Course Description: Foundational study of research methods and programming that serve architectural studies. This course investigates the co-application of multiple methodologies for the development of research topics and architectural programs. The conclusion of the course is the definition of an individual thesis project to be completed in the Graduate program. Restricted to enrollment in the M. Arch Program.

Course Goals and Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, the student will:
1. Build upon a traditional approaches, formal knowledge bases, extensive literature review, and precedent/case-study review that can effectively support an architectural design thesis proposal.
2. Logically develop a strategy for the development and preparation of an individual thesis research enterprise, architectural project program, and subsequent architectural project proposal.
3. Simulate the architectural design proposal experience associated with programming and due diligence, preliminary research toward designing a significant architectural edifice, social artifact, and/or urban design project, and then prepare the design development package defining scope and intent of project.
4. Foster responsibly reasoned and informed design initiatives through formal research methods generally associated with the allied design disciplines and in-turn convey design intents through effective means of communication (i.e. verbal, written, graphic, etc.).
5. Develop skills of critical thinking, quality research, formal documentation, and logical communication through readings, class presentations, discussions, debates, and research reports.
6. Develop an understanding of what is research, why it is important, and how it relates to global issues in such ways to be responsibly integrated within comprehensive and multifaceted design endeavors.
7. Understand the relationship between general research methods and significant architectural theories (i.e. fundamental philosophical and ideological positions, modes of inquiry, epistemology, and ethics).
8. Identify some of the most important aspects, reasoning, and methods of inquiry and knowledge application (evidence- or knowledge-based) for architectural research, especially as it relates to the human condition (behaviorally, environmentally, culturally, institutional (IRB), et al).
9. Critically understand basic standards and goals for research quality, responsibility, judgment, and ethical practice, as well as the basic premise of to “do no harm.”

NAAB Student Performance Criteria:
C.8: Ethics and Professional Judgment
Topical Outline (From Textbook, Groat and Wang):

I. Scope of Work / Ways of Knowing, Systems of Inquiry (Understanding Worldviews)
II. Literature Review / Case Study Research / Bibliography
III. Theory in Relation to Method (Extended Philosophical / Ideological Positions)
IV. Design in Relation to Research (Research-by-Design?)
V. Interpretive–Historical Research (Multiple Methods)
VI. Qualitative Research in Architecture / Naturalistic Inquiry / Thick Descriptions
VII. Correlational Research / Social-behavioral Inquiry / Causal–Comparative /
VIII. Experimental Research (Scientific Methods / Empiricism)
IX. Simulation and Modeling Research
X. Logical Argumentation / Manifestos
XI. Case Study & Combined Strategies (Multi-methodological)
XII. Program Preparation for Architectural Design

Textbooks:

Offered: Fall Semester, Graduate program

Faculty: Wendler, Anz