

Semester: spring 2014

Meeting Time: 6:00 – 9:50 M

Location: CVAD

E-mail: k.owens@unt.edu

Office: Art Building, Room 208

Office Hours: TBD

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Course Description

For your final class in our program, you will have an opportunity to explore a higher level of designing than prior students insofar as for the first time, you will be exposed and be expected to integrate design research theory and methods into your design practice. Moreover, you will be expected to co-create durable, evidenced-based design solutions to indeterminate, complex real world problems. This advanced design approach will be very demanding of your time and concentration.

Required Readings

1. *A Designer's Research Manual*, Jenn + Ken Visocky O'Grady, Rockport 2009 (paperpack ed.)
2. *Design Research: Methods and Perspectives*, Ed. Brenda Laurel, MIT Press 2003
3. *Graphic Design Theory: Readings From the Field*, Ed. Helen Armstrong, Princeton 2009
4. *Design Studies: Theory and Research in Graphic Design: A Reader*, Ed. Audrey Bennett, Princeton 2006

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate and/or document knowledge about and skills in the following areas:

1. Operate basic (rudimentary) research theorizing and method implementation, principally participatory action research (PAR) theory and collaborative co-creative methods.
2. Become aware of and operate evidence-based design practice.
3. Conduct simple field research, re: ethnographic and psychographic data gathering
4. Support primary field research by undertaking and applying rigorous secondary research.
5. Work successfully with project stakeholders to achieve common goals.
6. Thoroughly document research processes and design intervention outcomes.

Course Structure

Students will spend most of their time in class in group critique and/or discussion on their ongoing research, analysis and design. Therefore, the majority of all class work will occur outside of class and each student will be expected to manage their time and efforts accordingly. Classes early in the semester will be primarily lecture based with students being exposed to knowledge to basic research theory and methods.

Student Assessment and Evaluation

Final class grades will be based on a weighted average of grades awarded for assessment categories listed below. Affected by attendance (as described in the attendance policy) and daily deadline performance.*

1. **40% Quality of research thinking, findings and application**
2. **40% Quality of design solutions, re: appropriateness, effectiveness, durability, etc.**
3. **20% Class participation and collaborative interaction**

Disability 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 in the University Union, Room 322. The College of Visual Arts and Design Policy on Accommodation is available upon request in the main office (Room 107) of the Art Building. Further questions and problems regarding accommodation may be addressed to the Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, Eric Ligon, who is also the College Accommodation Liaison Officer, in Room 111 of the Art Building.

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Risk Factor Rating

This course has a Risk Rating of Level 2. This means that students are exposed to some significant hazards but are not likely to suffer serious bodily injury. In this course, those risks are related to X-acto knife usage, adhesives and fumes, and repetitive stress injuries related to extended computer use.

Emergency Actions

In case of an emergency (alarm will sound), please follow the existing emergency protocols for the University Systems Building. The DRC operates in an urban environment, so students should be alert to their surroundings at all times and be particularly mindful of their personal safety. For more information about students' rights and responsibilities within the academic community, visit www.unt.edu/csrr.

Faculty Evaluation

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized courses at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester so that you can offer constructive criticism regarding how this class is taught. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this course, as I utilize the feedback I get from it improve my teaching. You will be notified of the dates for the Spring administration of the SETE by the University.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed maximum time frames established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility. 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 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.

Attendance Policy

Good attendance and punctuality are expected for this class and will strongly affect your grades. Roll will be taken at 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 three (3) unexcused absences will be allowed. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your grade by one letter grade and so on. 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. The doctor's note must be presented at the next class. A receipt is unacceptable.

You will receive three (3) free tardies. Beyond that, every four tardies will equal one unexcused absence.

Student Grant of Publication Permission

1) **Grant of Permission.** I, the undersigned, am a student at the University of North Texas (UNT) and I am enrolled in one or more CVAD graduate or undergraduate courses. By my signature below I hereby grant permission to UNT to use, copy, reproduce, publish, distribute or display any and all works created to comply with the requirements of this course in accordance with the terms set forth below. Additionally I consent to the disclosure of the work created in this class as may be accompanied by my name and other personally identifiable information for purposes as set forth below.

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2) **Scope of Permission.** This permission extends to the use of the described work and images of such work: (1) for academic purposes in order to demonstrate examples of student work to current and future UNT students; (2) for public display in the galleries or on the campus of the UNT or on one or more of the UNT or CVAD websites; (3) for promotional materials created by UNT in all forms of media now known or later developed, including but not limited to exhibitions, catalogues, direct mail, websites, advertising and classroom presentations. My permission is on-going and will continue until such time as I revoke it by giving UNT three months written notice of revocation to the professor of record for this course. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use in accordance with this permission.

3) **Certificate of Ownership.** I am the owner of all work submitted in accordance with the requirements of the named course and the work is not subject to any grant or restriction that would prevent its use consistent with this permission. All aspects of the work are original to me and have not been copied. I understand that as owner of the work I have the right to control all reproduction, copying and use of the work in accordance with U.S. copy-right laws.

4) **Privacy Release.** I hereby authorize and consent to the release, maintenance and display of my name if necessary and any other personally identifiable information that I have provided in connection with the work and its use in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

5) **Signature.** By signing the attached Student Syllabus Agreement I hereby grant the permissions indicated above. I understand that this grant of permission relates only to the use of the described work. This is not an exclusive right and I may sell, give or otherwise transfer the rights to such work to others on a non-exclusive or exclusive basis. However, in the event that I do sell, give or otherwise transfer ownership or the exclusive right to use my work to another party, I will notify UNT immediately in writing through the professor of record for this course. UNT will have three months from the date of my notice to stop all use in accordance with this permission.

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 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.

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Student Syllabus Agreement

Keep for your records

I,.....,

acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus. I understand the course structure, grading and attendance policies, risk factor rating, and the Student Grant of Publication Permission. By signing this agreement I acknowledge that I agree to the syllabus and all of its provisions.

Student name

Signature

Phone contact number

e-mail

Date.....

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Student Syllabus Agreement

Sign and return to instructor

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