

**COURSE** GPH 3900 / US 3900 / UP 5999 *Urban Visualization*

**INSTRUCTOR** Laura Foxman / laura.foxman@wayne.edu, 917-528-8685 (call if urgent)

**TIME & LOCATION** Saturdays @ 8:30-11:00 AM / Online

**OFFICE HOURS** After class (i.e. 11:00 AM-onward). Schedule appointments with the Instructor by email or in person.

**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**

To explore various visualization software, specifically Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator for presentations; AutoCAD for drafting; and Rhino for 3D computer modeling.

To develop strategies for documenting place/site through photography, sketching, diagramming, mapping.

To creatively and rigorously engage conceptual design, visualization and process (iteration) through an urban design group competition, short exercises and an individual speculative design project.

**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, brainstorming 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.

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 site 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 is a must for exceptional grade evaluation.

**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**

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

Note 1: Materials can be purchased @ Blick Art Materials, 4501 Woodward Ave.  
313-833-9616

Note 2: You will be using materials beyond what is listed here; this is by no means exhaustive.

**TECHNOLOGY**

- 1 A camera phone or some means of photographing process is required.
- 2 Laptop with Adobe Suite installed (recommended, \$20/month)
- 3 AutoCAD can be downloaded for free with student email account (recommended)
- 4 Adobe Suite, AutoCAD, Rhino software (accessible by Splashtop)
- 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; and will turn in a transcribed copy of their edited notes/diagrams at the semester’s end. Additionally, students will

complete one multi-week design exercise and one semester long (formal) writing project.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES INCLUDE:**

1. **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES** 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.

2. **STUDENT DISABILITY 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. Once you have your accommodations in place, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your special needs. 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 at [www.studentdisability.wayne.edu](http://www.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/)

3. **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 ([caps.wayne.edu](http://caps.wayne.edu); 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 ([coe.wayne.edu/tbf/counseling/center-index.php](http://coe.wayne.edu/tbf/counseling/center-index.php)). 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 (313 577-2222) has personnel trained to respond sensitively to mental health emergencies at all hours.

4. **PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY** Academic misconduct is any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or undermine the education process. Examples of academic

misconduct include:

- **Plagiarism:** To take and use another's words or ideas as your own without appropriate referencing or citation.
- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use or intentionally providing unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. This includes copying from another student's test paper, allowing another student to copy from your test, using unauthorized material during an exam and submitting a term paper for a current class that has been submitted in a past class without appropriate permission.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional or unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation, such as knowingly attributing citations to the wrong source or listing a fake reference in the paper or bibliography.
- **Other:** Selling, buying or stealing all or part of a test or term paper, unauthorized use of resources, enlisting in the assistance of a substitute when taking exams, destroying another's work, threatening or exploiting students or instructors, or any other violation of course rules as contained in the course syllabus or other written information.

Such activity may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from Wayne State University. <https://doso.wayne.edu/conduct/academic-misconduct>

**5. COURSE DROPS AND WITHDRAWALS** In the first two weeks of the (full) term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. After the end of the second week there is no tuition or fee cancellation. Students who wish to withdraw from the class can initiate a withdrawal request on Academica. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the tenth week. Students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. Because withdrawing from courses may have negative academic and financial consequences, students considering course withdrawal should make sure they fully understand all the consequences before taking this step. More information on this can be found at:

<https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping>

#### **6. 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 Research and Technology Zone is located on the 2nd floor of the Undergraduate Library and provides individual tutoring consultations free of charge. Visit: <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/writing> to obtain information on tutors, appointments, and the
- 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. Info:

[https://library.wayne.edu/forms/consultation\\_request.php](https://library.wayne.edu/forms/consultation_request.php)

**7. 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 s/he cannot, such as discussion of confidential or protected information.

**SCHEDULE** Some Key Dates: 3/20 (Spring Break, No Class), 4/24 (Last Day of Class), Saturday 5/1 (Final Project Due)