San José State University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
URBP 232, Urban Design Studio, Section 01, Spring 2024

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: David Barry
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM (by appointment)
Class Days/Time: Mondays, 4:30 PM to 7:15 PM
Classroom: Studio on the Street, 76 South 1st Street, Downtown San Jose

Course Description

In this studio, we will take an in-depth look at Lenzen Avenue (between Stockton Avenue and The Alameda), a bustling street with a multitude of land uses, but riddled with design issues. From the lack of shade trees and on-street parking to the absence of bike lanes and inadequate stormwater management, Lenzen Avenue poses numerous urban design challenges. Throughout the semester, you will have the chance to tackle these issues head-on through fieldwork, laboratory assignments, and collaborative projects.

Course Format

In Person

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

This course provides a graduate-level opportunity to dive headfirst into the world of urban design, focusing on a real-life urban development challenge in San Jose, California.

Throughout the semester, you will engage in field studies, research, and professional design presentations, supplemented by lectures, discussions, and media sessions. By the end of the course, you will be equipped with the knowledge and practical experience to transform urban spaces and contribute to the sustainable, equitable, and vibrant future of our cities.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Data Collection and Visualization:** Develop skills in collecting, synthesizing, and communicating data about urban settings through visual representation.

2. **Critical Thinking:** Analyze the public realm through the lenses of social equity, history, economic development, ecology, and mobility. You'll learn to think critically about the complex fabric of our urban environments.

3. **Real-World Application:** Apply urban design theories, methods, and principles to address actual planning problems.

4. **Case Studies and Contemporary Solutions:** Explore the significance of case studies and contemporary solutions to inform current and future urban development. You'll be exposed to cutting-edge practices and innovative solutions.

5. **Multi-Scale Design:** Work on urban design problems at multiple scales, from small-scale elements such as pedestrian improvements and streetscapes to larger-scale neighborhood and regional network analyses.

6. **Design Skills:** Develop your creative and technical skills, from sketching to computer-aided drawing and 3-D modeling, to translate your ideas into design conventions.

7. **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Collaborate effectively with your peers through hands-on team projects, just like you would in a professional design studio.

8. **Community Engagement:** Engage with designers, policymakers, and community members to understand the real-world impact of your design proposals.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

All required readings are listed by week in the course schedule below and on Canvas. Most of these readings are available digitally via the library or elsewhere online.

Some of the readings come from the following four books. You do not need to buy them if you are not interested in owning a copy, because I've made sure they are available through the MLK library.

The 99% Invisible City: A Field Guide to the Hidden World of Everyday Design. This is an ebook with a single user copy. You may access the book electronically and download the pages you need, then close the webpage/tab of the book to make it available to others.

The Urban Design Handbook: Techniques and Working Methods. This is only available as a print book and is available in Course Reserves.

Urban Design: A Typology of Procedures and Products is available as an ebook with an unlimited user license.

The Urban Design Reader is part of the university's ebook collection.

The Routledge Handbook of Urban Design Research Methods. Status pending.

Other Readings

The other required readings listed in the course schedule below are either available online (i.e., via the library website) or will be distributed in class or through Canvas.

Library Liaison

The SJSU Library Liaison for Urban and Regional Planning Department is Lauren DeCelle. The best way to reach her is via email: Lauren.DeCelle@sjsu.edu.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Your grade for the course will be based on the following assignments and other activities:

1. **Urban Design Studio Journal:** Keep an urban design studio journal throughout the semester. Due 5/20/24 by 11:59 PM.

2. **Discussion Questions:** Prior to each class meeting, students shall submit one discussion question from the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class. Discussion questions shall be submitted to David Barry via email by 5:00 PM the day before the class meeting (i.e., Sundays).
3. **Analysis of Existing Street Conditions:** Understand the current challenges and opportunities of Lenzen Avenue. Due by the start of class on 2/26/24.
4. **Proposed Streetscape Plan:** Develop a vision for the future of Lenzen Avenue, integrating urban design principles. Due by the start of class on 3/25/24.
5. **Individual Proposals:** Create your unique design interventions to enhance the street's urban design success. Due by the start of class on 5/6/24.

Detailed instructions for each assignment will be discussed and distributed in class and on Canvas.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

This course is evaluated through multiple assignments and class participation. The final assignment, a detailed proposal integrated into the streetscape plan (see above), is due during the last class meeting, during which time students will briefly present their projects.

Grading Information

The course grade consists of five categories of assignments, including the following:

- Analysis of Existing Street Conditions. Total: 30% (20 points)
- Proposed Streetscape Plan. Total: 30% (20 points)
- Individual Proposals. Total: 20% (20 points)
- Urban Design Journal. Total: 10% (100 points)
- Class Participation. Total: 10% (100 points)

Classroom Protocol

Attendance is crucial for success in this small graduate studio course. Be punctual, prepared with readings and assignments, and ready to actively engage in discussions. Lectures, discussions, and class activities convey course content, so missing class may impact your grade. Regular participation is expected, enhancing the class experience for everyone. Embrace collaboration, respect diverse perspectives, and contribute to a supportive studio culture. Let's cultivate a dynamic learning environment together!

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 ,relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Accessibility and Accommodations

We all learn in different ways, and we all bring different types and levels of academic preparedness to class, depending on everything from life experiences and personal circumstances to individual minds and bodies.

If you believe you face limitations to your access or ability to be a full participant in this class, please inform me of specific challenges or accommodation needs at the start of the course. Students with documented disabilities can register with the Accessible Education Center and receive specific accommodation plans which should be shared with me. Students without documented disabilities who may still need specific accommodations should also reach out to the AEC and/or contact me to discuss specific needs.

AI Guidelines

As we embark on our course on it's essential to recognize the evolving tools available to us, including generative AI like ChatGPT. While utilizing these cutting-edge technologies is not prohibited in our studies, I strongly urge you to exercise caution and responsible judgment. When employing AI in your projects, please adhere to the following guidelines:

1. **Originality**: Ensure that your work maintains a high level of originality, and that AI-generated content is not misrepresented as your own thoughts or ideas.
2. **Ethical Considerations**: Understand the potential biases that may be embedded within AI models, and actively work to counter them in your design proposals.
3. **Data Sensitivity**: Utilize AI models in line with legal and privacy considerations, especially when handling sensitive or personal data.
4. **Critical Engagement**: Always critically engage with and reflect on the outputs generated by AI, evaluating them in the context of urban design principles, rather than accepting them at face value.

Plagiarism and Citing Sources Properly

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's language, images, data, or ideas without proper attribution. It is a very serious offense both in the university and in your professional work. In essence, plagiarism is both theft and lying whereby you have stolen someone else's ideas and then lied by implying that they are your own.

Plagiarism will lead to grade penalties and a record filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. In severe cases, students may also fail the course or even be expelled from the university.

If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, it is your responsibility to make sure you clarify the issues before you hand in any work.

Learning when to cite a source and when not to is an art, not a science. However, here are some common examples of plagiarism that you should be careful to avoid:

- Using a sentence (or even a part of a sentence) that someone else wrote without identifying the language as a quote by putting the text in quote marks and referencing the source.
- Paraphrasing somebody else's theory or idea without referencing the source.
- Using a picture or table from a webpage or book without reference the source.
- Using data some other person or organization has collected without referencing the source.

The University of Indiana has developed a very helpful website with concrete examples about proper paraphrasing and quotation. Link: https://plagiarism.iu.edu/

If you still have questions, feel free to talk to me personally. There is nothing wrong with asking for help, whereas even unintentional plagiarism is a serious offense.

Citation Style

It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. The Department of Urban and Regional Planning uses Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2013, ISBN 780226816388). Copies are available in the SJSU King Library. (The book is also relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy.) Please note that Turabian's book describes two systems for referencing materials: (1) "notes" (footnotes or endnotes), plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. Students may use either of the styles in this course, but you must pick one and use it consistently throughout any given assignment.

URBP 232 / Urban Design Studio, Spring 2024, Course Schedule

Below is the agenda for the semester. The schedule is subject to change with a minimum of two weeks of advanced notice communicated through Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1/29	**Topic**: Introduction and Overview – Introduce the course, syllabus, and expectations. **Required Reading:** Jon Lang. Urban Design: A Typology of Procedures and Products. "The Public Realm of Cities and Urban Design" (pp. 11-21). Available as an eBook via the library: https://www-taylorfrancis-com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/books/edit/10.4324/9781315642406/urban-design-jon-lang **Assignment**: Start the first entry of your urban design journal. Due at the end of the semester.
2	2/5	**Topic**: Discuss the importance of Lenzen Avenue, provide background information, and explain the goals of the assignments. Form groups and assign roles. Provide guidelines for data collection and analysis. **Required Reading**: Clemente, O., & Ewing, R. (2005). Measuring Urban Design Qualities: An Illustrated Field Manual. https://activelivingresearch.org/sites/activelivingresearch.org/files/FieldManual_071605.pdf NACTO. 2013. *Urban Street Design Guide* (online). Peruse the different sections and familiarize yourself with contemporary street design components. https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/ Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee. (2017). *The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative: Urban Design Analysis*. Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee. (2017). *The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative: Urban Design Analysis*. https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/Pennsylvania_Ave_Urban_Design_Analysis_September2017.pdf **Assignment**: Who is your stakeholder?
3	2/12	**Topic**: Existing Street Conditions Analysis (Group Assignment) **Required Reading**:

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Mars, R., Kohlstedt, K., & Invisible, 99%. (2020). The 99% invisible city: A field guide to the hidden world of everyday design. Hodder & Stoughton. Read the Introduction. Focus on Chapters 1 and 2. Available as an eBook via the library: https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991014138098202919&context=L&vid=01CALS_SJO:01CALS_SJO&lang=en&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,The%2099%25%20Invisible%20City:%20A%20Field%20Guide%20to%20the%20Hidden%20World%20of%20Everyday%20Design&offset=0 **Assignment**: Group work on analyzing existing street conditions. Students gather data, conduct surveys, and document challenges and opportunities.
4	2/19	**Topic**: Existing Street Conditions Analysis (Group Assignment) **Walking Tour**: Lenzen Avenue **Required Reading**: Mars, R., Kohlstedt, K., & Invisible, 99%. (2020). The 99% invisible city: A field guide to the hidden world of everyday design. Hodder & Stoughton. Focus on chapters 3 and 6. Available as an eBook via the library: https://csu-sjsu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?docid=alma991014138098202919&context=L&vid=01CALS_SJO:01CALS_SJO&lang=en&search_scope=MyInst_and_CI&adaptor=Local%20Search%20Engine&tab=Everything&query=any,contains,The%2099%25%20Invisible%20City:%20A%20Field%20Guide%20to%20the%20Hidden%20World%20of%20Everyday%20Design&offset=0 **Assignment**: Group work on analyzing existing street conditions. Students gather data, conduct surveys, and document challenges and opportunities.
5	2/26	**Topic**: Group Presentations **Assignment**: Each group presents their findings to the class.
6	3/4	**Topic**: Proposed Streetscape Plan (Group Assignment) **Required Reading**: Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative Executive Committee. (ay 2018). The Pennsylvania Avenue Initiative: Executive Committee Findings and Strategies Summary. https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/Pennsylvania_Avenue_Action_Plan_Summary_May2018.pdf **Assignment**: Introduce the second assignment. Discuss urban design principles and best practices.
7	3/11	**Topic**: Proposed Streetscape Plan (Group Assignment) **Required Reading**: McCann, B., & Rynne, S. (2010). Complete Streets: Best Policy and Implementation Practices. https://www.planning.org/publications/report/9026883/

Week/Lesson/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Michael Larice and Elizabeth MacDonald. *The Urban Design Reader*. "Author's Introduction" and "The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact" (pp. 139-151) and "Conclusion: Great Streets and City Planning" (p. 214-217). Available as an eBook via the library: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=3317590 **Assignment**: Group work on developing the proposed streetscape plan. Emphasize collaboration and integration of principles.
8	3/18	**Topic**: Proposed Streetscape Plan (Group Assignment) **Required Reading**: District of Columbia Office of Planning. (2016). People on Penn: Pennsylvania Pedestrian Life Study. https://www.ncpc.gov/docs/A_Penn_Ave_Ped_Life_Study_April2016.pdf **Assignment**: Group work on developing the proposed streetscape plan. Emphasize collaboration and integration of principles.
9	3/25	**Topic**: Proposed Streetscape Plan Group Presentations **Required Reading**: City of San Jose. (2022). San Jose Citywide Design Standards and Guidelines. https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/69148/638058310868170000 **Assignment**: Each group presents their vision for the future of Lenzen Avenue.
10	4/1	**Cesar Chavez Day (Observed) – Campus Closed** Spring Recess April 1 - 5
11	4/8	**Topic**: Individual Proposal (Final Assignment) **Required Reading**: City of San Jose Department of Public Works. (2007). Guidelines for the Planning, Design and Construction of City Streetscape Projects. https://www.sanjoseca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/19973/636686450627200000 Adam Lubinsky, A. (2023). Planning for On-Street EV Charging Infrastructure. https://www.planning.org/pas/memo/115/planning-for-on-street-ev-charging-infrastructure/ **Assignment**: Introduce the individual assignment. Discuss the criteria for a successful design intervention.
12	4/15	**Topic**: Individual Proposal (Final Assignment) **Required Reading**:

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		City of San Jose Department of Transportation. (2022). Downtown Transportation Plan. https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments-offices/transportation/projects-planning/downtown-transportation-plan Jan Gehl. *Life Between Buildings*. "Spaces for Walking" (pp. 129-197). Available as an eBook via the library: https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CALS_ALMA51542846800002901 **Assignment**: Individual work on proposals. Students develop unique design interventions.
13	4/22	**Topic**: Individual Proposal (Final Assignment) **Required Reading**: Surico, J. (2023, November 28). This Cheap Street Fix Saves Lives. Why Don't More Cities Do It? Bloomberg.com. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-11-28/the-case-for-daylighting-the-cheap-traffic-safety-fix-that-cities-need?cmpid=BBD112923_CITY%E2%80%A6 Cohen, A., & Shaheen, S. (2016). Planning for Shared Mobility. https://www.planning.org/publications/report/9107556/ **Assignment**: In-class review session for individual proposals. Students receive feedback from peers and the instructor.
14	4/29	**Topic**: Refinement and Final Presentation **Required Reading**: Project for Public Spaces. (n.d.). A Placemaker's Primer on Road Diets. Project for Public Spaces. Retrieved January 19, 2024, from https://www.pps.org/article/a-placemakers-primer-on-road-diets **Assignment**: Allow time for students to refine their individual proposals based on feedback.
15 Final Presentation	5/6	**Topic**: Refinement and Final Presentation **Required Reading**: Elias Guseman, AICP, Michael Manzella, AICP, and Lyndsey Scofield, AICP, PMP. (2023). Achieving Vision Zero in Practice. https://www.planning.org/pas/memo/118/achieving-vision-zero-in-practice/ **Assignment**: Final presentations. Each student presents their unique design intervention to the class. Encourage peer feedback.
16	5/13	***LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION*** **Topic**: Conclusion and Reflection **Required Reading**:

Week/Lesson /Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Justin Davidson. 2018. "What is a Street? And What Will it Become?" *New York Magazine* website. http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/01/what-is-a-city-street-and-what-will-it-become.html **Assignment**: Wrap up the semester, discuss key learnings, and allow students to reflect on the entire design process.
17	5/20	***FINAL EXAMINATION*** **Assignment:** All Assignments due by 11:59 PM