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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the opportunities and rigors of caused-based design coupled with research methods and evidence-based practices. Students will be challenged to identify significant social, technological, political or cultural issues, conduct meaningful research to understand the complexities of their selected area of concern and then invent or otherwise design realistic, adaptive, and durable solutions. This advanced but increasingly common design approach and practice realm will be very demanding of every student's time and concentration.

Suggested Readings

1. *Developing Citizen Designers*, Elizabeth Resnick, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2016
2. *A Designer's Research Manual*, Jenn + Ken Visocky O'Grady, Rockport 2009 (paperpack ed.)

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. Demonstrate an awareness of the field of caused-based design.
2. Understand the basic methods associated with evidence-based design practice.
3. Operate rudimentary research theorizing and method implementation, principally participatory action research (PAR) theory and collaborative co-creative methods.
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. 30% Quality of research thinking, analysis and findings
2. 50% 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.

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

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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.

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. copyright 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.

Computer and Connectivity Requirements:

Students are required to have computer access, Web browser software, and a hi-speed Internet connection for this course. Zoom on your primary computer desktop will be the classroom’s designated video conference software. **Please note that you will also need to access the Adobe Creative Cloud Software Suite and type fonts. The cost for remote access to this software suite is currently \$19.95 per month, paid on a yearly basis.**


APPLICABLE TO ALL UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT BY PROFESSOR OWENS.

COURSE POLICIES

These policies will be in effect beginning Fall 2021 and will remain in effect until rescinded or amended by course faculty.

1. Upon the full reopening of university and college, and resumption of in-person classes, all course attendance policies will again be in effect without exception. Students in M/W or T/TH courses will have three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after that will result in the reduction of 1 class letter grade. Six absences or more will result in a course failure. Excessive tardies will also have a negative impact on a student’s course grades.

2. Students and faculty will treat everyone in class with respect. However, this behavior does not excuse students from the requirement of providing positive criticism of their classmate’s course work during group critiques.

 3. If a student is not comfortable with group critiques, they may choose to **not** show their work progress in class. However, if a student selects this option during the course of a project or for the semester, they will be required to seek feedback for their work from others outside of class. In no instance will faculty will provide feedback for this work outside of class. Coursework completed in the manner will be graded using the same standards as coursework subject to group critiques.

4. Faculty will meet with students during designated office hours only. Students may choose to meet with faculty individually during these office hours or opt to be accompanied by a third party during their visit.

5. If a student meets with faculty individually, the content of their conversations with faculty will be kept in confidence unless the student requests otherwise or somehow indicates that they may harm themselves or others.

6. If a student meets with faculty accompanied by a third party, the faculty is no longer bound by privilege and may share the content of any conversation occurring during these office hours sessions with others at their discretion.

7. Faculty’s responsibility to their students entails working to ensure the success of their students in enrolled courses. Success is defined as a student’s effective acquisition and execution of knowledge and skills necessary to pass the course as defined by the course syllabus. This faculty responsibility begins and ends with regularly scheduled course meeting times, and during designated office hours. The personal lives or concerns of students outside of these class settings is neither the business nor the concern of faculty.

8. If a student has issues or concerns about some aspect of their personal circumstances that they believe are negatively affecting their class performance, they may choose to raise these issues or concerns with faculty during regularly scheduled office hours.

9. Students with concerns related to mental health, substance abuse, home abuse or other serious circumstances should contact the UNT Dean of Student Affairs for assistance and/or resources rather than faculty.

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students>

10. With the exception of university or college sanctioned events, faculty will not fraternize or otherwise socially interact with students outside of regularly scheduled class times or office hours.

I understand and agree to all course policies as outlined and explained in this document.

Sign and return to instructor

Print Name & Date

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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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