

ARC-231 Introduction to Urban Design

Timing: Sun-Tues 9:00- 9:50

Location: 19-410

Instructor: A1i S. Al-Naser

Office: 19-320 Tel. 3571

E-mail: alnaser@kfupm.edu.sa

Office hours:

As posted and by appointment

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The course introduces students to the history and theories of urban spatial design. The course will review the various factors influencing the design of urban spaces, the different design elements and the urban design process. Approaches applied in the development of urban spaces throughout history will be discussed including Greek, Roman, Renaissance, Islamic, and modern & post-modern periods. Influential urban design theories and concepts along with their application and feasibility will be studied. Emphasis throughout the course will be on urban social behavior and psychological effect of the urban space.

Course Objectives:

- 1- Introduce the students to the discipline of urban design, including highlighting its relationship to architecture and planning.
- 2- Introduce the students to the different elements used in the design of urban spaces, to the factors that shape the form of the urban spaces and to the process of designing these spaces.
- 3- Introduce the students to urban design treatments in different historical periods, including highlighting the theories and thoughts that shape the treatments.

- 4- Highlight contemporary problems of urban design, including pointing out strategies to address them.

Course Format:

The course will be delivered in the form of lectures and discussions. Students will be assigned readings and assignments from time to time and they are expected to participate in class discussions on these readings and assignments.

Course Texts:

Assigned readings will be extracted from the following sources and other sources:

1. Trancik R. (1986) Finding the Lost Space: Theories of Urban Design, N .y .: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company.
2. Barnett J. (1982) An Introduction to Urban Design, N. y .: Harper & Raw Publishers.
3. Elin N. (1996) Postmodern Urbanism, Cambridge, Mass.: BlackWell Publishers Inc.
4. Eisner S. etc. al. (1993) Urban Pattern, N. y .: Van Nostrand Reinhold.
5. Gosling D., Maitland B. (1984), Concepts of Urban Design, London: Academy Editions.

Course Grading:

The final grade will be determined on the bases of the student's ability to successfully fulfill the following requirements:

Attendance
Participation in class discussions and quizzes
Term project
Midterm and final exams

Approximate distribution of the grade:

| | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| | Attendance & Participation |
| 15% | |
| | Term project |
| 15% | |
| | Midterm |
| 30% | |
| | Final Exam |
| 40% | |

Course Contents:

- 1- Introduction
- 2- The urban area: An introduction
- 3- Urban design elements:
 - Physical elements
 - Regulatory elements
- 4- Factors influencing the design of the urban environment
- 5- The urban design process
- 6- Case studies of urban design from history
 - Greek period
 - Roman period
 - Middle ages
 - Renaissance
- 7- Development of the 20th century urban design thoughts
- 8- Contemporary problems in the design of modern cities
- 9- Contemporary theories and concepts of urban design
- 10- Strategies for successful urban design
- 11- Case studies of contemporary urban design projects