Design Logics: Projection + Proportion in Architecture
Arc 328G/388R LAR 381 Fall 2018
M 7:00-10:00 pm Sutton 3.112
Professor Vincent Snyder, Architect
Gol. 4.102 Tel. 512.471.7123
Hours: MF 8:00AM-9:30AM or by appointment
snyder@utexas.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course examines the various design logics of projection and proportional systems related to design and the theories that define such applications from the Renaissance until our present condition of hyper-pluralism. To that, we will also consider numerous techniques and motivations of representation in conjunction with the analyses and symbolic interpretation as directly related within their intellectual contexts.

The initial theoretical underpinnings of the course will begin with a thorough reading of Wittkower’s Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism to establish the conceptual frameworks of form to content relationships prevalent in the 15th-17th centuries. After remaining dormant for a couple of centuries, some of these logical constructs as revived by Le Corbusier will be discussed following readings that outline both an extension and inversion of what may be considered traditional applications of projection and proportion in architecture. Finally, the course will conclude with a contemporary position that argues for a re-consideration of these logic systems as possible primary sources for design production in the midst of destabilization. Simultaneously, we will examine technical publications such as the Wellmann text (see below), that precisely define the classic technical and descriptive rules that organize and index the limitations of various geometrical applications.

Note, that while the readings are assigned in chronological order, their content will be largely considered and discussed relevant to contemporary design production although primarily within the field of architecture and landscape design. However, other examples of art & design will be also be considered and the accompanying exercises encourage explorations in any design field.

Indeed, the limited exercises are intended to demonstrate, reinforce and provide tangible understanding to the theories discussed. While a limited number of exercises will be essentially graphic in nature, it is important to highlight that the student will have the option of performing the graphic exercises by either “manual” techniques--using graphite/ink--and/or a translation into a drafting program and/or a translation into a 3-d modeling program but strictly limited to point/ line operations in two dimensional formats.

The level of investigation will be determined by each student’s level of interest and successful progression. For example, while topological geometries--embedded within many current modeling programs involve such operations as Bezier curves, parametric design, algorithms, non-uniform rational b-splines, etc.--will be briefly discussed, their comprehensive application is not anticipated. However, the extensive material covered in this course is specifically intended to provide a natural extension into such topics.

Lastly, and most importantly, the specific materials considered here is but one valuable grouping of knowledge that may be pursued within the process of design; the larger conceptual techniques and rigorous methods learned in the course can be directly applied to an infinite range of design interests and approaches, which on their surface may appear unrelated.

FORMAT
Readings and graphic/physical 2-d and 3/d problem assignments will be issued weekly or bi-weekly as preparatory work towards a culminating project which may be either a term paper and/or a modeled investigation. A set of questions and topic points will be issued with the readings to be completed in written form by the student prior to the beginning of class.
(Design Logics continued)

TEXTS
Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism, R. Wittkower
Technical Descriptive Geometry, B. Leighton Wellmann
The Projective Cast, Robin Evans

Additional Readings and Texts (partial):

The Modulor 1 & 2, Le Corbusier
Mathematics of an Ideal Villa, Colin Rowe
The Science of Art, Martin Kemp

NO INCOMPLETES WILL BE ALLOWED

Students with Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
Establishing grades for a seminar of a creative nature is a more complex matter than grading in more objective academic areas. While each project/assignment contains certain quantifiable elements by which it may be evaluated, a significant portion of each grade is derived from a broader, more subjective set of issues.

Grading for this course is broken into three (3) components:

1/2 course grade is active participation (all reading assignments are completed and active discussion is pursued by the student)
1/4 for exercises
1/4 for final project – includes individual presentation and project submission

Your work will be evaluated on its rigor and evolution over the semester.

GRADE DESCRIPTIONS
A/A- : excellent work
Projects/Assignments surpass expectations in terms of craft, conceptual rigor, and personal development. Student pursues concepts and techniques above and beyond what is discussed in class. Projects/Assignments are complete on all levels. Though discussion, the student demonstrates a level of understanding that exceeds the major ideas of the readings. Thoughtful and provocative insights have been demonstrated.

B+/B/B- : good work
Projects/Assignments are thorough, well researched, diligently pursued, and successfully completed. Student pursues ideas and suggestions presented in class and puts in effort to resolve required projects. Projects/Assignments are complete on all levels and demonstrate potential for excellence. It is clear that all of the readings have been accomplished and the major ideas have been articulated by the student.
(Design Logics continued)

**C+/C : required work**
Projects/Assignments meet the minimum requirements. Suggestions made in class are not pursued with dedication or rigor. Project/Assignments are incomplete in one or more areas. The student has participated in the discussions in a limited manner. Some of the basic understandings of the readings have not been demonstrated.

**C-/D+/D : poor work**
Projects/Assignments are incomplete. Basic skills including graphic skills, model-making skills, verbal clarity or logic of presentation are not level-appropriate. Student does not demonstrate the required design skill and knowledge base. The student has participated in the discussions in a minimal manner or not participated at all. Many of the basic understandings of the readings have not been demonstrated.

**F : unacceptable work**
Projects/Assignments are unresolved. Minimum objectives are not met. Performance is not acceptable. Note that this grade will be assigned when you have excessive unexcused absences.

**X : (excused incomplete)**
Can be given only for legitimate reasons of illness or family emergency. Simply not completing work on time is not an adequate cause for assigning this evaluation. It may only be used after consultation with the Associate Deans’ offices and with an agreement as to a new completion date. Studio work must be completed before the second week of the next design semester in which you are enrolling, according to School of Architecture policy.

ALL GRADES ARE SUBJECT TO DEDUCTIONS FOR ABSENCES, LATE WORK AND LATE ARRIVALS

A student must earn a letter grade of C or better in order for the course to count towards a degree in the School of Architecture. A letter grade of C- will not satisfy degree requirements.

**ATTENDANCE**
Punctual and regular attendance is mandatory. Participation is expected. With three (3) unexcused absences, the student’s final grade for the course will be lowered by a full letter grade. The final grade will be lowered by a full letter grade for each unexcused absence thereafter. Aside from religious observances, **absences are only excused with written documentation of a medical issue or family emergency**. The student is responsible for completing work missed due to excused absences and initiating communication with the instructor to determine due dates.

If a student is late (5 minutes after the start of class) three (3) times, it will be counted as one (1) unexcused absence. **Students should notify the instructor prior to class if lateness or absence is known in advance. However, as stated above only medical issues or family emergencies and religious observances constitute an excused absence**. Students must notify instructors directly regarding lateness or absences; Asking a classmate to inform the instructor is not acceptable.

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**
A student shall be excused from attending classes of other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy requires students to notify each of their instructors as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made.
By UT Austin policy, you must notify the instructor of the pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, an assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students who violate University policy on academic integrity are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Refer to the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website for official University policies and procedures on academic integrity: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/academicintegrity.php). University Code of Conduct: [http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct](http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct)

**CARE PROGRAM**

Counselors in Academic Residence (CARE) Program places licensed mental health professionals within the colleges or schools they serve in order to provide better access to mental health support for students who are struggling emotionally and/or academically.

Laura Dannenmaier (LCSW) is the CARE Program Director and is the assigned CARE counselor for the School of Architecture. Faculty and staff may refer students to the CARE counselor or students may directly reach out to her.

Laura Dannenmaier  |  BTL 114B  |  (512) 471-3115
[https://cmhc.utexas.edu/CARE_dannenmaier.html](https://cmhc.utexas.edu/CARE_dannenmaier.html)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations must obtain a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time.

[http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/](http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/)

**BCAL**

Concerns regarding the safety or behavior of fellow students, Teaching Assistants (TA), or Professors can be reported to the Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): 512-232-5050. Calls can be made anonymously. If something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t. Trust your instincts and share your concerns.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

In the case of emergency evacuation:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Students should familiarize themselves with all exit doors of each classroom and building they may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Reentry into a building is prohibited unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services offices.
- Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: [www.utexas.edu/emergency](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency).
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