DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

LA 301 Housing and Community Design - Fall Semester 2026

Studio Space: AB 319

Class Times: MWF 1:00 – 4:50 p.m.

Drawn image of a small village (source: Istock image used for calmatters.org article “Community involvement is key to solving housing crisis”)

Instructors:	Paul Maginnity	Kathy Unland
Office:	AB 113	AB 113
Office Hours:	By Appointment	By Appointment

"The majority of the issues that our community is facing would be eliminated or drastically reduced if we could just figure out a way to become a community of great neighbors.” - Bob Frie, past mayor of Arvada, CO.

C O U R S E S Y L L A B U S

Course Description [from BSU Catalog]
"Design projects focusing on social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental issues as they relate to land-planning and site design for housing developments and residential communities."

Prerequisites

LA202 – Park and Open Space Studio
LA280 – Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture

Course Overview
This course will be delivered in a studio format, emulating aspects of a professional LA office setting, with periodic lectures supporting studio topics and reading-based discussions interspersed with studio projects, on-site fieldwork, and essential on-going professional-level scholarship (e.g., discovery, experimentation and intensive research initiatives). A broad spectrum of housing and residential community related topics will be addressed in this studio. Topics will include historic, contemporary and emerging theories and practices related to housing and neighborhoods, concepts and directions in community planning and design, traditional neighborhood design, conventional subdivision design, community open space planning and design in support of housing communities, Land Stewardship, new urbanism related to residential aspects, transit-oriented residential developments, and sustainable community planning and design.

Course Learning Objectives
At the end of the course, each student should be able to:

Identify and Analyze factors that influence the creation of housing communities and neighborhoods: Legal, Ecological, Socio-Cultural, Aesthetic/Philosophical. (Knowledge of Design Determinants)

Learn, Retain, and Express through writing, project presentations and design annotation, landscape architectural terms, concepts, and vocabulary for housing and community landscape planning and design. (Design Vocabulary)

Use and Illustrate the Understanding of Design Determinants through the creation of housing neighborhoods and communities that:

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and analyze legal, ecological, socio economic, and aesthetic factors that influence the creation of housing communities and neighborhoods.
2. Demonstrate awareness to the needs of individuals, families, and diverse groups of people in the context of community design.
3. Apply best planning and design practices for the development of safe, healthy, diverse, and resilient housing and community landscapes.
4. Express an understanding of both historical precedent for community design as well as evolving contemporary landscape planning and design practices and emerging strategies for housing and community design.
5. Exemplify ecological sensitivity and environmental stewardship.

Course Structure
This course will be taught in-person in a studio setting. It will be structured around a full range of learning experiences including lectures, site visits, written and oral critiques, papers, readings, and juries, with studio design assignments as the primary focus. Opportunities will be provided for both individual and group pursuits.

Expectations and Evaluation
The studio is an exploratory environment. Students are expected to attend all studio sessions, reviews, site visits, and lectures. When not participating in discussion with the instructor or in other forms of design critiques, students should be actively engaged in the developmental stages of project design throughout the studio sessions. The evaluation of coursework will provide the primary basis for grades in the studio, however, structured measures of evaluation for other aspects such as intellectual engagement, participation, and design study strategies will be used as additional evaluative criteria.

A	=	100% - 94%	C-	=	<74% - 70%
A-	=	<94% - 90%	D+	=	<70% - 67%
B+	=	<90% - 87%	D	=	<67% - 64%
B	=	86% - 84%	D-	=	<64% - 60%
B-	=	<84% - 80%	F	=	below 60% = fail course
C+	=	<80% - 77%			
C	=	<77% - 74%			

A Work reflects outstanding accomplishment related to course and project objective
B Work is significantly above the level necessary to accomplish course and project objects
C Work reflects an acceptable level of achievement related to project and course objectives
D Work is below average to poor related to course and project objectives
An **F** reflects failure to achieve minimum levels of acceptability related to course and project objectives.

Attendance
Attendance to class is an expression of commitment and interest as well as professionalism.
Students who miss a lecture or a demonstration will be responsible for the material covered in their absence. Students are expected to be actively engaged in design development during each studio session. It is your responsibility to set daily advancement goals in the development of a project. Your faculty will also often prescribe steps, tasks, and expectations that should be accomplished from one studio session to the next.

Late work
All projects are due at the specified deadline. Student should submit work at whatever stage of completion it has reached at the specified due time. Extensions requests will be evaluated on case-by-case basis. Students will be required to submit official documentation for any sick/injury related issues. A grade will be assigned to your work in accordance with the criteria established in the assignment and any late penalties (see below).

Late submittals must be **addressed immediately and communicated** to instructor **before the deadline**. Failure to communicate with instructors prior to submittal deadline, will result in a **zero being recorded for that assignment, no exceptions**. Late work that is approved and accepted by instructors will still be subject to a **deduction of one grade for each day it is late** (Example: Assignment grade = B+, Late one day = will be reduced to B).
No incomplete grade will be given without sufficient and compelling cause.

Late Pin Up
All scheduled pin ups **will start on time**. All work is expected to be complete well before the start of class time and pinned up on designated spaces **before** the start of class or designated start time. Printer or other technology malfunctions before class will not be an excuse late work.

Work not pinned up may not be allowed to be installed once class starts. Missing items will keep work from receiving valuable feedback from peers and instructors. Late pin ups may also result in a late work penalty (will vary by assignment).

Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, involves violations of procedures which protect the integrity of the coursework completed by a student. Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the University community. Academic dishonesty by a student will not be tolerated, for it threatens the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity.

Sketchbook
All students should maintain and regularly utilize a physical sketchbook. Extent, scope and "quantity" of daily/weekly sketching, diagramming, and design experimentation related to this studio's subject matter should be shared with instructors more frequently as course progresses. This sketchbook may be used during both desk crits and presentations. This tool provides an opportunity for recording design thinking, inspiration, critical note taking, review and sharing. Content from other department courses is allowed and encouraged to establish links between course content. Appropriate size and type of sketchbook could vary and can be discussed with instructors.

Connection to Practice
ASLA – Professional Practice Network – Housing and Community Design
www.asla.org/housing

Reading List:
The following references are recommended for this studio course. Students will occasionally need to reference these texts for assignments and projects.

References
Missing Middle Housing. Parolek. ULI 2020
Residential Development Handbook. Lloyd Bookout. ULI. 2004
The Next American Metropolis. Peter Calthorpe. 1993
Retrofitting Suburbia. Ellen Dunham-Jones and June Williamson. 2011
Creating Liveable Streets: Street Design Guidelines for 2040, Portland Oregon
Sprawl Repair Manual, Galina Tachieva
Site Planning. Kevin Lynch and Gary Hack. 1984
Towns and Town-making Principles, Andres Duany. 1991
Garden Cities: Theory and Practice of Agrarian Urbanism, Andres Duany. 2011
A Pattern Language, Christopher Alexander. 1977

The instructors may also place in the studio / Canvas some reference material selected from their personal libraries to augment class content. This material is provided solely for student enrichment and needs to be treated with responsibility and professionalism.

University Policies and Statements

University Statement
We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

Freedom of Expression
In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

Student Absences
Absences will be excused for the following reasons: funeral and bereavement leave, jury duty, late course addition, military absences, observance of religious holidays, pregnancy leave, student-athletes participating in University- or department-approved activities, and university advisories. Students may encounter other circumstances (e.g., car accidents, job interviews) that result in course absences. Only faculty members for this course can excuse these absences and adjustments are at the sole discretion of the instructors of this course. (**https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/student-conduct/policiesandprocedures/studentcode**) The bottom line is that students are expected to notify all their instructors once they anticipate being absent for any reason or as soon as possible after the absence begins (e.g., unexpected injury or illness). The student may need to provide documentation (with confidential information redacted when appropriate) to each instructor if requested.

Disability Statement
If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact your instructor(s) as soon as possible. The BSU Office of Disability Services coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu or SC116. Please note that instructors are not authorized to determine disability, provide certification of disability, or to arrange for a determination of disability. Any student who needs a determination or statement of disability should contact the Disability Services immediately. (Office of Disability Services)

Title IX
Ball State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students. If you or someone you know has experienced sexual harassment—including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, please know that you are not alone. The University offers support services and resources. For more information or to report an incident, please visit bsu.edu/titleix or contact the Title IX Coordinator at 765-285-1545 or at titleix@bsu.edu

As your instructors, we are mandatory reporters under the Title IX policy and required to report any information either of us receive about possible sexual harassment. This includes information shared in class discussions, assignments, or private conversations.

What happens after I report? The Title IX Coordinator will email the person who experienced sexual harassment (complainant) and invite them to schedule a meeting. If the complainant **chooses** to meet with the Title IX Coordinator,

- Title IX Coordinator will offer supportive measures (e.g., counseling, extensions on deadlines, course-related adjustments, changes to work or class schedules, and/or referrals to campus offices), review the policy, and discuss options to move forward.
- If a complaint is filed by the complainant or the University, an investigation will begin following University policy.

University Grade Appeal Policy
If you believe you received a final course grade that does not reflect your performance due to fairness or a procedural issue, you have the right to file an appeal within 5 school days after final grades are posted by the Office of the Registrar. Review the University Grade Appeal Policy and Process.]

Student Academic Ethics Policy
Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the university community. Academic dishonesty and other forms of academic misconduct threaten the foundation of an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and will not be tolerated. To maintain its credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations of scholastic and creative performance, Ball State University is committed to maintaining a climate that upholds and values the highest standards of academic integrity. Visit the VPAA's academic integrity website (Students tab) for resources on understanding academic integrity, citing sources properly, and avoiding inadvertent academic dishonesty. To learn about BSU's academic integrity expectations and students' rights, please read the University Student Academic Ethics Policy.
Academic integrity violations include giving or receiving an unfair academic advantage (cheating), presenting someone else's ideas or work as your own (plagiarism), and falsifying academic records. Unless otherwise indicated, you must work independently by yourself. Check with me if you are unsure whether something constitutes academic dishonesty. Examples of academic integrity violations include but are not limited to:

- Using resources not authorized by the faculty member (including devices, AI tools, hidden notes, and open books)
- Using commercial study websites to find answers to graded assignments (Chegg, Course Hero, StudyPool, OneClass, etc.).
- Without the instructor's written permission, giving away, buying, or selling graded assignments class notes, exams, study guides, or other course materials to other students or to third-party vendors (Course Hero, Chegg, 24HourAnswers, etc.).
- Working with another person on any assignment other than authorized group projects.
- Sharing or allowing others to access your files, whether done with permission or not.
- Reusing your own work from another semester, course, or section.
- Sharing answers with others during exams (passing notes, texting, whispering, gesturing)
- Discussing exam questions and answers with students who have not taken the exam.
- Soliciting others to complete work for you.

Generative AI Statement

All work conducted and/or submitted in this course must be your own, completed in accordance with the Ball State University's Student Academic Ethics Policy. You may not collaborate with or make use of ChatGPT or any other generative AI applications at any time to develop materials submitted in this course **unless your instructors explicitly give you permission in writing**. If and when Generative AI is allowed for use, full citations must be provided. Be aware that current AI tools often provide invalid references, so it is the student's responsibility to check any references provided by any generative AI tool to ensure they are valid and reputable. Grade deductions will be made for any erroneous citations or reference information.

Student Support Services

Student Success Coach
Larisa Rathinasamy (larisa.rathinasamy@bsu.edu) is the Student Success Coach for the College of Architecture and Planning. You can reach Larisa directly at 765-285-1167 or via the email listed

above. Students may meet with Larisa or any of the other student success coaches. Success coaches are able to talk to any student about issues related to adapting to college life, procrastination, motivation, interpersonal relationships, etc. They assist students in making plans for each semester by supporting them in achieving your goals. This relationship is student-driven and strengths-based.

The Learning Center
The Learning Center offers free Tutoring and Academic Coaching for many courses at Ball State. Students can make appointments for online (Zoom) or in-person (NQ 350) appointments.

For more information about all Learning Center programming, visit **bsu.edu/learningcenter** or call 765-285-1006.

The Writing Center
The Writing Center is a community of trained Ball State students and faculty who value all types of writing. If a student needs help with writing, she/he should seriously consider making an appointment to meet one-to-one with one of their enthusiastic and supportive staff. It is located in RB 291, 285-8387. To make an appointment go to ballstate.mywconline.com. (**https://www.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/writingcenter**)

Technical Assistance
If a student needs technical assistance with Canvas or other IT/hardware/software issues, she/he should contact the BSU Help Desk at 765-285-1517 or toll-free at 1-866-771-3276. You may also visit the link below and follow the Knowledge Base link to find useful how-to videos and answers to many frequently asked questions. They are available for walk-in support at Tech Center, Bracken Library, room 101. (https://bsu.service-now.com/helpdesk)

Community
Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge | Ball State University.

Other Important University Policies and Student Resources

- Academic Ethics policy: **https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student-services/academic-integrity**
- Ball State Beneficence Pledge: **https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/student-conduct/policiesandprocedures/beneficence** (academic excellence and high standards of scholarship, academic integrity and honesty, social responsibility, and respecting our differences)
- Counseling Center: **https://www.bsu.edu/campuslife/counselingcenter**
- Grade Appeal policy: **https://www.bsu.edu/about/administrativeoffices/vice-provost/student-services/grade-appeals**