ADES 5530 : Theories Employed by Design Researchers
FALL 2018 THURSDAY 6:00 – 8:50PM ART 366

COURSE SYLLABUS
Instructor: Christina Donaldson, RID, EDAC, LEED AP ID+C, Adjunct Instructor
Office Hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:00 pm, by appointment only
Office: TBD, E-mail: Christina.Donaldson@unt.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
3 hours. This course is a rigorous introduction to a diverse set of means to deepen students’ understandings of how and why design research can be formulated to foster and facilitate design processes that yield socially, economically, environmentally and even politically relevant, innovative and sustainable outcomes. Design research will also be presented as being informed by a paradigm that is epistemologically broad in scope and, as such, is capable of affecting the development of several types of theoretical models that are both practically applicable, AND that can effectively guide rigorous analytical processes. The knowledge developed during this course will be utilized to augment the knowledge and understandings students constructed during their enrollment in ADES 5520 | Design Research Methods.

SUGGESTED RESOURCE TEXTS:

+ Other required readings will be provided by the instructor.

COURSE CONTENT:
This course introduces students to academic research as both a professional and scholarly activity, which constitutes systematic inquiry as a means of answering questions related to the creation of the built environment. It provides an overview of theories and methods that seek to clarify the relationship between people and places and offers a range of techniques on gathering, assessing, and comparatively evaluating relevant information for such an inquiry.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Students enrolled in this course will gain the experiential knowledge necessary to work independently and in collaborative teams to achieve the following objectives:

• Formulate and utilize theoretical approaches to research so that it can be easily interpreted
• Analyze and evaluate research endeavors in design as a means to become familiar with design research
• Begin to learn how to formulate viable research questions
• Gain experiential knowledge regarding essential research-related terminology
• Become familiar with a selection of methods for engaging in both applied and original research formulations and approaches
• Write scholarly accounts of research endeavors
COURSE STRUCTURE:
This course is offered in a lecture format with 3 contact hours per week. Students will become familiar with a variety of theoretical constructs both proximate to and seemingly distant from design. They will also accrue knowledge of and about several means for gathering, analyzing and understanding scholarship regarding design research, and a select array of models for identifying and conducting research that can inform both the practical aspects of the inquiry-driven, evidence-based decision-making processes that can inform design.

The coursework this semester may consist of multiple writing assignments, quizzes and research related projects. Students are expected to work in class and outside class as required, and participate in discussion and critiques during class hours.

STUDENT EVALUATION:
Upon successful completion of all requirements, grades will be determined by a weighted average of the grades earned for the attendance, participations, assignments, tests, and research projects. Please note that failure of any one project may lead to failing this course.

20% Classroom participation (discussion, ideation, peer interaction, etc.)*
25% Outside assignments
25% Journals (10 journals total for semester)
30% Final Paper

*Please note, you are now a graduate student, as such you’re expected to participate in your own learning and the learning of others!

All work is due in the classroom no later than the date and time specified on the project schedule. No work will be considered after the due date unless an Absence Verification form has been submitted (see Attendance Policy). No email submission will be accepted unless specified.

A letter grade will be submitted on the basis of the weighted average as follows:

90% and above   A   Excellent
80% to 89.99%   B   Good
70% to 79.99%   C   Average
60% to 69.99%   D   Below Average
59% and below   F   Failing

A:  EXCELLENT achievement. Execution is at a professional level. Included work exceeds that requested in the project outline.
B:  Good quality of creative solutions and execution. It may be lacking in polish or appropriateness of solution or it may lack sufficient information to communicate effectively, but above average.
C:  Average (not inferior). Work has met all course requirements but may lack originality and appropriateness and/or execution is not professional.
D:  Failure to meet minimum quality and informational standards.
E:  Failure to fulfill requirements of the course.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Good attendance and punctuality are required for student success in this class, and will strongly affect your grades. Roll will be taken at the outset of every class. You will be considered late if you arrive at class after roll has been taken. If you are late, it is your responsibility during that class period to make sure that the instructor has you added to the roll.

Only two (2) unexcused absences will be allowed per student over the course of the semester. The third unexcused absence will lower your final semester grade by one letter grade. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your grade by two letter grades. The fifth unexcused absence will lower your grade by three letter grades. A total of six absences, excused or unexcused, will result in you receiving a grade of F for the class. There are no excused absences for anything but a verifiable death in the immediate family or with a doctor’s note on his/her stationery with a telephone number and e-mail address. The doctor’s note must be presented at the class that immediately follows the one the student has missed. A receipt from a doctor’s office is unacceptable.

You will receive two (2) free tardies. Beyond that, every three tardies will equal one unexcused absence.

LATE WORK:
Unless otherwise noted, assignments and projects are due at the beginning of the class period designated. Late assignments and projects will be reduced one letter grade for each additional late class period. Students with unexcused absences will receive a score of “0”, and CANNOT turn in work that was due that day. No emails of work will be accepted unless specified. Students with excused absences may make up missed work within 2 class periods after returning to class, unless otherwise excused by the instructor.

INCOMPLETE:
An Incomplete is reserved solely for extenuating circumstances (such as a major illness or severe family crisis) and will be granted at the discretion of the instructor. If an Incomplete is granted, the student must complete the unfinished work on or before the date specified by the instructor when the Incomplete is granted. An Incomplete Contract must be completed prior to the end of the semester and filed in the Department Office. Failure to complete the entire work assignment on or before the specified completion date will result in a final grade of an “F” with no consideration given to partially completed work.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT:
The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of 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 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 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 see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.
ADES 5530 : Theories Employed by Design Researchers
FALL 2018 THURSDAY 6:00 – 8:50PM ART 366

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION:
Please notify the instructor if you have a disability that requires accommodation. It is also recommended that you register with the UNT Office of Disability Accommodation, Student Union, Room 318. The College of Visual Arts and Design policy on accommodation is available upon request in the CVAD Dean’s offices, ART 244. Further questions and problems on accommodation may be addressed to Associate Dean Eric Ligon, School Accommodation Liaison, Art Building, Student Advising, ART 345D.

COURSE RISK FACTORS:
According to University Policy, this course is classified as a category one course. Students in this course are not exposed to significant hazards and are not likely to suffer any bodily injury. Students will be informed of any potential health hazards or potential bodily injury connected with the use of any materials and/or processes and will be instructed how to proceed without danger to themselves or others.

PRECAUTIONS:
In consideration of the group, the environment, and the facilities, please be respectful. No food or drinks are allowed in the class. No mobile phones are to be audible during class hours unless permitted by the instructor. No radios, tape, CD, or mp3 players during class hours. No pets or guests are allowed in class.

BUILDING EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:
In case of emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the building evacuation plans posted on each floor of your building and proceed to the nearest parking lot. In case of tornado (campus sirens will sound) or other weather related threat, please go to the nearest hallway or room on your floor without exterior windows and remain there until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.

CENTER FOR STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See www.unt.edu/csrr for further information.

STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF TEACHING (SPOT):
The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

RETENTION/REPRODUCTION OF STUDENT WORK:
All students must read the Model Release Form and the Publication Release Form posted on the CVAD Website. (See pull-down menu, “CVAD Student Information.”) It is the student’s responsibility to document their work for personal purposes. Students will be allowed to photograph their work prior to retention.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARRASSMENT & ASSAULT
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) have experienced or experience any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT’s Dean of
ADES 5530: Theories Employed by Design Researchers
FALL 2018 THURSDAY 6:00 – 8:50PM ART 366

Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648.

RIGHT OF CHANGE
The right to change this syllabus with or without notice remains at the discretion of the professor. Moreover, based on the fluid nature of the course, its ongoing classroom experiences and developing research activities, the professor may and will likely elect to change projects, learning experiences, outcomes, scheduling, assessment and in- and outside classroom activities during the semester. At his/her discretion, the professor will alert students to any changes if and when they are to occur and provide them with sufficient time to adjust their respective class and research activities.

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:
Please read the syllabus, Permission to Use Student Work, and UNT Legal Model Release Form thoroughly. As you understand information on the syllabus and the publication policies, sign the student acknowledgement form on next page and turn it in to the instructor.
Student Acknowledgement Form

Student name: ________________________________

Phone number: _______________________________

E-mail (UNT Email Only): _______________________

I acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the information on the syllabus such as course structure, grading and attendance policies, the risk factor rating, etc. I hereby agree to the syllabus and its provisions.

PLEASE CHECK AND SIGN ALL (3) SECTIONS BELOW:

☐ ADES 5530 – Design Research, Section 601 1
Course number, title, and section (please check)  Risk Factor Rating

__________________________________________  __________________________
Student signature  Date

I [ ] agree  [ ] do not agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the Publication Release Form.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Student signature  Date

I [ ] agree  [ ] do not agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the Model Release Form.

__________________________________________  __________________________
Student signature  Date

Christina Donaldson
Instructor name  Instructor Signature  Date