Special Problems/4900/001

Instructor Information

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Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

We face numerous complex challenges globally, and governments, Non-Governmental Organizations, and industries look for innovative responses. This course demonstrates how multidisciplinary, multinational teams link creativity and innovation by investigating historical and contemporary European design, focusing on Amsterdam’s and the Bauhaus’s contributions. The course focuses on design, including objects, systems, and institutions, to illustrate the interplay between social, technological, environmental, economic, ethical, and political forces.

The course is in-person, during the summer sessions 5 Week 1, and delivered through on-site experiences.

Learning Objectives include:
At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. (Conceptual) Compare cultural design strategies between Texas and the Netherlands on a macro scale, urban planning, transportation, and wellness, and a micro scale, marketing, technology, & and food.
   a. Students will be expected to maintain a digital and analog notebook of artifacts and experiences that illustrate the merits of at least five design responses.
      i. On-site experiential observations
        1. Students will create a unified presentation suitable for web-based applications illustrating the research methods.

2. (Procedural) Actualize & and communicate design strategies.
   a. Students must document their process while participating in a project-based learning workshop.
      i. Workshop
        1. Present their process and design outcome to SPDA 3300: Project Design Thinking or video recording.

3. (Metacognitive) Investigate why stories matter and how they influence stakeholders.
a. Students analyze their audience(s) and frame appropriate communication strategies to convey design responses.
   i. Workshop
      1. Provide a video produced on site presenting your story.

Required/Recommended Materials

No textbook is required. Readings assigned to enhance and provoke discussion will be provided by instructor.

Please note: the following components are required for every UNT syllabus: Instructor contact information, course title/section, required and optional course materials, course competencies/assignments/requirements, and learning objectives. Online classes must address F-1 Visa policies and lab courses must present safety procedures.

How to Succeed in this Course

As your instructor, I will endeavor to reply to any question or query within 24 hours. My role in this course is to present you with the opportunity to acquire foundational knowledge that can benefit you in your chosen profession.

• Your responsibility is to ask questions, seek clarification, and participate in studio conversations.
• I’ll make every effort to articulate the assignments and expectations clearly and will depend on you to request clarification.

Since this is a study abroad course, normal office hours aren’t relevant. I will be available during the academic activities and will be available after hours for emergencies.

• Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
• Use clear and concise language.
• Remember that all college-level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
• Use standard fonts such as Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman and use a size 10- or 12-point font
• Be careful with personal information (both yours and others).
• Do not send confidential information via e-mail.
• Include your name and section number in all correspondence.

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every
semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (http://www.unt.edu/oda). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Assessing Your Work

Include the grading scale (A-F) along with the point totals and/or percentages you will use to calculate the final grade. A numeric example of a grading scale might be:
A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = 500-599

Include a list that details the point/percentage values for each assignment/type of assignment. You might also include grading criteria that describe the quality of work that constitutes an A, B, C, etc. Lastly, it is best practice to provide your policy on late work here as well as details regarding the presence or lack of extra credit opportunities.

Course Requirements/Schedule

Itinerary

Day 00 – TBD              Orientation session at Frisco Landing (FRLD)
Day 0 – Friday, May 31, 2024  Depart for Amsterdam
Day 1 – Saturday, June 1    Orientation Dinner
Day 2 – Sunday, June 2      Rembrandtplein Square
Day 3 – Monday, June 3      Day 1 of workshop
Day 4 – Tuesday, June 4     Day 2 of workshop
Day 5 – Wednesday, June 5   Day 3 of workshop
Day 6 – Thursday, June 6  Day 4 of workshop
Day 7 – Friday, June 7  Day 5 of workshop
Day 8 – Saturday, June 8  Personal Day
Day 9 – Sunday, June 9  Dam Square, NPK Design (Leiden, NE)
Day 10 – Monday, June 10  A’DAM Tower, Stedelijk Museum
Day 11 – Tuesday, June 11  Jordan Neighborhood/9 Streets, The Hauge Royal Academy of Art
Day 12 – Wednesday, June 12  Van Gogh Museum, Reframing Studio Service Design Firm, Amsterdam
Day 13 – Thursday, June 13  Rijks Museum, Fabrique des Lumieres
Day 14 – Friday, June 14  Ann Franks Museum
Day 15 – Saturday, June 15  Personal Day
Day 16 – Sunday, June 16  TBD
Day 17 – Monday, June 17  Amsterdam Centre for Architecture
Day 18 – Tuesday, June 18  Designiert Service Design Firm, Dusseldorf, Germany
Day 19 – Wednesday, June 19

Video graphic Presentation due June 23, 2024

Attendance and Participation

Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to learning. Our project-based activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. I understand tardiness and absences may occur. If you are late to class, please drop me an email to let me know the circumstances. If you must miss class, please let me know prior to your absence.