



## ADES 1513

CONTEXTUAL RESEARCH METHODS

# class syllabus >> class policies, procedures, rules and requirements >>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

3 hours. This class will be an introduction to the basic theories and application of UX and contextual research methods.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate a working familiarity with basic research theory and methods.
2. Demonstrate the ability to identify, frame, ideate, prototype and implement particular UX outcomes based on research evidence and data.
3. Demonstrate the ability to collaborate with classmates and work effective in groups.

### REQUIRED BOOKS

*Research for Designers: A Guide to Methods and Practice*, Gjoko Muratovski (Sage Press, 2016)  
*Just Enough Reesearch*, Erika Hall (Mule Books, 2024)

### COURSE STRUCTURE

This class will be extremely demanding in mental focus and commitment involving many hours of home-work. You may expect that 80–90% of class time will be spent in critique and discussion of work completed outside of class. The remaining 10–20% will be spent in in-class work, lecture and demonstration.

### GRADING

Maximum number of points a student can earn for design and concept is a total of 100%.

You will be graded on the following criteria:

Research and Analysis :: proficiency, flexibility, clarity, logical inferences

Design: presentation :: technical proficiency :: design/ideation

Performance: attitude :: deadlines :: participation :: engagement :: proactivity/curiosity

Professionalism: presentation :: follows instructions :: critique :: class interaction

### RISK FACTOR

Risk Factor: 2. In level 2 courses, students are exposed to some significant hazards but are not likely to suffer serious bodily injury. In this class those risks are related to x-acto knife usage, adhesives and fumes and repetitive stress injuries related to extended computer use. 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."

### ACCOMMODATION/EMERGENCIES

"The College of Visual Arts and Design is committed to full academic access for all qualified students, including those with disabilities. In keeping with this commitment and in order to facilitate equality of educational access, faculty members in the College will make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with a disability, such as appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies when doing so does not fundamentally alter the course. If you have a disability, it is your responsibility to obtain verifying information from the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and to inform me of your need for an accommodation. Requests for accommodation must be given to me no later than the first week of classes for students registered with the ODA as of the beginning of the current semester. If you register with the ODA after the first week of classes, your accommodation requests will be considered after this deadline. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed. Information about how to obtain academic accommodations can be found in unt Policy 18.1.14, at [www.unt.edu/oda](http://www.unt.edu/oda), and by visiting the ODA in Room 321 of the University Union. You also may call the ODA at 940.565.4323."

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 their until an all clear signal is sounded. Follow the instructions of your teachers and act accordingly.



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### ATTENDANCE POLICY

Good attendance and punctuality are expected for this class and will strongly affect your grades. Roll will be taken at the beginning of every class. You be considered late if you arrive after roll has been taken. If you are late, it is your responsibility during that class period to make sure the instructor knows that you are present by leaving a note with your name, date and time of arrival with the instructor. If not received, you will be marked as absent. You will receive two (2) free tardies. After the first two tardies, every four (4) tardies will equal one (1) unexcused absence. Only three (3) unexcused absences will be accepted. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your final semester grade by one letter grade. The fifth unexcused absence will lower your grade by two letter grades. The sixth unexcused absence will lower your grade by three letter grades and so on. A total of seven absences, excused or unexcused, will result in you receiving a failing grade (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 stationary with a telephone number. The doctor's note must be presented at the next class. A receipt is unacceptable. If you are more than thirty minutes late, it will be counted as an unexcused absence.

If you are absent, you are responsible for contacting a class member in order to get any information or assignments that were given in class. The instructor will not use any class time to repeat missed lectures or assignments. Do not call the main office to leave the instructor a note that you are missing class for any reason. Under no circumstances should you leave a project with anyone in the main or design office. The office will not accept any projects. Incomplete daily work may result in additional unexcused absences at the discretion of the professor.

### ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones should be turned off when class begins. Laptops will only be opened for in class work. No checking email or text messaging will be allowed. Failure to comply with this rule may result in point deductions in the professionalism section of your grade or an unexcused absence at the discretion of the professor. Consistent violations of this policy will result in forfeiture of phone at the beginning of each class. Let your instructor know in advance if you have an extenuating circumstance with regard to the above rules.

### GRADING POLICY

All projects are due on the day and time given at the beginning of class. No late projects will be accepted for grading. You are responsible for turning in work on time regardless of attendance.

### PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is literary or artistic theft. It is the false assumption of authorship; the wrongful act of taking the product of another person's mind and presenting it as one's own. Copying someone else's writing or art, intact or with inconsequential changes, and adding one's name to the result constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism will result in the immediate failure of the class and may result in expulsion from the university. Disciplinary probation, suspension from the university, expulsion (permanent), or revocation of degree. (See student guidebook)

### RIGHTS

### & RESPONSIBILITIES

Each University of North Texas student is entitled to certain rights associated with higher education institutions. See [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr) for further information.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress:

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

### FINANCIAL AID

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about



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financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

### CHANGES

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Instructor reserves the right to make adjustments/changes to the course syllabus with or without notice.





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# class contract >> sign it! >>

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

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NAME (PRINT)

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SIGNATURE

---

DATE

Please fill in your contact information below:

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YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS

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YOUR PERMANENT ADDRESS

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YOUR PHONE NUMBER

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YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER

May we include your e-mail address on the Communication Design List Serve?

PLEASE CHECK: ☐ YES ☐ NO

May I include your e-mail address and phone number on a class phone list for distribution to the rest of the class?

PLEASE CHECK: ☐ YES ☐ NO

"I agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the *Permission to Use Student Work* contract."

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PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

And

"I agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the UNT *Legal Model Release Form* contract."

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PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

## class schedule

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### WEEK 1 :: 18-20

#### T/TH

**LECTURE:** Syllabus, attendance, required book and supplies  
General overview of design research, its value, and application

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 2 Research for Design (RFD), Design & Research + Module 1**

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### WEEK 2 :: 25-27

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 2 RFD, Design & Research + Module 1/Exercise

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 3 RFD, Research Essentials + Module 2**

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### WEEK 3 :: 1-3

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 3 RFD, Research Essentials + Module 2/Exercise

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 4 RFD, Qualitative Research + Module 3**

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### WEEK 4 :: 8-10

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 4 RFD, Qualitative Research + Module 3/Exercise

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 5 RFD, Quantitative Research + Module 4**

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### WEEK 5 :: 15-17

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 5 RFD, Quantitative Research + Module 4/Exercise

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 6 RFD, Visual Research + Module 5**

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### WEEK 6 :: 22-24

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 6 RFD, Visual Research + Module 5/Exercise

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 7 RFD, Applied Research + Module 6**

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### WEEK 7 :: 29-1

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 7 RFD, Applied Research + Module 6/Exercise

**ASSIGN:** **Chapter 8 RFD, Research & Design + Module 7**  
**Initial research project possibilities**

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### WEEK 8 :: 6-8

#### T/TH

**DISCUSSION:** Chapter 8 RFD, Research & Design + Module 7/Exercise  
Initial research project possibilities

**ASSIGN:** **Semester Research Project**  
**Research production schedule**

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### WEEK 9 :: 13-15

#### T/TH

**CRITIQUE:** Ongoing work, semester Research Project

**ASSIGN:** Ongoing work, semester Research Project  
**Interviewing Users**, entire text as reference for research project



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### WEEK 10 :: 20-22

T/TH

CRITIQUE: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

ASSIGN: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

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### WEEK 11 :: 27-29

T/TH

CRITIQUE: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

ASSIGN: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

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### WEEK 12 :: 3-5

T/TH

CRITIQUE: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

ASSIGN: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

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### WEEK 13 :: 10-12

T/TH

CRITIQUE: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

ASSIGN: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

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### WEEK 14 :: 17-19

T/TH

CRITIQUE: **Thanksgiving Break**

ASSIGN: Ongoing work, semester Research Project

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### WEEK 15 :: 24-26

T/TH

CRITIQUE: **Thanksgiving Break**

ASSIGN: **Final Research Project Report**

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### WEEK 16 :: 1-3

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CRITIQUE: Final Research Project Report Presentation

ASSIGN: Final Research Project Report

Group self-assessment

TH

DUE: **Final Research Project Report**

**Group self-assessment**

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