

## Plan 636– Site Planning (Lecture and Studio) – Fall 2022

- Class location:** Urban Design Studio-429 W Muhammad Ali Blvd.
- Instructor:** Julia Williams, AICP  
Contact: 502-777-1472 (c), canofsardines@gmail.com
- Class time:** Wednesday evenings, 5:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
- Special Dates:** First Session: August 24, 2022  
Last Day to Drop (100% Tuition) August 26, 2022  
Last Day to Withdraw October 21, 2022  
Thanksgiving Break: NO CLASS November 23  
Last Class Meeting: November 30, 2022

**Office hours:** By appointment: directly before or after regular class meeting works best

### **PURPOSE**

This course will introduce the basic considerations and process of site planning through readings, discussions, and several short studio “sketch problems”. Topics will include project scoping, production, and an overview of basic site inventory and analysis. The course outline will follow the typical site planning process with several small, short studio projects, concepts carried to the design development level. Along the way we’ll consider how a site allows (or not) for human activity interactions, physical context and appropriate guidelines for building design, vehicular access and pedestrian accommodation. Basic hand sketching and plan view drawing techniques will be introduced but the majority of the course will incorporate digital graphic applications.

Upon completion of this course the student will have a **basic** understanding of the necessary information, considerations, process steps and appropriate end products needed to satisfy both a client’s site desires as well as utilizing a Land Development Code for site requirements. The student will also gain graphic and verbal presentation skills.

### **Typical site planning process components:**

- **Defining the problem**
- Programming
- **Schematic design (SD)** and preliminary cost estimate
- **Design development (DD)** and detailed costing
- Contract Document preparation (CD) and final cost estimates
- Bidding and contracting
- Construction phase
- Occupation and management
- Post-occupancy evaluation

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Each assignment will be given a points value. There are 1000 points available and your grade will be determined by how many points you achieve. All projects, assignments, etc. are to be submitted and/or reviewed on the due dates as assigned. If you miss class due to an “excused” absence (see below) submit any assignment due on the date of your absence via email or possibly at the following normal class meeting.

The nature of studio classes, wherein readings are assigned and discussed, papers/questions are sometimes written, and studio course work, whose quality and evaluation is determined via a combination of objective and subjective criteria, leads to the grading of student work. Subjective evaluation of a student’s participation in class discussions and group work, evidence of completing reading assignments, improvement throughout the semester in areas of graphic skills and design thinking, etc. are all weighed collectively during the final course grade assignments.

Two (2) unexcused absences will result in a one-letter-grade lowering of your final course grade. Four (4) unexcused absences will result in a two-letter grade lowering of your final course grade and a strong recommendation that withdrawing from the course be seriously considered.

### **Class Participation and Presentations (30%) 300 points**

Students are expected to arrive at class having read any assigned material, finished the required assignments and ready to participate in discussions with salient comments, questions and observations. Consistently being tardy to class will result in a loss of overall points. Excused absences from class are appropriate for medical emergencies, family emergencies and 'on-the-edge-of-death' illnesses only. 0 points will be given for unexcused absences. Absences deprive you of valuable learning from the discussions of readings, lectures, and the exchange of ideas with me and your class mates. It also deprives me, your classmates, and/or project teammates of your contributions.

Almost every assignment will in some form be presented to the class. Students will be graded on their demeanor, professionalism, presentation skills, preparedness, etc. The presentation score is separate from the overall project score.

### **Graphic and Written Assignments (40%) 400 points**

Throughout the semester there will be a series of graphic and short writing assignments. Other assignments may be centered on synthesizing content of readings and site exploration exercises into analytical responses to particular site issues.

### **Site Plan Projects (30%) 300 points**

There will be at least one more involved site planning project assigned throughout the semester.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- CELL PHONES: Please turn off cell phones once class begins.

### **Supplies (Art related supplies will be used for different projects throughout the semester, these can be purchased for relatively low cost):**

- Engineer's Scale (This should be bought and brought to all classes) 1"=10', 1"=20', 1"=30', 1"=40' etc.
- Pencils
- Sharpies – black, Ultra Fine and Fine point
- Paper (unlined, copy paper is fine)

For the majority of the course we will be using **SketchUp**. You will need to have a laptop with **SketchUp** downloaded by the 5th week. The 2022 student version of **SketchUp** is around \$55 and is valid for 1 year. There is a "free" download that lasts for 30 days. This version does not have everything you will need for the course.

Only the basics of SketchUp will be taught. It is recommended that you have a wireless mouse to use with SketchUp, it helps with accuracy.

### **COURSE READING**

#### **Recommended texts:**

Articles may be selected/reprinted/distributed from various sources throughout the semester. Most, if not all, will be posted on Blackboard.

**COVID19:** Masks are required/encouraged (depending on state requirements). If you are not vaccinated, you are encouraged to wear a mask.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Week 1: Introduction.** The first class will include a preview of the course and class expectations.

### **Week 2: Site Plan Review**

This week we will review site plans according to a city's development code and practice using a scale.

### **Week 3: Site Visit**

We will be meeting on a development site to review how the site development correlates to a city's development code. Afterward we will be going over how our sites met or did not meet the development code.

### **Week 4: Residential Site Planning**

Placing a structure on a residential lot. FAR and Density discussion.

### **Week 5: *Sketch Up* tutorial and assignment**

This class will provide tips for layouts, supplementing graphics with text, photos and illustrations. Studio work will include instruction and exercises regarding the *Sketch Up* program. Unless otherwise indicated, projects from this week forward shall be done in *Sketch Up*.

### **Week 6: Sketch Up work**

### **Week 7: SketchUp Presentations and discussion**

Sketch up site plan due, discussions of issues with Sketchup

### **Week 8: Final Project Introduction**

Introduce final project location and scoping. Begin discussion on inventory and analysis.

### **Week 9: Site Inventory and Analysis**

Site Visit to subject site. This week the class will focus on how to inventory a site and what needs to be inventoried. A thorough inventory of the parcel of land will help lead to an understanding of its constraints and opportunities during the analysis phase. The class this week will learn how to analyze the inventory data from the previous class and determine what it means for a site.

### **Week 10: Inventory and Analysis discussion**

What did the class find on the site? What needs to be added/removed etc?

### **Week 11: Site Design**

Students will hand draw concept designs based on their analysis.

### **Week 12: Site plans due with Presentations-**

Hand drawn concept drawings will be discussed and Sketch UP drawing will begin.

### **Week 13: Sketch Up work**

### **Week 14: Presenting Plans**

Students will present their final plans to the class