

THE UNIVERSITY   
*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
*at*  CHAPEL HILL  
  
DEPARTMENT *of* CITY *and* REGIONAL PLANNING

**PLAN752** Principles of Site Planning and Urban Design

Prof. Andrew H. Whittemore

Fall 2021

**Overview**

This course examines site planning as a process of creating the built environment. The elements that planners consider in site planning are diverse, including site hydrology, soils, vegetation, topography, uses, building arrangement and form, access, and so on. Regulation, real estate markets, and local community concerns also demand that site planning operates with careful consideration of the wider, off-site environment. In this class we will review these various aspects of site planning and over the course of the semester, working in teams, you will conduct a site analysis and create a design concept and then a final site plan and accompanying report.

**Logistics**

The class meets on Mondays from 3:50-6:20pm in Gardner 209. Class sessions will consist of lecture and discussion. SketchUp training sessions will be held in the New East computer lab.

**Readings and Texts**

All readings are available on the Plan 752 Sakai class website at https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/plan752fa21. There is no required text. I will also provide access to excerpts from the American Planning Association’s *Planning and Urban Design Standards* (2006), which will provide key information on technical issues of site arrangement such as typical building and parking area dimensions.

**Computer Software**

No prior experience with SketchUp is required for the course, but you should familiarize yourself with software prior to our first lab session. The best resource for using SketchUp is available online at <http://help.sketchup.com/en>. Many other online tutorials exist as well. One text on using SketchUp is Daniel Tal’s *SketchUp* *for* *Site* *Design:* *A* *Guide* *to* *Modeling* *Site* *Plans,* *Terrain* *and* *Architecture* (Wiley Interscience, 2009). SketchUp Pro is available on all terminals in the New East Computer Lab.

**Assignments and Grading**

All assignments relate to the analysis and design of the site located on West Rosemary Street between Mitchell and Andrews Lanes in Chapel Hill. The first is a site analysis report (due 4 October). The second is a rough site concept and report (due 8 November). The final assignment is your final concept plan, including the 2-D site plan and 3-D axonometric drawing (drawn in SketchUp), and an accompanying report. Students will work in teams, and will present their final schemes in a poster session in the New East reading room on 6 December.

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

10% Class participation

10% Site analysis

10% Rough site concept

50% Final project

10% Poster Session

10% Peer Evaluations

**Contact Information**

My office hours will be held via zoom (go.unc.edu/whittemorezoom) and are on Wednesdays, 11:00am-12:00pm. I can also be reached via e-mail at awhittem@email.unc.edu and can schedule meetings outside of office hours.

**OTHER ACADEMIC BUSINESS**

**“The Honor System forms a bond of trust among students, faculty, and administrators. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill operates under a system of self-governance, as students are responsible for governing themselves. As such, our University is transformed into a powerful community of inquiry and learning. The Honor Code embodies the ideals of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship, and governs the performance of all academic work a student conducts at the University. Acceptance of an offer of admission to Carolina presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in our century-old tradition of honor and integrity.”**

http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/honor-code/

I am committed to treating Honor Code violations seriously and urge all students to become familiar with its terms set out at https://studentconduct.unc.edu/. If you have questions it is your responsibility to ask the professor about the Code’s application.

Any student who is impacted by discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or stalking is encouraged to seek resources on campus or in the community. Please contact the Director of Title IX Compliance (Elizabeth Hall – cehall@email.unc.edu), Report and Response Coordinators in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (reportandresponse@unc.edu), Counseling and Psychological Services (https://caps.unc.edu/), or the Gender Violence Services Coordinators (gvsc@unc.edu) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at safe.unc.edu.

Missing Class: Students are permitted to miss class for EXCUSABLE absences only. Students are allowed one unexcused absence without any questions from the instructor. If a student has two unexcused absences, their grade will be affected.

Accessibility: The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities. All accommodations are coordinated through the Accessibility Resources and Service Office. In the first instance please visit their website https://ars.unc.edu/, call 919-962-8300 or email ars@unc.edu. Please contact ARS as early in the semester as possible.

Resources: Our purpose as professors is to help you to excel in this learning environment. Should you need further assistance beyond the help of the professor, please consult the following on-campus resources:

•  The Writing Center: http://writingcenter.unc.edu/

•  Learning Center: http://learningcenter.unc.edu/

•  Counseling and Wellness Services: [http://campushealth.unc.edu](https://outlook.unc.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=TX9P-iEKuUOJ13QgJZni44yxaiBLvNEI7xytaJmv-to-UbSem5tbnY2HQL2SGLERRpN73Xe03_U.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fcampushealth.unc.edu)

**SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

23 AUG **Course Overview**

Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack, *Site Planning* (MIT Press, 1984 [3rd edition]): "The Art of Site Planning," 1-28

e-book: Rudolph T. Hester and Marcia J. McNally, “Intertwist and intertwine: sustainability, meet urban design,” in Banerjee, T. & Loukaitou-Sideris, eds., *Companion to Urban Design* (Routledge, 2011): 619-631

LaGro, James A. Jr., *Site Analysis: A Contextual Approach to Sustainable Land Planning and Site Design* (John Wiley & Sons, 2008): “Shaping the Built Environment,” 3-22

30 AUG **Downtown Chapel Hill, Site Visit**

e-book: Anne Whitson Spirn, “Ecological urbanism,” in Banerjee, T. & Loukaitou-Sideris, eds., *Companion to Urban Design* (Routledge, 2011): 600-610

Downtown Chapel Hill by the Numbers (2018) https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50454623e4b0b97fe5aa64c5/t/5a7310b6e2c483babaf33e9a/1517490367890/Downtown+Chapel+Hill+By+the+Numbers+2018.pdf

Chapel Hill Planning Department and Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership. *Downtown Vision and Implementation Plan* (2014)

http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=24093

6 SEP **LABOR DAY – NO CLASS**

13 SEP **Topography & Hydrology, Stormwater Management Tour**

William M. Marsh, *Landscape Planning* (Wiley, 2010 [5th edition]): "Topography, Slopes, and Land Use Planning," 91-110; Excerpt from “Assessing Soil for Land Use Planning and Waste Disposal,” 111-130; “Best Management Practices, Local watersheds, and Development Sites,” 275-292

Chapel Hill Land Use Management Ordinance, Appendix A

https://library.municode.com/nc/chapel\_hill/codes/code\_of\_ordinances?nodeId=CO\_APXALAUSMA

Chapter 5.3 “Critical Areas and Environmental Performance Standards”

Chapter 5.4 “Stormwater Management”

20 SEP **Vegetation and Climate, Campus Horticulture Tour**

William M. Marsh, *Landscape Planning* (Wiley, 2010 [5th edition]): “Vegetation, Land Use, and Environmental Assessment,” 405-426, Excerpts from “Solar Climate Near the Ground,” 350-358 and “Microclimate, Climate Change and the Urban Landscape,” 375-384

Chapel Hill Land Use Management Ordinance, Appendix A https://library.municode.com/nc/chapel\_hill/codes/code\_of\_ordinances?nodeId=CO\_APXALAUSMA

Chapter 5.7 “Tree Protection”

27 SEP **Cultural Attributes, Workshop**

LaGro, James A. Jr., *Site Analysis: A Contextual Approach to Sustainable Land Planning and Site Design* (John Wiley & Sons, 2008): “Site Inventory: Cultural Attributes,” 139-168

Shantan Krovvidi “Over two decades, students have flocked to single-family homes in Northside” *Daily Tarheel* 2 February (2015)

http://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2015/02/over-two-decades-students-have-flocked-to-single-family-homes-in-northside

Town of Chapel Hill, *Regulations for the Northside Neighborhood Conservation District Plan* (2004)

<http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=12179>

Town of Chapel Hill, *Northside Design Guidelines* (2004)

http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=729

Town of Chapel Hill, *Northside/ Pine Knolls Community Plan* (2012) http://www.townofchapelhill.org/home/showdocument?id=11921

4 OCT **Site Analysis Assignment Due, Northside Field Trip**

11 OCT **Zoning**

Chris Brewster, Matt Lawlor, Brian Ohm, and Mark White “Tweaking the System: Getting Projects Built and Codes Changed Within the Existing Framework,” in Daniel K. Slone and Doris S. Goldstein *A Legal Guide to Urban and Sustainable Development* (Wiley, 2008): 63-88

Daniel G. and Karen Parolek, *Form-Based Codes: A Guide for Planners, Urban Designers, Municipalities, and Developers* (Wiley, 2007): "Introduction," 3-14; “The Regulating Plan,” 17-27

Chapel Hill Land Use Management Ordinance, https://library.municode.com/nc/chapel\_hill/codes/code\_of\_ordinances?nodeId=CO\_APXALAUSMA

Section 3.3.1 “Town Center,” 3.3.9 “Residential Districts,” “Use Matrix” Table 3.7-1, and Chapter 3.8 “Dimensional Standards”

18 OCT **The Program and Conceptual Design, Workshop**

Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack, *Site Planning* (MIT Press, 1984 [3rd edition]): “The Program,” 107-126

LaGro, James A. Jr., *Site Analysis: A Contextual Approach to Sustainable Land Planning and Site Design* (John Wiley & Sons, 2008): “Conceptual Design” 209-249

25 OCT **Housing & Mixed Use, Sketchup Lab I**

Goldstein, Doris S. “Special Building Types” in Daniel K. Slone and Doris S. Gloldstein *A Legal Guide to Urban and Sustainable Development* (Wiley, 2008): 227-254

Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack, *Site Planning* (MIT Press, 1984 [3rd edition]):

“Housing” 251-294

1 NOV **Access & Parking, Sketchup Lab II**

Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack, *Site Planning* (MIT Press, 1984 [3rd edition]): “Access” 193-222

e-book: Elizabeth MacDonald, “Streets and the public realm: emerging designs,” in Banerjee, T. & Loukaitou-Sideris, eds., *Companion to Urban Design* (Routledge, 2011): 419-432

Chapel Hill Land Use Management Ordinance, Appendix A https://library.municode.com/nc/chapel\_hill/codes/code\_of\_ordinances?nodeId=CO\_APXALAUSMA

Chapters 5.8 “Access and Circulation” and 5.9 “Parking and Loading”

8 NOV **Rough Site Concept Due, Workshop**

15 NOV **Urban Design Principles, Sketchup Lab III**

Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (MIT Press, 1960): "The Image of the Environment," 1-13; "The City Image and Its Elements," 46-90

Cliff Moughtin, *Urban Design: Street and Square* (Architectural Press, 1999): “Towns and Buildings,” 63-85.

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (Vintage, 1961): "The Uses of Sidewalks," 29-73; "Mixed Primary Uses," 152-177; "Small Blocks," 178-186

22 NOV **PROJECT WORK SESSION**

29 NOV **PRESENTATIONS**

***15-minute Presentations***

6 DEC **POSTER SESSION, FINAL DUE**