Course Description: Initial development of individual design thesis project in a studio setting. The studio will consist of a design project or an individual student thesis project as developed in ARC 500. Approval of thesis project by graduate faculty is required. Prerequisites: ARC500 and 551. Restricted to enrollment in M. Arch. Program.

Course Goals and Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Further logical development of a strategy for the development and preparation of their thesis research, programming, project proposals, and subsequent design implementation.

2. Critically understand basic standards for research quality, responsibility, judgment, and ethical practice as well as the basic premise of to “do no harm,” albeit extended into responsible design practice.

3. Foster reasoned and responsibly informed design initiatives through the formal extension of the research side of the allied design disciplines and, in turn, convey their design strategy through effective verbal and writing skills.

4. Develop skills of critical thinking, quality research, and clear communication through readings, class presentations, discussions, and a corresponding research thesis (drawings, models, diagrams).

5. Understand the relationship of general research to significant architectural theories, fundamental philosophical and ideological positions, and ethics. Responsibly integrate and manifest these previous research theories and methodological approaches within a comprehensive design endeavor.

6. Identify some of the most significant and informative aspects, reasoning, and methods of inquiry and application for architectural research, especially as it relates to the human condition (behaviorally, environmentally, culturally, institutionally (IRB), et al). Consciously and critically negotiate a design that is both responsive and progressive to these issues at multiple and identifiable levels of engagement. Document these issues as an essential part of the thesis report.

7. Build upon a formal knowledge base and literature review along with case-study reviews as critical precedents for substantiating and supporting the architectural design thesis proposal.

8. Simulate the building design experience of programming aspects by designing a building, urban-design project, simulation studies, etc. Then prepare the design development package within the defined scope and intent stated in the thesis documentation. Demonstrate integration of knowledge/tools/methods into comprehensive design. Enhance, clarify, and substantiate their design through written documentation.

9. Focus the acquired research, skills, and knowledge into the comprehensive design of a graduate architectural design-thesis project. Emphasize the design development, drawing documentation, and model presentation of the project into public presentation material as well as for publication into a thesis document. Produce an architectural thesis-design project informed by a comprehensive program, from schematic design through the detailed development of programmatic spaces, structural and environmental systems, life-safety
provisions, wall sections, and building assemblies, as may be appropriate. Assess the completed project with respect to Graduate program design criteria (i.e., ARC 452 criteria).

10. Develop the project and corresponding documentation into a thesis format to meet university requirements (preferably UMI ETD Administrator [Proquest LLC]) and NAAB criteria for a professional degree. As such, the work also must be comparable to (meet or exceed) architectural master’s thesis work at other peer institutions.

**NAAB Student Performance Criteria:**
- **A.1:** Communication Skills
- **A.2:** Design Thinking Skills
- **A.5:** Investigative Skills
- **A.7:** Use of Precedents
- **A.11:** Applied Research
- **B.1:** Pre-Design
- **B.2:** Accessibility
- **B.3:** Sustainability
- **B.4:** Site Design
- **B.5:** Life Safety

**Topical Outline:**
- Individual student development and schedule as approved by individual committees

**Textbooks:**
All reading is in direct application and reference to the individual thesis project. The student will keep a personal library of pertinent readings that accompany and inform their work. Additional special readings and/or research assignments pertaining to individual proposals will be given to enhance the work. These include items from the instructor’s class reading list, faculty thesis advisors, suggested Web sites, and/or other relevant related references. All these play a role in the further development of required literature review and precedent studies. The student will keep an updated bibliography for review, which will be included in the final documentation.

**Offered:** Spring Semester

**Faculty:** Anz, Wendler, Kirkpatrick