

ARC6996

Master's Project Studio

Synopsis/Spring 2010/UTSA College of Architecture

Instructor—Rick Lewis, Architect 210/458-2574 jrlewis@utsa.edu

Time/location: MWF 1:00 - 4:50 p.m., MNT 3.350, Downtown Campus

NOTE: This syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule. It is based on the most recent information available as of the date of its issuance. It is as accurate and complete as is possible at this time. The instructors reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. An effort will be made to communicate any syllabus changes in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Catalogue: Graduate standing and completion of ARC 6933. A design studio aimed at the accomplishment of an independent design project which is considered to be a capstone to the professional degree program.

Course Description: As the final studio for the accredited professional degree, the Master's Project Studio is the culmination of a two semester program of research, design exploration, and design proposal presentations based on the interests of each student. In the wake of the Master's Project Preparation course of the recently completed fall semester, the spring semester's studio involves the development and documentation of an in-depth design endeavor. This project will be presented in a formal review and compiled into a project portfolio at the conclusion of the semester.

Process: Each student must demonstrate an ability to analyze, plan for, and appropriately respond to unique design challenges while working within the parameters of given contexts. Designers will be put to task to resolve comprehensive architectural problems in a manner befitting:

- effective functional resolutions,
- justifiable construction technologies, and
- responsible life safety/user convenience considerations

(just to mention the most obvious design process realizations), toward the goal of creating architecture of appreciable aesthetic appeal.

While considerable independence will be afforded each course participant, relative to individual students' creative pursuits as ideally reflect the previous semester's project formation research, course participants will be expected to follow a production track and time schedule appropriate to the successful achievement of a design solution commensurate to a Master's degree. This in mind, it is important to emphasize that **a significant level of design depth and detail will be expected of project solutions resulting from the impending semester's 15 weeks of work.**

Schedule:	Emphasis of Effort	Time Frame*	Grade
	Programming, Site Documentation, & Concept Design	January 11-29 (presentation Fri. Jan. 29)	15%
	Schematic Design	February 1-26 (presentation Fri. Feb. 26)	15%
	Design Development	March 1-26 (presentation Fri. Mar. 26)	15%
	Design Completion & Presentation	March 30-April 20 (Public Presentation Wed. April 21)	40%
	Documentation, Evaluation of Results & Packaging of Project Portfolio	April 22-May 5 (Portfolio due Wed. May 5)	15%
			100%

*Targeted presentation due dates subject to adjustment as semester progresses.

Documentation: As a result of a semester-long process leading to a comprehensive design resolution that satisfies the level of depth and detail expected of a Master's Project, a specific project portfolio of work shall include the following:

- a summary document that encapsulates all work completed in the pursuit of the Master's Project as established in the fall semester of 2008 (this may involve some degree of revision and editing as necessary in correlating an entire year's work),
- a graphic representation of the final design project results produced in a suitable reduced format,
- and a reflective self-evaluation statement, to be written and included at the end of the portfolio, that characterizes the rationale and goals of your Master's Project and assesses your success in achieving such.

Participation: Given the importance of this capstone course, and the responsibilities of each participant to strive to produce some of their best and most in-depth academic design work, class attendance will be vital if everyone is to succeed to their highest level of accomplishment. Therefore, **4 unexcused absences will be grounds for a loss of a letter grade.**

Excused absences are defined as your having received permission to miss class prior to the absence, or you must have a valid (according to University policy) note providing for a sanctioned excuse. Work product deliverables are due at the beginning of due dates unless otherwise announced. For each day late, evaluations of assigned work will be reduced by a letter grade.

Evaluation: Work product evaluations (and corresponding grades) will be yielded at several intervals throughout the semester. While percentages of overall course grade will be more heavily weighed on the final presentation of a complete design solution, day-to-day class participation and individual student development/achievement will be factored into the final course grades. Refer to the course schedule for precise evaluation percentages.

The system for evaluating the quality of individual student performance is interpreted as follows:

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Numerical Range</u>
Excellent scholarship in design performance & independent resourcefulness exhibited. (well above & beyond course requirements)	A	90-100
Precise scholarship in design performance & good level of individual initiative exhibited. (above average work)	B	80-89
Lacking in achievement of scholarly accomplishment with questions persisting regarding commitment and/or abilities. (average work)	C	70-79
Minimum merit. (below average yet passing)	D	60-69
Seriously lacking in initiative, scholarly commitment, design abilities and/or graphic accomplishment. (unacceptable)	F	below 60

Studio Management & Work Etiquette:

In an effort to insure that the College of Architecture is appropriately & professionally represented within the context of the University community, it will be critical that the following standards of studio upkeep & work etiquette be adhered to.

1. Air born paints, adhesives, drawing fixatives, etc., will not be allowed to be used anywhere within the building or outside adjacent to the studio.
2. Desk, tables, floor surfaces, etc., shall not be used as model cutting surfaces—bring a cutting board to class.
3. Painted gypsum board wall surfaces shall be treated respectfully as drawing pin-up areas.
4. Furniture shall not be removed from studio, nor shall any additional furniture be allowed into the studio without consent (exception being an appropriately sized, lockable tool storage container).
5. TV's will not be allowed to be on during studio. Music devices shall be fitted with personal ear-phones.
6. Cell phones shall be turned off during studio hours. Phone calls should be made out of the classroom. Please respect this request.
7. Meals shall not be eaten in studio. Light snacks and drinks will be allowed provided that they are carefully managed.
8. Use of personal computers shall be in accordance with UTSA policies.
9. Security of studio space will be the responsibility of everyone in the class. Look out for one another as you come and go at late hours.
10. Large power tools should not be used in the studio. Concerns about user safety (as well as excessive noise and dust) the result of such tools, is warranted.