



University of Colorado Boulder, Program in Environmental Design

ENVD 3009-842: Urban Site Analysis and Design Studio, Summer 2022

SYLLABUS

Schedule: Course meeting times vary by week, refer to schedule posted on Canvas
Credits: 6 Credits
Faculty: Assistant Clinical Professor, Marianne Holbert, AIA
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office hours: Office hours by appointment and on zoom

OVERVIEW

Rome, Italy offers an unparalleled opportunity to probe and explore the rich layers that human evolution has left on urban history. The complexities of design in urban sites, especially in cities like Rome, reveal the layering of urban sociology, historical preservation, the politics of the public realm, and other disciplinary overlaps as they all contribute to use and human occupation. Environmental design has the capacity to serve as an expression of human values and a context for human activity. It addresses the interrelated behavioral, cultural, historical and environmental, issues that underlie the organization of built form. In the design process, students are challenged to direct a sensitivity, imagination, and intellect to inform and shape coherent environments for people.

This studio-based course will incorporate an analysis of physical, socioeconomic, and historical factors in Rome ultimately leading to interdisciplinary design projects. Students will begin with site analysis and produce diagrams, and orthographic drawings as part of this process and as evidence of their investigations to inform the final design intervention. Design students will build on the work from prior studios and lay the foundation for work in future studios. Following a thorough site analysis, students will propose a design strategy and conduct a compelling proposal that addresses fundamental issues of the site. The overarching goals of the design interventions will naturally vary by the specialization areas of the students. Graphic communication through orthographic and three-dimensional space communication are an important part of an international, inter-institutional, interdisciplinary experience.

Classes will be taught in Rome on diverse architectural sites. The Studio course (6-credits) is designed to accompany students through the rich cultural experience of living abroad, to probe urban issues that define Rome's urban form and examine a design proposal culminating the experience. Students are enrolled in the Layers of Rome (3 credits) course concurrently, which provides an intensive introduction to the architectural history of Rome. The course has a particular focus on urbanism, architectural history, and site analysis. The Layers of Rome course and survival Italian (non-credit) are threaded throughout the first three weeks to engage understanding of architectural history, urban and social fabric of Rome.

To further support, challenge, and expose students to historical and contemporary ideas, students will have a series of readings. Students will need to demonstrate knowledge of these texts through short written responses, and carry the ideas discussed into their studio design proposals. The readings will support further design thinking and sketching skills. Sketching is an integral part of the course to enhance visual communication and observation skills through free-hand sketching. The course requires the use and development of design skills such as articulate graphic production and diagramming, three-dimensional modeling/rendering, drafting, and digital graphics. It is advised that students taking this studio be adept with digital design (i.e., drafting, 3d modeling, page layout, etc.).

The course material will be presented through a series of lectures, field trips, site visits, presentations and discussions between you, your peers, your instructor, site users, and design professionals. It has a combination of on-site analysis work, photographic documentation, sketching visits, studio exercises, museum tours, firm visits, workshops, design exchanges with Italian architecture students, and academic excursions.

Phase 1: Site Analysis + Conceptual Design

Phase 1 of the course will be dedicated to the examination of the relevant site context, cultural, and historical influences, climatic site forces and more. Students will select the particular segment of the site for design investigation. By deepening the understanding of the site, people and history will help shape the critical questions of the design thesis and conceptual design. Students will frame their core positions, sharpen research question for deeper analysis, and develop the framework for conceptual development.

Phase 2: Design Development and Final Proposal

The second phase will build upon the earlier research and move into design development. This phase will include more developed plan development, digital or physical model building, three-dimensional explorations, and renderings. This phase will expand upon the work done in the previous phase to explore programming, experiential qualities, circulation, and more. We will have pin ups, and juried reviews with Italian design professionals. This phase will conclude with a final presentation with a clear design thesis, site research documentation and appropriate graphical communication to support the proposal.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will be able to:

- *Professional Communication Skills:* Ability to write and speak effectively and use appropriate representational media with peers and with the general public. Engage in a discourse on issues of architecture, environmental and urban design through design thinking and site analysis
- *Design Thinking Skills:* Ability to raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test alternative outcomes against relevant criteria and standards.

- *Design Skills:* Ability to effectively use basic formal, organizational and environmental principles and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design. Recognize and assess urban elements, natural features, and human systems and use them to inform design proposals.
- *Investigative Site Analysis:* Ability to gather, assess record, apply, and comparatively evaluate relevant information within coursework and design processes. Describe and analyze, through research and graphical representation the different layers that constitute the site and essential elements of the use of civic space. Understand how the historical, cultural and environmental factors of a city become working material for designers
- *Graphic Communication:* Communicate with clarity, through verbal and graphic means, a design proposal informed by the spectrum of issues, sites and case studies in the urban structure in Rome. Use appropriate drawing conventions, orthographic and axonometric drawings, models, graphic design to examine and propose design interventions addressing the urban issues under exploration
- *Freehand-Sketching and Visual Notetaking:* Comprehend and apply freehand sketching as a method for studying space. Understand the concepts of freehand sketching by exploring line, tone, composition, volume, and proportion. Increase familiarity with the local environs through sketching.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on their ability to meet the learning outcomes described in the individual project assignments. Corresponding rubrics will accompany each assignment to expand the students understanding of these objectives. Student attendance and participation points are integrated into the rubrics. Components of assessment will include:

1. STUDIO EXERCISES

This component of your grade will be based on how well you understand and critically approach the studio assignments in conjunction with how thorough and complete the investigations are executed. In design, outstanding solutions comes from a tenacity to attempt ideas, discover their successes and failures, learn from them and continue to better the work at hand. Willingness to produce, self-critique and refine ones' work is critical to excellence in design and expected in this studio.

2. SKETCHBOOK

Sketching offers a new mode of seeing and examining the world through shapes, lines, colors, and the relationships between these things. For designers, sketching is a fundamental skill that is acquired through practice. It is a powerful tool for documenting and exploring three-dimensional space.

All students must keep a sketchbook for the course. There are specific weekly sketching assignments to be uploaded to Canvas and shared in class. The sketchbooks will be reviewed at periodic intervals. You are encouraged to take your sketchbook with you everywhere and to complete assignments to hone visual observations skills, develop greater fluidity with freehand sketching and enhance knowledge of buildings and spaces in and around Rome.

3. RESEARCH

In design studios, learning is not from the studio instructor and peers but also through cultural engagement. Involvement in diverse activities in Rome and connecting with the local people, food and culture become avenues of research. When coming across a design problem, it is expected that the student is self-motivated to research the pertinent issues. This may consist of precedent studies, technological studies, reading, or empirical documentations; anything that further develops the understanding of the students' design problem at hand.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Environmental design is a graphic and productive profession. It is expected that students will present ideas articulately through words, diagrams, drawings, renderings, digital models, etc. These are also imperative components to the daily studio discussions. This component of the grade is based the intellectual, verbal and graphical representation of the work conducted.

5. ATTENDANCE + PARTICIPATION

Attendance is mandatory and active participation in these dialogues is critical. There will be pin-ups, reviews, assigned readings, and discussions. Attendance and participation are integrated into both the midterm and final project rubrics. The studio space, especially on an academic level should be a vibrant exchange of ideas, positions, and opinions.

EVALUATION

Grading is based on the University System. The final evaluation will be assessed on the following basis:

Participation, Reading Responses + Discussion	10%
Sketchbook	25%
P1: Site Analysis and Conceptual Design	30%
P2: Design Development and Final Proposal	35%

Grades

94-100= A 87-89= B+ 80-82= B- 73-76= C 67-69= D+ 60-62= D-
90-93= A- 83-86= B 77-79= C+ 70-72= C- 63-66= D 59-0= F

The faculty reserve the right to make changes or alterations to the course, as necessary, from time to time. Students will be informed of changes in person or by email. Any questions or concerns about a grade received must be brought to the attention of the instructor within seven (7) days of receiving it. After seven days, the grade is final.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

In this course, we will work together to create a respectful class space where everyone can take intellectual risks with the support of the class, and where each student is supported in success. To that end, here are the university-suggested policy statements regarding the specifics of that expectation.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Canvas

Canvas will be the platform through which most course activities take place. CANVAS is the online learning environment that we use for announcements, recording attendance, submitting assignments and posting materials, and grading. *Set up the proper notifications on Canvas to be alerted about Canvas activity.* Organize your Canvas dashboard to hide classes that are not active.

Email

Outside of studio time, your CU email (name@Colorado.edu) is our method of communication. You are expected to check your email messages at least every 24 hours during the week to keep up with course announcements.

Instructor availability & communication

I will communicate with you via CU email and some Canvas Announcements. Set up the proper notifications on Canvas to receive announcements via email. Missing an important announcement may impact your grade. I will answer your emails as soon as possible (within 24-48 hours during the week).

USE OF DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM

When in the classroom, you are expected to be fully engaged. This includes lectures and group discussion in studio. Using electronic devices (e.g., phones, laptops, tablets, and other gadgets capable of connecting to the internet or phone system) during class time makes it terribly difficult for you to be fully present. It also affects the learning environment of those around you (like second-hand smoke). Unless you have explicit permission from your instructor, you are expected to store all electronic devices and use technology only for appropriate studio work. Think of this as a guideline that helps foster a respectful learning environment for all.

TIME AND MONEY

For every hour you spend in class, you should plan to spend two to three hours on coursework outside of class time. If any of the required materials are cost prohibitive, please notify your instructor.

GRADING & LATE WORK

Major assignments will be graded with a specific rubric made available to the student. Assignments are due on the day listed on the schedule. Final presentations work must be uploaded to the Canvas folder by the deadline. Per the ENVD policy, if you don't show up to a presentation, you will receive a zero. There are not extensions for reviews. If you experience an extreme circumstance (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) which causes you to miss a review, you are asked to submit documentation to the Director of Advising within two weeks of the occurrence.

Please turn your work in early to ensure that any technology problems do not result in a lowered grade. Any assignment uploaded after that time will be docked three percentage points (3%) for every 24-hour period it is late. No assignment may be turned in more than seven late without express permission from the instructor, which will be given only in extreme circumstances. Students shall communicate with the instructor before the submission deadline to make accommodations.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ALL ENVD CLASSES

Class attendance is a strict requirement. Treat class as you would a professional job. You must attend each class session including remote sessions. After three course absences your grade will be reduced. After six absences you will not receive ENVD credit for the course. Save your missed class for the unexpected. Attendance will be taken in each class meeting.

Absences due to illness

DO NOT attend class if you feel sick. Be respectful of your classmates and stay home. *Communicate with your instructor as soon as possible if you are unable to attend class.* Work with your instructor, classmates and/or TAs to catch up on classwork and perhaps to do desk crits remotely. If illness requires that you miss

more than three class periods, inform your instructor and advisor. These absences will not impact your grade.

Attendance guidelines

1. Faculty will keep an updated attendance record and make it accessible to students in Canvas.
2. Faculty will determine the penalty for arriving late. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late three times, this counts as an absence.
3. Three absences in the first two weeks are grounds for an administrative drop from the course.
4. More than three absences will result in a final grade reduction. *Refer to the chart below.*
5. More than six absences will result in not receiving ENVD credit for the course.
6. All absences are treated the same regardless of circumstance. Please communicate with your instructor as soon as possible, if you will miss a class. You do not need to provide a doctor's note for missed class.
7. If you experience an extreme circumstance (illness, hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) which causes you to miss more than three classes, please discuss with each of your instructors. You will be asked to submit documentation to the [Director of Advising](#) within seven days of the occurrence.
8. If you don't attend a presentation, you will receive a failing grade on the presentation.
9. One-credit courses will follow these policies, but more than two absences will cause a grade reduction.

Absence	Grade Reduction	Hypothetical Grade		
1	no change	A	B	C
2	no change	A	B	C
3	no change	A	B	C
4	1st grade reduction	A-	B-	C-
5	2nd grade reduction	B+	C+	no ENVD credit (D+)
6	3rd grade reduction	B	C	no ENVD credit (D)
7+	no ENVD credit	no ENVD credit (D+)	no ENVD credit (D+)	no ENVD credit (D-)

ENVD STUDIO POLICIES

Studio is a creative, collaborative environment and a crucial part of your ENVD education. You must not only attend studio to succeed in the program, but your time in studio should be used wisely. Many studio projects are time consuming. Studio sessions provide time to work and to gain feedback from your instructor and your peers. You will find that many environmental design professions have a similar, creative workspace.

****Working in studio outside of regular class time is critical to your success****

STUDIO ENVIRONMENT

You are to arrive in studio promptly and be prepared to work for the duration of each studio meeting. Tardiness will affect your final grade. If you arrive more than 5 minutes late three times, you will be counted as absent. You must work in the studio for the entire scheduled period. If you need drawing materials or resources from the library, be sure to get them before the studio period. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each studio event, including lectures.

Use of phone, laptops, etc. during studio time

Your instructor will communicate their policy on the use of cellphones and other electronic devices in class. In general, the use of smartphones and other mobile devices will not be allowed during lecture periods and class-wide presentations and discussions. This is not a punitive rule, this is to help you make the most of your time in class. Numerous studies show that digital distractions in the classroom result in reduced productivity.

Deliverable Submissions and Penalties

Your instructor will collect your projects or require a digital upload to Canvas at the appointed time. Canvas marks items with a time stamp to check deadline conformance. If your project is not submitted, your project may receive a substantial "markdown" (10% to 50%) or a failing grade (0%). Only extenuating circumstances like a serious family problem or extreme illness will exempt you from this hand-in requirement. *A missed final review or presentation is grounds for failing that assignment.* Make arrangements to ensure timely printing or plotting. Instructors may not review work not plotted or printed. No excuses will be accepted for technical difficulties, lost or corrupted files, freezes or crashes. Participation in reviews is a privilege and students may be held out of juries based upon the instructor's evaluation of their work to date.

Working Models and Drawings

The drawings, diagrams and models that are used to develop your design should be continually updated and *available at all class meetings*. It is important that drawings and models be developed as "working" materials for quick development matching the fast pace of the studio. Models which display rough cuts and pencil marks, and drawings which are worked over with notes, trace and sketches show the time and thought necessary in project development. Hard copies of all work, including "red-lines" and trace studies are expected and encouraged as part of a working drawing technique. Students are required to find an appropriate balance between the fast pace and necessity of working models & documents with the time-consuming craft needed for the full representation of the project. Your instructor may provide you with a list of allowable materials.

Grading

Major assignments will generally be graded with a specific rubric. A good design is never developed on the first try. Good designers explore numerous alternatives and work out their ideas in increasing detail. Although studio projects will differ somewhat, you will find that most projects are assessed according to a range of criteria that includes process, creativity, graphics and the degree to which you explored the design problem. Doing well in a single area of these areas alone does not guarantee a good grade. Hard work alone does not guarantee a high grade. A functional design alone does not earn a good grade nor does a flashy presentation. The best grades will go to projects that balance all of these factors as well as excel in each.

Use of studio and classroom space

Please observe the following rules in the studios that have been established for the safety, convenience, and maintenance of all who use the space. You are required to know the following policies and procedures, including but not limited to:

1. Respect the arrangement of your desks with your fellow students so that everyone can establish a comfortable working space. Do not block the aisles, which are legally guarded fire escape routes. If you cannot reach a stairway without tripping over desks and supplies, you are in violation of the fire codes.
1. The desks in some studios are considered "hot desks," meaning they are shared by other students in the program. When you come into the studio to work outside of class time, you may work at any available desk provided it is not reserved for a class.
2. Overhead fluorescent lighting fixtures are not to be tampered with.
3. Listen to music with headphones (if permitted by your instructor). Not everyone wants to listen to your music.
4. Do not draw or paint on the walls or desks.
5. Absolutely NO power tools are to be used in the building (including 'Dremels')
6. No sprays of ANY kind are allowed (paints, spray adhesives, Etc.) in the studios, stairwells, crit spaces, outside, i.e., no spraying anywhere but in the Spray Booth on the third floor.
7. Do not cut materials on unprotected drawing desks.
8. Per University policy, only service animals are allowed in the building.
9. Do not bring bicycles into the building. This is also strictly forbidden by the University.
10. Do not bring alcoholic beverages or drugs into the building. The University maintains an alcohol/drug-free policy for its students and in its buildings. *You could be expelled for this violation.*

CU is a smoke-free campus. People may not smoke or vape any substance including, but not limited to, tobacco, cloves, or marijuana indoors and outdoors on campus. Please refer to the following link for more info: <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/no-smoking-policy>

CU SYLLABUS STATEMENT

Classroom Behavior: Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Requirements for COVID-19: As a matter of public health and safety, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policy on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

CU Boulder currently requires masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a precaution to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks, if they so choose.

If you feel ill and think you might have COVID-19, if you have tested positive for COVID-19, or if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you should stay home and follow the further guidance of the [Public Health Office](#) (contacttracing@colorado.edu). If you are fully vaccinated and have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay home; rather, you should self-monitor for symptoms and follow the further guidance of the [Public Health Office](#) (contacttracing@colorado.edu).

Accommodation for Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns: CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may

include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation: CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. The university will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, [reporting options](#), and the support resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit [Don't Ignore It](#).

Religious Holidays: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please contact the instructor or the TAs, at least one week prior, if accommodations are needed. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health Resources and Contacts

Your mental and physical health are of utmost importance. You are encouraged to reach out to me and/or the Campus Wellness Team if you are struggling or need support in any way.