Course Objectives. Designers are not a humble lot. Throughout history, prominent architects, landscape architects, and planners have not been afraid to publish their proposals for urban design. Oftentimes, these proposals take the form of "Charters" or "principles" that have a significant impact on built form. This course is an introduction to these theories and to the practice of urban design. In this course, under four broad categories, students will analyze key theories of urban form and their accompanying principles that have shaped the study and design of cities. In the Analytical City, academics and practitioners have carefully analyzed existing conditions as a precursor to proposing detailed urban design principles. In the Circulation City, scholars have privileged streets and public ways as primary attributes of city form. In the Modernist City, functional efficiency and aesthetic clarity have been the priorities. More recently, in the Sustainable City, theoreticians and practitioners have been using smart growth principles and new urbanism in hopes of minimizing the negative environmental impacts of development. Underlying each of these theoretical positions are economic, political, and cultural forces that largely determine success and failure. The objective of this course is for students to develop an awareness of these theories and principles, an understanding of how they have developed over time in response to socio-political forces, and an ability to use these theories and principles in the critique and creation of urban form.

Course Assignments. The main project will be the analysis of an urban setting built following one of the theoretical approaches presented in the course. This will include a discussion of the theory, a detailed presentation of the specific principles employed by advocates of the theory in the creation of the setting, an analysis of the theory's strengths and weaknesses, and a critique of the actual setting that resulted from the application of the theory. Students will first present the project in class as a formal, academic presentation illustrated with slides as appropriate. Then, they will submit the project as a final academic paper (15-20 pages not including images) with appropriate illustrations and bibliographic references. Students will also prepare weekly reading responses. These three-page papers address issues raised by the week's readings (available as a course reader from the UO Bookstore). However, they are not simple summaries, rather they are critical reflections on the material presented and will serve as guides for in-class discussion. There will be no final exam.

Course Structure. The course will meet once a week, so regular attendance is of paramount importance. Class sessions will consist of several parts that may include instructor-led presentations of the theory under review; student-led critical discussions of the theory and its application; and analyses of the applicability of the respective theory and principles using debates and field exercises.