

ARCH 224A: SPECIAL TOPICS - INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN PRACTICE

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2026-05-15T23:33:44Z
Emily Potts (emily.potts): Approved for DOD Committee Chair
2. 2026-05-16T20:57:43Z
Richard Pratt (rpratt): Approved for DOD Chair
3. 2026-09-16T18:26:45Z
Rebekkah Mulholland (rebeccakah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
4. 2026-09-16T21:23:37Z
Gladys Francis (gladys.francis): Approved for ALS Dean

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 2026-05-15T15:31:20Z

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Changes proposed by: Mahtab Orooji (223030210)

Contact(s):

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
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Catalog Title:

Special Topics - Interdisciplinary Design Practice

Class Schedule Title:

Arch Interdisciplinary Design

Academic Group: (College)

ALS - Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

Design

Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?

No

Catalog Year Effective:

Fall 2027 (2027/2028 Catalog)

Subject Area: (prefix)

ARCH - Architecture

Catalog Number: (course number)

224A

Course ID: (For administrative use only.)

TBD

Units:

3

Is the ONLY purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing requisites at registration?

No

In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?

Fall term only

Does this course require a room for its final exam?

No, final exam does not require a room

Does this course replace an existing experimental course?

No

This course complies with the credit hour policy:

Yes

Justification for course proposal:

ARCH 224A is a new course proposal that positions interdisciplinary collaboration and community-centered design as essential methodologies for addressing the complex cultural, economic, political, and environmental forces shaping cities and societies. The course addresses a gap in the MA curriculum by ensuring that students develop the interdisciplinary research skills and community engagement capacities that are increasingly expected of architects, designers, and scholars working at the intersection of design, public life, and social change. By drawing on guest practitioners and requiring students to engage with real-world design challenges through diverse media, the course prepares MA graduates to situate their thesis work within a broader field of practice and scholarly conversation.

Course Description: (Not to exceed 90 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)

This Special Topics seminar explores how cultural, economic, political, and environmental forces influence cities, societies, and the planet at local and global scales. Emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration, the course encourages students to combine diverse skills and perspectives to address complex challenges through innovative forms of knowledge-sharing and community-building. Students examine how design can shape narratives and envision futures rooted in care, collective responsibility, and shared experience.

Are one or more field trips required with this course?

Yes

Fee Course?

No

Is this course designated as Service Learning?

No

Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?

No

Does this course require safety training?

No

Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?

No

Does this course have prerequisites?

No

Does this course have corequisites?

No

Graded:

Letter

Approval required for enrollment?

Department Approval

Course Component(s) and Classification(s):

Seminar

Seminar Classification

CS#05 - Seminar (K-factor=1 WTU per unit)

Seminar Units

3

Is this a paired course?

No

Is this course crosslisted?

No

Can this course be repeated for credit?

No

Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?

No

Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	Analyze cultural, economic, political, and environmental forces that shape contemporary cities and global societies	Assessment #1 - Analysis of current frameworks Assessment #2 - Design narrative-centered projects
2	Evaluate collaborative and community-based design methodologies to address complex social and environmental challenges.	Assessment #1 - Analysis of current frameworks Assessment #2 - Design narrative-centered projects Assessment #3 - Research case studies
3	Create practice-based projects that imagine equitable, sustainable, and care-centered designs	Assessment #3 - Research case studies Assessment #5 -
4	Synthesize insights from lectures, workshops and guest speakers to propose new forms of knowledge	Assessment #2 - Design narrative-centered projects Assessment #3 - Research case studies Assessment #4 - Propose new forms of knowledge Assessment #5 - Final Presentation
5	Apply interdisciplinary research methods, creative strategies, and diverse media techniques to develop socially engaged design interventions.	Assessment #2 - Design narrative-centered projects Assessment #3 - Research case studies Assessment #4 - Propose new forms of knowledge Assessment #5 - Final Presentation

Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities:

ARCH 224A_SpecialTopics_Syllabus.pdf

For whom is this course being developed?

Majors in the Dept

Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)

Yes

Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?

Yes

Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:

Programs:

Master of Arts in Architecture

Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?

No

Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?

No

I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.

I/we agree

University Learning Goals

Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:

Disciplinary knowledge
Communication
Critical thinking/analysis

Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Is this a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course?

No

Key: 15581