

ARCH 500B: THESIS STUDIO WRITTEN

In Workflow

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Approval Path

1. 2026-09-16T18:04:58Z
Rebeccakah Mulholland (rebeccakah.mulholland): Approved for ALS College Committee Chair
2. 2026-09-16T21:22:37Z
Gladys Francis (gladys.francis): Approved for ALS Dean

New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: 2026-05-15T02:25:28Z

Viewing: ARCH 500B : Thesis Studio Written

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Changes proposed by: Mahtab Orooji (223030210)

Contact(s):

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Catalog Title:

Thesis Studio Written

Class Schedule Title:

Thesis Studio Written

Academic Group: (College)

ALS - Arts & Letters

Academic Organization: (Department)

College of Arts & Letters

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)

500B

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, Spring

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 500B is a new course proposal that provides the written thesis pathway within the MA in Architecture's culminating experience, offering students whose primary contribution is a scholarly written investigation. Students independently develop and complete an original written thesis that engages qualitative, quantitative, or design-based research methods to examine a topic of architectural significance.

The course is structured around the same student-driven model as ARCH 500A, with each student producing a work plan, progressing through two mid-review and peer critique cycles, and submitting a final manuscript, while additionally identifying outlets for potential publication from the outset and completing at least one abstract submission during the semester. The inclusion of ARCH 500B as a distinct culminating option is essential to the MA in Architecture's identity as an academic and research degree that serves a broader range of scholarly trajectories than a design-only capstone would allow.

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

Studio-based thesis-level graduate course for support in developing a written thesis. Students will independently develop, manage, and complete a multi-phase written thesis. Students will work with a committee of instructors, collaborators, and reviewers to solicit feedback and present an original proposal. Emphasis on student-driven determination of deadlines, process, deliverables and outlets for potential publication.

Are one or more field trips required with this course?

No

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?

Yes

Prerequisite:

ARCH 300

Prerequisites Enforced at Registration?

Yes

Does this course have corequisites?

No

Graded:

Letter

Approval required for enrollment?

Department Approval

Course Component(s) and Classification(s):

Supervision

Supervision Classification

S2/CS#36 - Independent Study/Field Work/Studio Instruction/Supervised Activity (S-factor=.333 WTU per student enrolled)

Supervision 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	Evaluate the spatial, programmatic, environmental, and contextual factors influencing a specific thesis topic or locale.	Assessment #1 – Work Plan Assessment #2 – Draft Mid-Review Assessment #3 – Final Deliverable
2	Apply qualitative, quantitative, and design-based research methods to develop a unique thesis topic.	Assessment #1 – Work Plan Assessment #2 – Draft Mid-Review Assessment #3 – Final Deliverable
3	Compare best practices and theories in technical design and architectural production in the built environment.	Assessment #1 – Work Plan Assessment #2 – Draft Mid-Review Assessment #3 – Final Deliverable
4	Relate knowledge of environmental and performance-based design strategies that advance ecological sustainability to a specific thesis topic.	Assessment #1 – Work Plan Assessment #2 – Draft Mid-Review Assessment #3 – Final Deliverable
5	Employ advanced digital computation and simulation tools using a wide range of media and methods.	Assessment #1 – Work Plan Assessment #2 – Draft Mid-Review Assessment #3 – Final Deliverable
6	Formulate a thesis that critically examines equity, inclusivity, and societal challenges in the built environment.	Assessment #1 – Work Plan Assessment #2 – Draft Mid-Review Assessment #3 – Final Deliverable

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

ARCH500B-ThesisWrittenStudio.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
Information literacy
Research (optional)

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: 15572