

**COURSE** GPB 3900 / UP 5999 *Urban Visualization*

**INSTRUCTOR** Laura Foxman / laura.foxman@wayne.edu, 313-288-8651

**TIME & LOCATION** Saturdays @ 8:30-11:00 AM / 2106 Old main

**OFFICE HOURS** After class (i.e. 11:00 AM-onward). Schedule appointments with the Instructor via email or text (text, with your name, for more immediate response at the number above)

**CREDITS** 3

**BACKGROUND** This course introduces students to visual communication techniques and software utilized by urban planners and spatial practitioners. We explore how urban projects are communicated and visually represented, so that each student can develop their own techniques of communicating urban and spatial data. The coursework includes introductions to layout, vector- and image-based software; and critical examinations of visual communication strategies employed by planners, architects, landscape architects, geographers, graphic designers, sociologists, and space planners, among others. Students will develop tactics for diagramming, mapping, photographing and documenting urban histories, data, spaces and speculative proposals.

**TRAJECTORY** Students will advance their visualization techniques while considering, gathering and developing various forms of site data (from in-person documentation to archival research). The final project for the semester will be an individual design project that explores a site in Detroit; and demonstrates comprehension and creative engagement with visual tools and tactics developed throughout the semester.

**OBJECTIVES GRADUATE**

- 1 To identify and classify a broad range of interdisciplinary urban visualization approaches for use in your education and future practice.
- 2 To interpret different urban strategies and representational tactics used by spatial practitioners—from urban planners to architects, landscape architects and ecologists, among others.
- 3 To use visualization software creatively, in urban visualization processes, specifically Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator for presentations and AutoCAD for drafting. (Students also have the option to explore Rhino, a 3D computer modeling software.)
- 4 To develop interdisciplinary approaches to urban sites/systems via sketch problems and design exercises.
- 5 To author a final independent design project that demonstrates a creative visual approach to a specific urban site or urban system.
- 6 To build capacity and creative processes to evaluate urban sites and urban systems—across scales and disciplines—critically and with complexity.
- 7 To begin to develop personal frameworks for urban analysis and visualization that are guided by individual concerns, both academic and professional.

**OBJECTIVES UNDERGRADUATE**

- 1 To interpret different urban strategies and representational tactics used by spatial practitioners—from urban planners to architects, landscape architects and ecologists, among others.
- 2 To use visualization software creatively, in urban visualization processes, specifically Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator for presentations and AutoCAD for drafting.
- 3 To examine different ways of visualizing urban conditions and spaces via sketch problems and

design exercises.

- 4 To develop interdisciplinary approaches to urban sites/systems via sketch problems and design exercises.
- 5 To author a final design project independently or collaboratively that demonstrates a creative visual approach to a specific urban site or urban system assigned by the instructor.

**COURSE FORMAT** GPH 3900/UP 5999 will be many things all at once—a visualization (visual communication) course; an ongoing conversation about spatial practices related to urbanism, landscape, architecture, and visual studies, among other things; an introduction to interdisciplinary architectural thinking via design exercises; and a critical framework to engage urban/concepts in Detroit and everywhere cultivated through talks, brainstorms and creative production. The course operates as a think tank and encourages a generous spirit of communal learning and exchange.

**EXPECTATIONS**

For graduate students enrolled in UP 5999, the course will boost your visual communication and analytical skills for collaborative/personal/research-based projects in urbanism and spatial practice. The culminating project/research site will be determined by you and demonstrate a broad approach to the visual/analytical tools developed throughout the semester. Much of the learning will be self-guided—independent and creative thought is encouraged and is a must for exceptional grade evaluation. Graduate students must demonstrate an independence of thought and an original/personal approach to urban visualization by the semester's end.

For undergraduate students enrolled in GPH 3900, the course will allow you a first or early exploration of visual communication in urbanism and spatial practice. The culminating project/research sites will be determined by the instructor and will provide an opportunity to demonstrate concepts approached and skills developed throughout the semester. Independent and creative thought is encouraged and are expected to master techniques presented for exceptional grade evaluation.

**TOPICS/ASSIGNMENTS IN SEQUENCE** 1 Brainstorming Site 2 Documenting Site: Developing a Site Inventory 3 Surveying & Conceptualizing Site 4 Site Plan & Preliminary Site Diagrams 5 Design Process/Iteration (Systems Thinking / Design Thinking) 6 Architectural and Urban Storyboarding 7 Individual Design Project

**COMMUNICATION** Email and Canvas will be used in this course. You must contact the instructor and/or C&IT (helpdesk@wayne.edu) as soon as possible if you have problems with either platform. Additionally, students will utilize cloud storage for group competition activities.

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Karen Lewis, *Graphic Design for Architects: A Manual for Visual Communication* (approx. \$45)  
Note: Other texts and sources will be referenced and/or provided throughout the semester.

**OPTIONAL: REFERENCE TEXTS**

Christopher Alexander (and others), *A Pattern Language*  
William J.R. Curtis, *Modern Architecture Since 1900*  
Charles Waldheim, Ed., *Landscape Urbanism Reader*

### **MATERIALS**

Sketchbook, recommended size: 8.5" x 11" / Make sure it is easy to take around with you. In other words, buy the largest size without it being cumbersome. You should have your sketchbook/journal with you *constantly*.

- 1 12" roll of trace paper (preferably bright white)
- 2 Pencils (with a range of hardness/softness, i.e. 2H, H, B, 2B, 4B, 6B)
- 3 Pens (with a range of thicknesses, e.g. Staedtler set)
- 4 Colored pencils and/or pens
- 5 Eraser
- 6 Ruler
- 7 Measuring tape
- 8 Storage bag for supplies (optional)

### **TECHNOLOGY**

- 1 A camera phone or some means of photographing process is required.
- 2 Laptop (personal or accessible at the library)
- 3 AutoCAD can be downloaded for free with student email account (recommended)
- 4 Adobe Suite, AutoCAD, Rhino software (accessible by Splashtop, Labs: 3413 and 2214)
- 5 Scanner (app on phone or similar recommended)
- 6 One Drive

**EXERCISES & WRITINGS** Short design exercises and research will be assigned during the semester. Students will discuss and present their findings and “designs” for feedback and critique. Students will keep a journal/sketchbook of their impressions and analysis of such material. Students will complete one and multi-week design exercise, as well as a final project.

**PARTICIPATION AND TIMELINESS** Participation and dialogues are critical in the course. Students shall be in class for the entire period and are expected to be timely in their attendance and work. Students should strive to complete each assignment entirely, whether formal or informal. However, students must show work to receive partial credit for incomplete work.

**ATTENDANCE** Attendance is mandatory. Two unexcused absences constitute a failing grade. Note, however that there are acceptable excuses for absences, which include personal illness, religious observation\*, a death in the family or an extreme condition (excused by the Instructor in advance). Students will be granted extensions in extreme cases. Any extension must be discussed and will be determined by the Instructor.

**GRADING** You will be graded based on the following: Short exercises that demonstrate comprehension, innovation/creativity, and participation; one group project (competition) showing comprehension/energized participation, innovation/creativity and contribution throughout the process; and a final individual design project demonstrating tools gathered throughout the semester.

### **GRADING BY TOPICS**

- 1 Brainstorming Site – 10%
- 2 Documenting Site: Developing a Site Inventory – 10%
- 3 Surveying & Conceptualizing Site -10%
- 4 Site Plan & Preliminary Site Diagrams – 10%

5 Revised Site Plan/Diagrams – 10%

6 Design Process/Iteration (Systems Thinking / Design Thinking) – 10%

7 Architectural and Urban Storyboarding – 20%

8 Individual Design Project (Final Documents) – 20%

**GRADES AND EVALUATION** Attendance and timeliness are mandatory for passing, as well as central to course performance. Grading is used to measure competency—to evaluate a student's work and progress. Grades are determined not only by a demonstrated sense of dedication/rigor, but also evaluated based on four other criteria: the quality of concepts (ideas embedded in the work), product, process and participation. For each day an assignment is late, the work is docked one letter grade.

**GRADE INTERPRETATION**

A(Excellent)	Exceptional achievement > Meets and exceeds criteria; and utilize instructor feedback to improve work throughout the semester.
B (Good)	Extensive achievement > Meets all criteria.
C (Satisfactory)	Acceptable achievement > Meets minimum requirements.
D (Poor)	Only minimal achievement > Does not meet minimum requirements. The letter grade indicates that a student may be seriously handicapped in carrying a more advanced course for which this course is a specific prerequisite.
F (Failure)	Inadequate achievement > Work troublingly incomplete, not submitted and/or late. Necessitates a repetition of the course in order to secure credit.

**GRADING EVALUATION** Work will be evaluated and grades determined based on the following criteria:

COMPONENTS COMPLETED	25%
Demonstrates completion of all the required components.	
ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA	25%
Followed directions in the handouts, demos, and lectures, including work outside of class if required. Demonstrates understanding of applicable art and design elements and principles.	
CRAFTSMANSHIP & RIGOR	25%
Demonstrates an attention to detail, refinement, and quality of work. Examples of craftsmanship include good compositional tactics and development through rigorous process.	
INVENTIVENESS & EXPERIMENTATION	25%
Demonstrates a self-driven experimentation with concepts, which includes individual design and research of precedents.	

**SYLLABUS CHANGES** Please note that the syllabus is subject to change. The instructor will inform students of updates; and post changes to Canvas.

**COURSE COMMUNICATION** Course announcements will be made via Canvas and/or email. It is the responsibility of each student to make sure their accounts are properly setup to receive such announcements. Schedule individual meetings with the instructor, i.e. office hours, by email or text.

**CANVAS, IT HELP/TIPS AND ONLINE LEARNING:**

**1 CANVAS ASSISTANCE** For assistance with Canvas, see C&IT's intro to Canvas Course (<https://canvas.wayne.edu/courses/20804>) and the Comprehensive Student Guide (<https://tech.wayne.edu/kb/academic-services/canvas/500217>).

**2 GENERAL TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE** For assistance with any of these technology issues, contact C&IT the Helpdesk M-F from 7:30 am to 8 pm at 313-577-4357 or [helpdesk@wayne.edu](mailto:helpdesk@wayne.edu).

**3 EQUIPMENT CHECKOUT POLICY/PROCEDURES** Students who lack adequate hardware or reliable internet access should email the Dean of Students at [doso@wayne.edu](mailto:doso@wayne.edu) or call 313-577-1010 for assistance. Students on campus also have access to equipment through University Libraries. For more information, see the Equipment Checkout Policy and Procedures (<https://library.wayne.edu/equipmentcheckout>). The University Libraries also have computer labs in several campus locations.

**4 ONLINE LEARNING SUPPORT:**

The following resources are available to you to help hone skills pertinent to online learning.

**THE EFFECTIVE ONLINE LEARNER** (<https://canvas.wayne.edu/enroll/YLEFPL>) is a self-paced Canvas course to bolster the skills needed for remote and online learning.

**LEARN ANYWHERE** (<https://success.wayne.edu/learnanywhere>) is a webpage that provides resources and tips for taking online courses.

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER** (<https://success.wayne.edu/>) offers resources for improving study skills, building study groups, and similar activities.

**STUDY SKILLS ACADEMY** (<https://success.wayne.edu/study-skills>) offers free study skills (<https://success.wayne.edu/study-skills/counseling>)

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES INCLUDE:**

**1 GRADE APPEALS PROCESS** Please read early in the semester to ensure you are aware of steps, timelines and information required. (<http://cfpca.wayne.edu/files/gradeappeal.pdf>)

**2 EARLY ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT** Early Academic Assessment is one of the tools used by the University to assist undergraduate students' academic success. EAA grades will be submitted between the 3rd-6th week of classes (Tue Jan 26 - Sun Feb 21) and will be based on your cumulative grade in the course at this particular point in the semester. Students earning C- grades and below will receive an email notification. This intervention can be helpful in getting students back on track to academic success.

**3 CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION** Within the first two weeks of classes, instructors are required to indicate whether a student who is officially registered for the class has in fact engaged in the class. If a student's course participation is not confirmed by the instructor, the student is at risk for being administratively withdrawn from the course. Such a decision may have implications for their financial aid. Detail on what constitutes participation and the process of confirming participation can be found at this link: <https://wayne.edu/registrar/participation-instruction/>.

**4 RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS** Because of the extraordinary variety of religious affiliations of the University student body and staff, the Academic Calendar makes no provisions for religious holidays. However, it is University policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of the individual. Students with classes or examinations that conflict with their religious observances are expected to notify their instructors well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives may be worked out.

**5 CLASS RECORDINGS** Students need prior written permission from the instructor before recording any portion of this class. If permission is granted, the audio and/or video recording is to be used only for the student's personal instructional use. Such recordings are not intended for a wider

public audience, such as postings to the internet or sharing with others. Students registered with Student Disabilities Services (SDS) who wish to record class materials must present their specific accommodation to the instructor, who will subsequently comply with the request unless there is some specific reason why they cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information.

#### **6 STUDENT DISABILITIES SERVICES**

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. (More info at <https://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>)

Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. You can learn more about the disability office here: <https://studentdisability.wayne.edu/>

To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at [https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public\\_accommodation/](https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/)

Disability Services and who are eligible for alternate testing accommodations such as extended test time and/or a distraction-reduced environment should present the required test permit to the professor at least one week in advance of the exam. Federal law requires that a student registered with SDS is entitled to the reasonable accommodations specified in the student's accommodation letter, which might include allowing the student to take the final exam on a day different than the rest of the class.

#### **7 COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)**

It is quite common for college students to experience mental health challenges, such as stress, anxiety and depression, that interfere with academic performance and negatively impact daily life. Help is available for any currently enrolled WSU student who is struggling with a mental health difficulty, at WSU Counseling and Psychological Services. Learn more at <https://caps.wayne.edu/> And 313-577-3398.

Other options, for students and nonstudents, include the Counseling and Testing Center, and the Counseling Psychology Training Clinic, in the WSU College of Education. Learn more at <https://education.wayne.edu/counseling-clinic>

Services at all three clinics are free and confidential. Remember that getting help, before stress reaches a crisis point, is a smart and courageous thing to do – for yourself, and for those you care about. Also, know that the WSU Police Department has personnel trained to respond sensitively to mental health emergencies at all hours. Note: WSU Police Department: 313-577-2222

#### **8 STUDENT SERVICES**

##### THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

1600 Undergraduate Library

- + Assists students with content in select courses and in strengthening study skills
- + Visit [www.success.wayne.edu](http://www.success.wayne.edu) for schedules and information on study skills workshops, tutoring and supplemental instruction (primarily in 1000 and 2000 level courses).

##### THE WRITING CENTER

Located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library

- + Provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge
- + Visit <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing> to obtain information on tutors, appointments, and the type of help they can provide.

##### LIBRARY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Working on a research assignment, paper or project? Trying to figure out how to collect, organize

and cite your sources? Wayne state librarians provide on campus or online personalized help. Connect here: <https://library.wayne.edu/services/ask-a-librarian/>

#### **9 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Plagiarism and Cheating (edited statement from the DOSO's web site): Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct: <https://doso.wayne.edu/conduct>

Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.

- **CHEATING**

Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student's test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam.

- **FABRICATION**

Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.

- **PLAGIARISM**

To take and use another's words or ideas as one's own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons; (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student's access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

#### **10 PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

Section 4 of the Student Code of Conduct outlines and defines conduct that is subject to disciplinary action. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with this content, as well as the explanation of disciplinary sanctions in section 5.

It is important to note that new information has been added to the Student Code of Conduct in response to COVID-19 safety measures on campus (4.20):

Failure to comply with University instruction pertaining to the containment of the coronavirus virus or of COVID-19 is subject to disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to: a) Completing the 'campus daily screener' each day before coming onto campus; b) Following the direction of the Campus Health Center regarding a positive screen; c) Wearing, at minimum, a cloth facial covering at all times when in public spaces on campus; d) Maintaining a minimum distance of not less than six feet from others when on campus e) Complying with signage regarding directional hallways, elevators, common spaces, and stairwells.

#### **11 SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND TITLE IX**

Every Warrior has the right to live, learn, and work at WSU – free from Harassment or Discrimination.

Any member of the WSU Community that is impacted by sexual misconduct has the right to report to the University (i.e. Responsible Employee or Title IX Coordinator), to law enforcement (i.e. WSUPD or other jurisdiction), to both, or to neither. Every Warrior is encouraged to make the reporting decision that is right for them.

Please be advised: Most faculty and staff are considered “Responsible Employees” and are required to report information they receive about incidents of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and stalking) to appropriate authorities when it involves WSU students, faculty, or staff.

Free, confidential, and anonymous support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to survivors, their friends, and their family through the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN). Call 1-800- 656-4673 or Chat online with a professional support specialist. Please visit TitleIX.wayne.edu to learn more about resources and support on campus and in the local community.

#### OPTIONS FOR SELF-REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Any member of the WSU Community that is impacted by sexual misconduct has the right to report to the University (i.e. Responsible Employee or Title IX Coordinator), to law enforcement (i.e. WSUPD or other jurisdiction), to both, or to neither. Every Warrior is encouraged to make the reporting decision that is right for them.

**Reporting to the University** The Title IX Office is available to consult with individuals impacted by sexual violence or discrimination regarding resource referrals, supportive and protective measures, and reporting and resolution options. Where WSU has jurisdiction, the affected party may request an administrative investigation by the University.

Phone: 313-577-9999 Email: TitleIX@wayne.edu

**Reporting to Law Enforcement** The Wayne State University Police Department is available 24/7 to assist individuals reporting criminal activity or concerns on or near campus. Report off-campus incidents to the appropriate police jurisdiction. In the event of an emergency or imminent threat, reporting to the police is highly encouraged.

Phone: 313-577-2222

Every Warrior has the right to live, learn, and work at WSU – free from Harassment or Discrimination. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexual violence or discrimination, please visit TitleIX.wayne.edu to learn more about resources and support on campus and in the local community.

**COVID-19 COMPLIANCE** All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the campus health and safety guidelines here: [https://wayne.edu/coronavirus/returning-guidelines#- students-return](https://wayne.edu/coronavirus/returning-guidelines#-students-return).

Campus conditions and requirements as of August 16, 2022

- Masks are required in classrooms and laboratories, and optional in most campus locations.
- You must complete a Campus Daily Screener each day before coming to campus or any time you have a known exposure, or experience COVID-19 symptoms.
- All students, faculty and staff must submit proof of their COVID-19 vaccines, at least one booster and flu vaccine.
- Indoor events of more than 50 participants and outdoor events of more than 100 participants require pre-approval from the Campus Health Committee.
- These requirements will be regularly updated to be consistent with current science and recommendations.

**SCHEDULE** Some Key Dates: 3/18 (Spring Break, No Class), 4/22 (Last Day of Regular Class),



Final Project Due/Presentations on: 4/29

Note: Last day to drop with tuition cancelation: Monday, 1/23

Last day to request course withdrawal: Sunday, 3/26

**SCHEDULE OVERVIEW BY ASSIGNMENTS/TOPICS**

- 1 Course Introduction, Exploring Site | Assignment #1: Brainstorming Site
- 2 Assignment #2: Developing a Site Inventory
- 3 Assignment #3: Surveying and Conceptualizing Site/Site Analysis
- 4 Assignment #4: Conceptual/Typological Precedents
- 5 Assignment #5a: Site Plan & Preliminary Site Diagrams
- 6 Assignment #5a: Revised Site Plan & Preliminary Site Diagrams
- 7 Assignment #6: Iterative Process
- 8 Assignment #7: Exploring Rhino & 3D Modeling
- 9 Assignment #8: Architectural and Urban Storyboarding
- 10 Assignment #9: Final Project/Boards

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT** Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong (Waa-we-yaa-tih-nong), also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe (Oh-jib-way), Odawa (Oh-daa-waa), Potawatomi (Pow-tuh-waa-tuh-mee), and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people.