

## UTSA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

### ARC 3226 Architecture Studio I I

Spring 2010

John B. Hertz, Architect

[jbhertz@uprrp.edu](mailto:jbhertz@uprrp.edu)

Office hours by appointment

*This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. I reserve the right to make any changes I deem necessary and/or appropriate. I will make my best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.*

## SYLLABUS

### **Introduction**

The second semester of third year builds on the concepts discussed and developed in the previous studios, especially last semester. It addresses design as the integration of building technology and materials as key components in the art of architecture, with the goal of a more profound and detailed exploration of the solutions to specific users needs. Methods for analyzing and developing the tectonics of architectural assemblies and the principles of structure and its material construction are emphasized. The importance of design methodology, as well as the use of models as a vehicle for design and presentation will be stressed.

As a critical theme, the course will emphasize issues of sustainability, based its three fundamental "pillars": environmental responsibility, economic justice and social equality. They will become manifest architecturally in LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria such as recyclability, reduced site disturbance, storm water management, optimized energy performance, indoor air quality, material use reduction, and recycled content use. They will respond to the "2010 Imperative" to have "the design engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel."

### **Evaluated Objectives**

The following elements of the course form the basis for the evaluation of student progress:

- Research – depth of research, synthesis of information, critical analysis and conclusions drawn
- Program – identification, prioritization and the organization of user/client needs
- Methodology – development and application of an appropriate design process
- Concept/Parti – generation of a design statement and its graphic embodiment which underpins an architectural solution
- Design/Design Development – evolution of a creative solution and its details, as well as their further refinement
- Presentation – continued development of craftsmanship, graphics and model making, as well as written skills which result in a compelling visual display
- Independent Thinking/Maturation – growth as an independent, rational individual as well as a contributing member of the group dynamic

### **National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Criteria**

During the semester we will contribute to the student meeting the following Student Performance Criteria prior to completing their professional degree:

- **11. Use of Precedents:**  
*Ability to incorporate relevant precedents into architecture and urban design Projects*
- **14. Accessibility**  
*Ability to design both site and building to accommodate individuals with varying physical abilities*

- **15. Sustainable Design**  
*Understanding of the principles of sustainability in making architecture and urban design decisions that conserve natural and built resources, including culturally important buildings and sites, and in the creation of healthful buildings and communities*
- **16. Program Preparation**  
*Ability to prepare a comprehensive program for an architectural project, including assessment of client and user needs, a critical review of appropriate precedents, an inventory of space and equipment requirements, an analysis of site conditions, a review of the relevant laws and standards and assessment of their implication for the project, and a definition of site selection and design assessment criteria*
- **17. Site Conditions**  
*Ability to respond to natural and built site characteristics in the development of a program and the design of a project*
- **18. Structural Systems**  
*Understanding of principles of structural behavior in withstanding gravity and lateral forces and the evolution, range, and appropriate application of contemporary structural systems*
- **19. Environmental Systems**  
*Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of environmental systems, including acoustical, lighting, and climate modification systems, and energy use, integrated with the building envelope*
- **20. Life Safety**  
*Understanding of the basic principles of life-safety systems with an emphasis on egress*
- **21. Building Envelope Systems**  
*Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of building envelope materials and assemblies*
- **22. Building Service Systems**  
*Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of plumbing, electrical*
- **23. Building Systems Integration**  
*Ability to assess, select, and conceptually integrate structural systems, building envelope systems, environmental systems, life-safety systems, and building service systems into building design*
- **24. Building Materials and Assemblies**  
*Understanding of the basic principles and appropriate application and performance of construction materials, products, components, and assemblies, including their environmental impact and reuse*
- **26. Technical Documentation**  
*Ability to make technically precise drawings and write outline specifications for a proposed design*

### ***Attendance Policy***

As stated in the University Catalog, students are expected to regularly attend and participate in all meetings of courses for which they are registered. With the exception of UTSA policies on class absences related to observance of religious holy days, active military service, or attendance at an official University sanctioned student activity, the instructor determines classroom participation requirements and policies on making up work missed during an absence.

Your attendance, and more importantly your participation, is an essential part of the design studio experience. Peer group involvement, as well as the opportunity for interaction with your course instructor, is critical. Both can only take place in the studio setting. This means arriving to class on time and working during studio hours. After four unexcused absences, your course grade will be lowered one full grade point. With each additional three unexcused absences your grade will be lowered an additional grade point.

Punctuality is of the essence and a demonstration of professional responsibility. Continued lateness will have the same effect as absences.

### **Studio Etiquette and Requirements**

- Each one is expected to be in studio and ready to work at the start of class. There must be visible progress shown from the previous class.
- Projects must demonstrate material advancement during class. As this is not a correspondence course, projects which are the product of work done substantially outside of studio without the benefit of continuous critiques are not acceptable.
- Projects have real due dates and are to be presented on time, finished or not.
- Late work is only accepted with a verifiable medical or family emergency excuse.

In an effort to insure that the studio is appropriately and professionally managed with respect to promoting a productive and safe work environment, it is critical that the following standards of studio upkeep and work etiquette be followed:

- Airborne paints and toxic adhesives will not be used.
- Desk, tables, chairs/stools, and floor surfaces shall not be used as a cutting surface.
- Furniture shall not be removed from the studio nor shall any additional furniture be brought into the studio without instructor authorization.
- Studio participants should work together in keeping workspaces as clean and orderly as reasonably possible. Keep paths of egress clear from debris. Respect the work of the building janitorial personnel.
- Power tools are not permitted within the studios. Such tools pose a safety hazard and create excessive noise and dust.
- No TVs. Music devices must be fitted with personal headphones.
- Cell phones shall be turned off or to vibrate during the studio hours.
- Use of university computers and plotters shall be in accordance with UTSA policies.
- Security within the studio is everyone's responsibility. Avoid leaving outside studio doors unlocked or blocked open (day or night). Look out for one another as you come and go at late hours.

### **Grading Criteria**

The following grading system and symbols are used:

**A Outstanding** - the work shows innovation, and the solution of the problem reflects significant depth of understanding of the requirements. The project has been fully developed and well communicated both graphically and verbally. A unique concept clearly enhances the overall solution and the full potential of the solution has been demonstrated.

**B Above average** - good work where the solution exceeds all requirements and shows above-average depth of understanding. The solution demonstrates more than adequate clarity of idea, execution and presentation. Craft and graphics are good.

**C Average** - the problem has been adequately solved, but the solution lacks a depth of understanding and development. The overall solution lacks innovation and generally does not provoke excitement. Craft and graphics are just adequate.

**D Below Average** - poor work, with a weak solution that lacks depth, understanding and innovation. Craft and graphics are weak. Design skills appropriate to this course level have not been demonstrated.

**F Not Acceptable** - unacceptable work with an unresolved solution that is incomplete and poorly portrayed. Evinces a lack of understanding appropriate to this studio level.

The final course grade is calculated based on the following:

Course projects and other assignments	90%
Participation, advancement, growth, and maturation as a designer	10%

As can be seen, grades are given on the basis of the entire semester's work and individual progress throughout the semester.

### **Drop or Withdrawal Policy**

It is the student's responsibility to drop or withdraw from the course prior to the due date set by the University's regulations.

**Reading**

There is no assigned text, although articles may be assigned during the semester.

**Students With Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides reasonable accommodation related to a disability. Please make an appointment to discuss your needs.

Support services, including registration assistance and equipment, are available to students with documented disabilities through the Office of Disability Services (DSS), MS 2.03.18. Students can contact that office at 458-4157 to make arrangements. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (MS 2.03.18; telephone 210-458-4157) in order to receive support services.