ARC 351.  

C O N T E X T

s y l l a b u s  

Fall, 2016

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COURSE NO., HOURS, AND TITLE:  ARC 351 – 5  Design III: Context

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Continuing study of architectural design. Projects of increased scope and complexity. Continue design process study (synthesis) and appropriate design presentation (communication). Working with impingement introduced by external agencies such as social, government, and community, as part of a larger context of planning. Study of the impact of site development, for on-site as well as external, contextual issues. Prerequisites: ARC 232, 252 and major in architectural studies or consent of school director.

PREREQUISITE TO:  
ARC 352 - Design IV: Complexity  
ARC 382 - Environmental Design II: Lighting & Acoustics

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Increase skills in the design process through preliminary presentation using appropriate level architectural projects.

2. Further explore the range of owner/client/user relationships.

3. Directly build on the experiences of the previous studio with further experience in design theory, research methods, design concept, formative idea and communication skills.

4. Provide an understanding of the basic principles of ecology and the responsibilities with respect to environmental and resource conservation in architecture and urban design.

5. Provide the ability to design both site and building to accommodate individuals with varying physical abilities.

6. Provide the ability to respond to natural and built site characteristics in development of a program and design of a project.

7. Incorporate the principles of sustainable design with respect to the contextual issues of climate, daylight, solar access, rain and groundwater, and vegetation in the design of a project.

NAAB Student Performance Criteria
2: Design Thinking Skills. 5: Investigative Skills. 6: Fundamental Design Skills. 7. Use of Precedents
1. Pre-Design. 2. Accessibility

Methodology:
This semester’s work will follow a typical design studio format and methodology. The work will consist of several multi-faceted projects. There will be some collaborative assignment; however, the design solutions will be an individual effort. All facets will be a part of the overall evaluation and grades will be issued.
Grading Criteria for Studio:

What Is An “A”

An “A” indicates work that is exceptional, out of the ordinary, and above and beyond what was required for the project. Hard work does not always yield this. Being in class every day does not always yield this. Three “all nighters” does not always yield this. A grade of “A” means that you have carried one or more aspects of the project to an extent which makes the work superior in a number of dimensions.

What Is A “B”

A “B” grade indicates that what you have accomplished is good. It is above average. It is more than required to satisfactorily complete the problem. Being in class every day does not always yield this. Three “all nighters” does not always yield this. Hard work does not always yield this. A grade of “B” indicates that you are going about your project in a way which distinguishes it from the average.

What Is A “C”

A “C” means you have done everything that was expected, you came to class, worked very hard, and generated a response to the problem that was average, acceptable. It does not mean you have failed. It means you have performed in a satisfactory way. Doing a project, working hard does not carry with it the guarantee of satisfactory results. The evaluation of your work will be neither inflated nor deflated. It will be professional and straightforward. You will be given the evaluation of your work in the context in which it is done.

What Is A “D” Or An “F”

These grades indicate a substantial lack of understanding and achievement.

If you ever disagree with a grade or would like to discuss further, please see me right away. You should keep track and be aware of your grade throughout the semester. I will issue grades almost immediately and we will have a mid-term conference to discuss evaluation. I will turn grades in very soon at the end of the semester and once turned in I will not change a grade for any reason except tabulation error. Be pro-active.

What will be graded?

All projects are graded. All grades are equally important.

All projects will receive TWO grades.

PROCESS GRADE: Process includes: research, attendance, involvement, progress to a design solution, desk crits, amount of effort, cooperation, contribution to discussion, studio culture and anything else that contributes to the outcome of the project.

PRODUCT GRADE: Product includes all sketches, drawings, models (including study models) preliminary and final presentations (digital and hard copy) and verbal presentations.

The two grades will be equal in importance concerning the semester grade

Letter Grade only this semester: A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D F

1. Research will be graded on quality, thoroughness, writing/speaking, and visual presentation. Junior level writing and verbal presentation is expected. Verbal should be practiced and professional.

2. All of the preceding will count toward the final grade, not just the final presentation. A low grade at the beginning of the semester does not disappear if the final project is an improvement.

3. There is no denying the competitive nature of studio grades, however I have no pre-conception of how many “B’s” or “C’s” will be awarded. Likewise, I have no problem awarding “D’s” and “F’s”.

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The following is provided as some insight to some studio related issues that are important to me as an instructor and as a designer. This is not to be interpreted as an expectation that you also find them important, but as a tool for you to use to understand some expectations, not much different than the development of a professional ability to understand your clients’ expectations and issues.

1. Third Year students should be capable of almost complete autonomy. Your ability to work on your own is important and expected. I will not be responsible for keeping your schedule or keeping you on track or telling you how to take notes. I will offer you as much critique and discussion as you solicit, however the initiation of critique is your job.

2. Attendance is considered to be important to the studio experience. I will expect attendance for most of the semester; however during periods before presentation, I am flexible. Attendance can be considered to be a part of effort and contribution and therefore part of your grade. If you have issues, please keep me posted.

3. Peer review and critique is a large part of studio life and the professional process, as well. You probably learn more from each other than any other source, including me. Take advantage!!!

4. I believe strongly in the advancement and progress of the newly accredited program here at SIU. I have no problem telling students that they are not meeting the requirements and should make other plans. No one is served by rewarding unacceptable work. I have been doing this for quite a while and believe that I can identify what is unacceptable. I try very hard to judge only the work and not the worker and factor personal feeling out of the evaluation completely.

5. I also feel that the pre-design issues are the most important and least covered in undergrad studios. This semester, we will develop the requirements for SITE, PROGRAM, CONTEXT, other requirements together. You will be expected to make decisions about these issues that you may not have been responsible for before. NO FEAR!!!

6. I will not design your project and my design tastes have nothing to do with my critique. Of course there are some issues that we may disagree on, so it is your responsibility to rationalize all of your design decisions. My belief is that almost every critique question can be answered by referring to:
   1. Program
   2. Site (Context)
   3. Concept

If you have covered these three in pre-design and have used them to render design decisions, you should be bullet proof.

I am interested in your general well-being, but maybe not as much as you might want. I am not a therapist, counselor, psychologist and as far as I know, I am not related to any of you. My own kids will probably even tell you that I am not even very good at fatherly advice, so I avoid pretense to being able to solve all problems. Having said this, SIUC does have all manner of resources for personal issues and I will do my best to point you to the people who are so much more capable than I.

**University learning disability service**

If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with Disability Support Services (DSS) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. DSS (618,453.5738; http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/) typically recommends accommodations through a verification form provided to the student. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

7. Design Studio should be fun. I’m not talking about wild party fun, but the kind of fun that comes from the enjoyment of that which we pursue and the sense of self satisfaction that comes from creative accomplishment. I have few, if any, rules about accepted behavior or restrictions on you as individuals. However, remember that there are others involved and some may not share your taste in music or your idea of acceptable language. I would never tolerate prejudice of any kind, including religious or sexual orientation. We are all legal adults. Let’s prove it.

8. The studio is your home for this semester and you can spend as much time here as you choose. However, during the time scheduled for this course, you are expected to work on this course. If you wish to work on Structures or Construction Documents during time scheduled for this course, you need to leave studio and be counted as absent. Working on other courses during studio has become a real issue and will not be allowed this semester.

9. No Booze
10. No Recreational Pharmaceuticals
11. No Guns
12. No Crying
13. Please! Please! Please! If you have any problem with me or the class, bring it to me first. I am reasonable and will do my best to make sure that you have a great experience this summer.