do not have a personal license to this application.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with disabilities who want academic accommodations must register with Disability Resources and Services (DRS) at CU Denver. Once a student has registered with DRS, DRS will review the documentation and assess the student's request for academic accommodations in light of the documentation. The Disability Resources and Services office will then provide the student with a letter indicating which academic accommodations have been approved. Once you provide me with a copy of DRS's letter, I will provide any accommodations that DRS has approved.

PLAGIARISM:

Students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without acknowledgement. The following are considered to be forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted:

- Copying word-for-word another person's ideas or words
- Creating a "mosaic" (interspersing your own words here and there within another's work)
- Paraphrasing (the rewriting of another's work, while still using their basic ideas or theories)
- Fabricating (inventing) sources
- Submitting another person's work as your own
- Neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes

For assistance on plagiarism and on general writing help, please visit the CU Denver Writing Center:

<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Centers/writing/Pages/TheWritingCenter.aspx>.

COMMUNICATION:

Unless otherwise noted, I will contact you via Canvas or your university email address. Since Canvas uses your official university e-mail address, please make sure you check this address regularly, have your CU Denver email forwarded to your personal e-mail account, or adjust the notification settings in Canvas to ensure you receive my communications.

PROPER CITATION:

To avoid plagiarism, students must provide proper citation of text and materials authored by others in all assignments and reports, using the MLA documentation style. For a free online MLA guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/08/>

MAXIMUM POINT VALUES:

Item	Points
Exercise 1: Hometown History	100
Exercise 2: Topic Presentation	200
Exercise 3: Regulating Urban Form	200
Class Project: Urban Morphology	400
Attendance and Professional Conduct	100
Total	1,000

GRADING SCALE:

Total Points	Grade	Grade Description
934 – 1000	A	A grade range: Exceptional scholarship and superior work products that significantly exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality
900 – 933	A-	
867 – 899	B+	B grade range: Commendable scholarship and accomplished work products that somewhat exceed stated requirements in scope and/or quality
834 – 866	B	
800 – 833	B-	
767 – 799	C+	C grade range: Satisfactory scholarship and work products that meet or almost meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality
734 – 766	C	
700 – 733	C-	
667 – 699	D+	D grade range: Inadequate scholarship and inferior work products that clearly fail to meet stated requirements in scope and/or quality
634 – 666	D	
600 – 633	D-	
599 or less	F	F grade: Unacceptable scholarship and work product

**COURSE SCHEDULE
COMING SOON**