

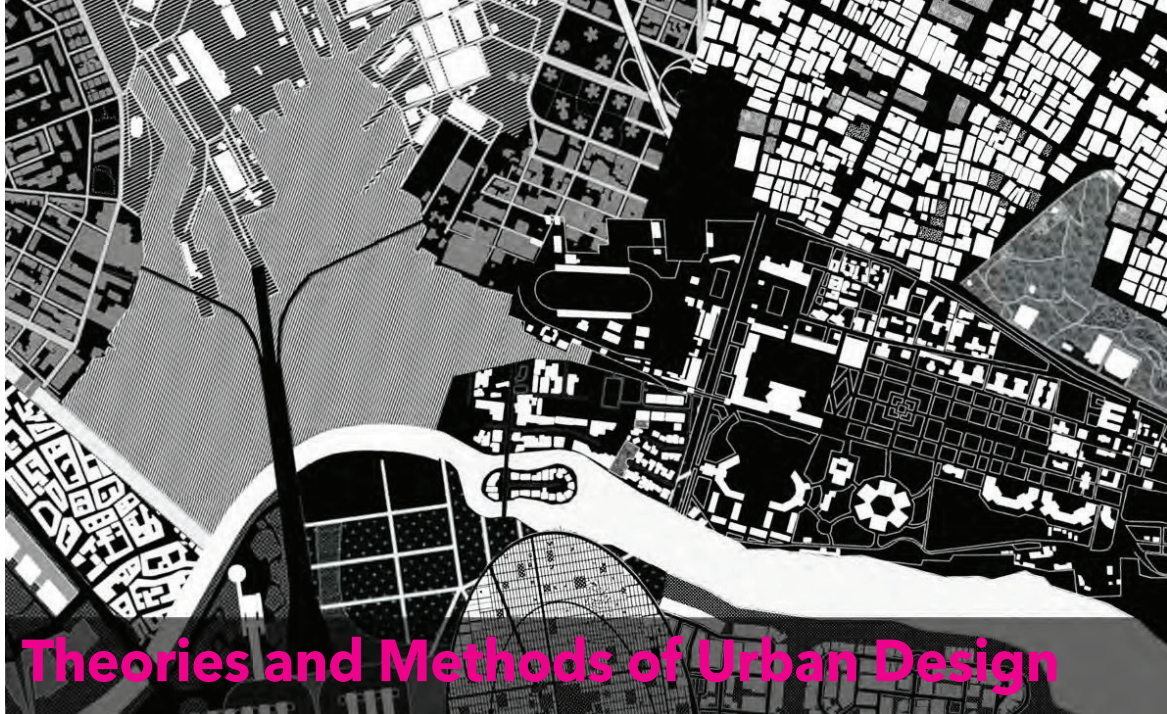
## SCHEDULE & INSTRUCTIONAL MODE

Tu-Th: 10-11.30 am, 2213 A&AB

In person? In person... In person!!!

## INSTRUCTOR

María Arquero de Alarcón  
marquero@umich.edu



# UD 715

# Theories and Methods of Urban Design

This seminar course surveys contemporary theories and practices of urbanism as a lens for critically engaging in urban design discourse and practice. Urbanization dynamics reveal embedded relationships between urban space and power, cultural and environmental agendas, design and socioeconomic regimes, governance and representation. In order to examine urban design practice globally, this course presents an interdisciplinary cross-section of theories of urbanization, drawing from architecture, landscape, planning, urban design, cultural theory, geography, sociology, political science, and ecology.

## Previous years' themes include:


Anthropocene Urbanism  
Hinterland / Planetary Urbanism  
Crisis / Emergency Urbanism  
Critical Urbanism  
Ecological / Landscape Urbanism  
Empirical Urbanism  
Everyday and Learning From Urbanism  
Ephemeral Urbanism  
Gendered Urbanism  
Informal / Insurgent Urbanism  
Infrastructure / Network Urbanism  
Lean / New / Tactical Urbanism  
Post-Colonial Urbanism  
Post-Industrial Urbanism  
Smart City/Digital Urbanism  
Typological Urbanism  
Social Urbanism  
Utopian / Visionary Urbanism

This core course for master of urban design students is open to graduate students at Taubman College and beyond. While there are no prerequisites other than interest in the study of the urban condition, the course requires active and steady engagement with the material through reading, writing, graphic representation and discussion. Every year, students take a leading role co-designing the course, through content generation, delivery and format definition. The different course components enable students to advance research topics of their interest and engage in conversation with guest scholars and practitioners.

## SEMESTER STRUCTURE AND COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The semester starts with the definitions of the terms "urbanism" and "urban design," acknowledging that both terms have multiple points of origin and distinct traditions. We discuss the social, political and aesthetic circumstances out of which these terms emerged, tracing trajectories forward to the contemporary theories and practices surveyed in the ensuing semester. In subsequent weeks, students research and present a series of urbanisms and work on a research project. The syllabus changes every year to accommodate students' input and their disciplinary interests as they explore urban phenomena in global geographies of their choice.

## Samples of Students' Work:

 [2020 TAMUD](#)  
 [2019 TAMUD](#)  
 [2018 TAMUD](#)

In terms of studio assignments, there are three main components to the semester:

1. Weekly reading / project responses.
2. Two team presentations of your selected urbanisms.
3. Research investigation on a territory (larger than a city, smaller than the planet). This investigation will further showcase a subset of urbanisms discussed during the semester through the analysis of specific projects or urban conditions.